

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

OCTOBER
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ORGANIZED LABOR
SAYS...

***"VOTE NO
ON THE
RECALL,
YES ON
BUSTAMANTE"***

AM WORKERS OF AM

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Cover photo by Jocelyn Sherman

The **Community Alliance** is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly magazine is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental, & economic justice, immigrant rights, and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices, and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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\$10 (low income) to:**

Community Alliance Magazine

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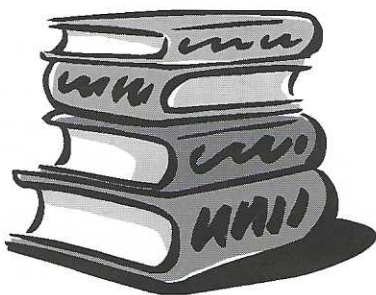
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SALE OF BOOKS - VIDEOS - CD'S - TAPES

Please support the Fresno Center for Nonviolence by coming to our **Fundraising Booksale on Saturday, October 4 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** We'll be using the parking lot at Olive and Maroa (adjacent to the Chicken Pie Shop) as we did last October. Expenses have been much higher this year, so we are really keeping our fingers crossed that we'll have a good turn-out to this event. The books and CD's we have for sale are well worth the trip to the Tower District. Books, videos and CD's are for the most part \$1 to \$3, packages of fairly traded organic coffee will be for sale at \$8.00 and \$9.00 (decaf), but..... the people you'll meet as you browse are priceless! Call Angela at 435-6383 for further information.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

While walking down the street one day a female head of state is tragically hit by a truck and dies. Her soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

"Welcome to Heaven," says St. Peter. "Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in," says the lady.

"Well, I'd like to but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in Hell and one in Heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity."

"Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in Heaven," says the head of state.

"I'm sorry but we have our rules." And with that, St. Peter escorts her to the elevator and she goes down, down, down to Hell. The doors open and she finds herself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a club and standing in front of it are all her friends and other politicians who had worked with her, everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet her, hug her, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster and caviar. Also present is the Devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that, before she realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives her a big hug and waves while the elevator rises. The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on Heaven where St. Peter is waiting for her.

"Now it's time to visit Heaven." So 24 hours pass with the head of state joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before she realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

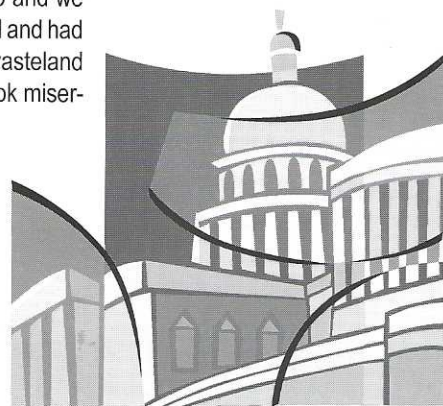
"Well then, you've spent a day in Hell and another in Heaven. Now choose your eternity."

She reflects for a minute, then the head of state answers: "Well, I would never have said it, I mean Heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in Hell."

So Saint Peter escorts her to the elevator and she goes down, down, down to Hell. Now the doors of the elevator open and she is in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. She sees all her friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags. The Devil comes over to her and lays his arm on her neck.

"I don't understand," stammers the head of state. Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and club and we ate lobster and caviar and danced and had a great time. Now all there is a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable.

The Devil looks at her, smiles and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning. Today you voted for us!"



REMARKS BY ARTURO S. RODRIGUEZ,



PRESIDENT UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

UFW Political Convocation
September 7, 2003—Fresno Convention
Center

The title of an old union song asks the question, "Which Side Are You On?"

Today farm workers from across California are spending the day making plans for an all-out, four-week campaign for "No" on the recall and "Yes" on Cruz Bustamante because Cruz is

on the right side and Arnold is not.

Arnold Schwarzenegger calls unions like ours a "special interest." But he says the big corporations now making big contributions to his campaign aren't special interests.

On Saturday, the two biggest special interests in agriculture, the Western Growers Association and Farm Bureau, endorsed Schwarzenegger.

More than any two groups over the decades, the Western Growers Association and Farm Bureau represent the oppression of farm workers by industrialized agriculture in California.

For decades, the Western Growers and Farm Bureau have opposed every modest gain by farm workers:

- The right of farm workers to improve their lives and the lives of their families through union organizing and collective bargaining.

- Unemployment insurance.
- Abolition of the infamous short-handled hoe and hand-weeding.
- Toilets and clean drinking water in the fields.
- Protection against dangerous pesticides.

Saturday, when Schwarzenegger was with the growers, he said agriculture has too much regulation when it comes to labor protections.

Did Schwarzenegger mean Governor Davis' action restoring overtime pay after eight hours a day—or 40 hours a week—that former Governor Pete Wilson had eliminated?

Even though farm workers must work 10 hours a day—or 50 hours a week—before earning overtime.

Did Schwarzenegger mean enforcement of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, guaranteeing farm workers the right to organize and bargain with their employers?

Almost all members of Schwarzenegger's top campaign team were key aides to former Governor Pete Wilson.

Under 16 years of Republican governors, including eight under Pete Wilson, enforcement of the laws protecting farm workers was effectively shut down.

Because of the Republicans, tens of thousands of farm workers lost the union contracts that improved their lives. Or they never won the UFW contracts they voted for in free elections because growers refused to negotiate in good faith.

Because of the Republicans, thousands of farm workers were fired or black-listed for supporting the UFW.

Because of the Republicans, a 19-year old farm worker, Rene Lopez, was shot to death after voting in a state-conducted union election at a dairy farm right here in Fresno County.

Farm workers can't risk suffering another Republican governor like Pete Wilson who is against farm workers and for the corporate growers.

And all Latinos in California cannot risk having another Republican governor like Pete Wilson who's against low-wage immigrant workers.

That's why the farm workers are against the recall and for Cruz Bustamante.

Cruz Bustamante is for unions.

He marched with us last year for the binding mediation law.

As Assembly Speaker, he fought to protect benefits for immigrants.

Brothers and sisters, please welcome the lieutenant governor of the state of California, Cruz Bustamante.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

Rev. Bryan D. Jessup

*Welcomes you, whoever you are
and whomever you call family, our doors are open.*

Sermon Topics:

"Being a Vital Congregation" - Mike Durall

"The Future Begins Right Now" - Rev. Bryan Jessup

"Aged Emerson" - Rev. Bryan Jessup

"Celebrating the Day of the Dead" - TBA

Summer Service Schedule

Services 9:15 • Church School 9:15

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SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS EXPOSED!

By: Mike Rhodes (with significant parts of this article taken directly from the SOA Watch web site)

Father Roy Bourgeois says that the United States government sponsors a school that trains terrorists. The "School of Assassins (SOA)" Bourgeois says, is located at Fort Benning, Georgia and trains Latin American military personnel in the techniques of torture and terrorism. He claims that the graduates "return home to wage war against their own people, with disastrous consequences. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, 'disappeared,' massacred, and forced into refugee camps by those trained at the School of Assassins."

Among the SOA's nearly 60,000 graduates are notorious dictators Manuel Noriega and Omar Torrijos of Panama, Leopoldo Galtieri and Roberto Viola of Argentina, Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru, Guillermo Rodriguez of Ecuador, and Hugo Banzer Suarez of Bolivia. Lower-level SOA graduates have participated in human rights abuses that include the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the El Mozote Massacre of 900 civilians.

Peace Fresno sponsored the talk by Father Bourgeois on September 5, 2003 at the Mennonite Community Church. The meeting hall was filled to capacity and extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate all of the people wanting to hear the talk. Over \$1,000 was raised to continue the educational and organizing effort of the School of the Americas watch.

Father Bourgeois told us about his life and how it was changed by his experience in Vietnam. He said he went to Vietnam as a "hawk" but returned with a few dove feathers sprouting. He joined the Maryknoll order of Jesuits and soon joined protestors in anti-war demonstrations. Bourgeois ended up in Bolivia and worked among the poor and oppressed. Standing against injustice, he soon found himself arrested and deported - unable to return to Bolivia, he became

angry that his country (our country) supported the dictator and the military who oppressed the poor.

He soon turned his focus to El Salvador where 16 families owned 60 percent of the land. He was appalled when the military killed Archbishop Romero for his support of the poor. Nuns and priests were brutally murdered to maintain the oppression of the poor and protect the privilege of a small minority. When he read that 525 soldiers from El Salvador were coming to the United States for training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he knew he had to do something. He and several friends

went to an army surplus store where they bought high ranking officers uniforms. Entering the military base at night, they carried with them a large boom box. When they arrived at the barracks where the Salvadoran soldiers were stationed they climbed a nearby tree and blasted the last sermon given by Archbishop Romero before he was murdered for the soldiers to hear. In this talk, Romero pleaded with the military to lay down their weapons, stop the killing, and disobey their superiors when they tell them to kill their sisters and brothers. Bourgeois and his friends were arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to a year and a half in jail for that action.

Far from stopping the movement to close the School of Assassins the arrests and imprisonment inspired others to focus on shutting down the facility. Every year the demonstrations get bigger and more people are arrested. Congress almost shut down the school but the military changed the name to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation and convinced Congress that it was needed to win the "War on Terrorism." School of the Americas Watch thinks that "School of Assassins" is a more accurate name for the school.

School of the Americas Watch encourages you to join thousands of people from across the Americas from November 21-23, 2003 at the gates of the U.S. military base at Fort Benning, Georgia - to stand in Solidarity with the victims of the School of Assassins and to speak out against terror and violence. Engage in nonviolent direct action to make your voice heard, to close the SOA/WHISC, and to change oppressive U.S. foreign policy.

For over a decade, students, religious, labor, veterans, human rights, and social/global justice groups have been converging every November at the gates of Fort Benning, GA to speak out in solidarity with the people of the Americas and to engage in nonviolent direct action. They will gather again this year on November 22 and 23, 2003 and continue together in the struggle until the School of the Americas is closed and the policies it represents are changed forever. The events this year will be preceded by teach-ins, trainings, and caucuses on Friday, November 21.

The spirit of liberation is rising up in the people all around the globe. It cannot be silenced by threats and violence any more than it can be contained by prison walls. Our friends who were prosecuted for their witness against the SOA in November 2002 will continue to speak out during their sentences of prison and probation. SOA Watch calls on everyone to speak out against the continuous atrocities perpetrated by graduates of the SOA/WHISC throughout Latin America and to come to Georgia in November.

To find out more about School of the Americas Watch, go to www.soaw.org. For more information about Peace Fresno go to www.peacefresno.org or call (559) 487-2515.

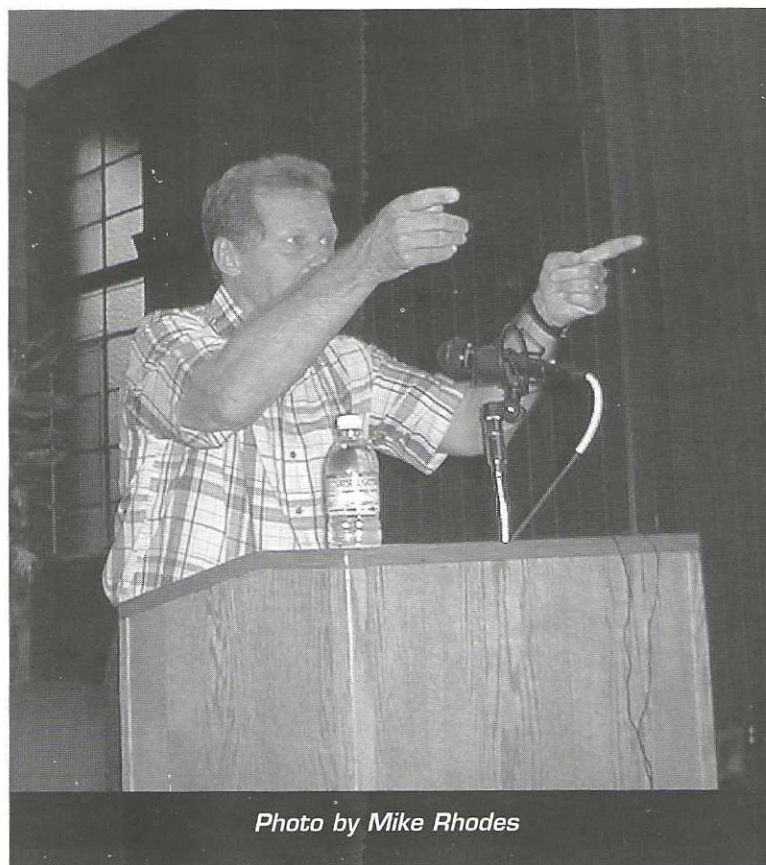
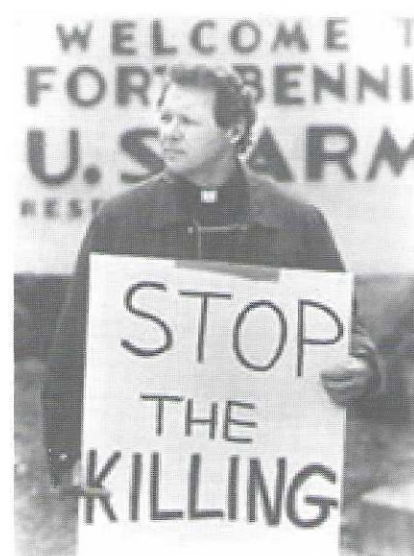
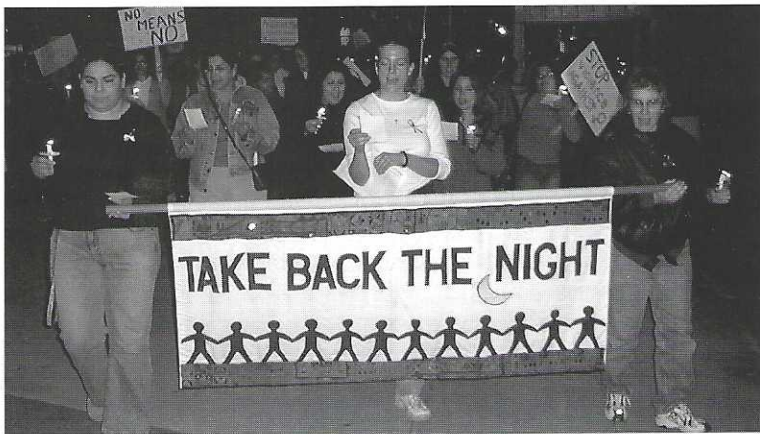


Photo by Mike Rhodes



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

By Cieja Montgomery

Take Back The Night is a gathering and march that will be held at the Fresno State Peace Garden on Wednesday, October 29 at 6 PM. It is an international event that made its first US debut in San Francisco in 1978. Now, it is celebrated all over the US, with the essence of making the night safer for everyone, especially women.

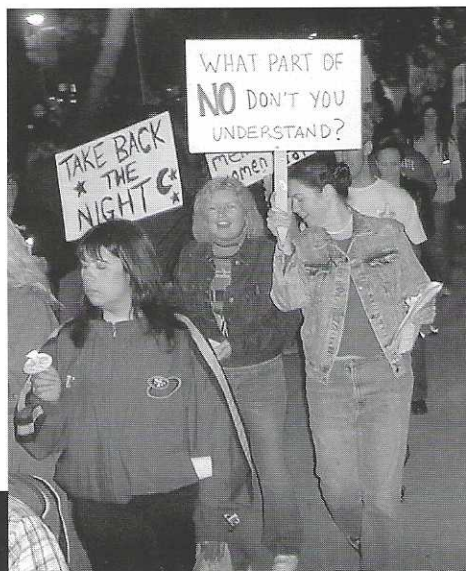
"The purpose of Take Back The Night is to unify women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children, and families," according to Campus Outreach Services, an online resource "on today's critical gender issues." www.campusoutreachservices.com

During the gathering, there will be speakers with diverse life experiences surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. There will also be community awareness groups providing information to the college community and the Fresno area. The march, a symbolic act of "taking back the night," will take place after the speakers and candle light vigil that marks a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives due to violence.

An "open mike" session will conclude the event and will offer individuals the opportunity to respond to the issues of violence against women and sexual assault in a comfortable environment of acknowledgment, support, and advocacy. In the weeks prior to the event, the Women's Alliance will provide the opportunity for individuals to participate in this gathering by designing luminaries, as well as placing ribbons on the Spiral of Healing memorial quilt. The quilt was designed to remember those women who have been victims of violence -- those who survived and those who did not.

On Thursday, October 30th in conjunction with the Take Back The Night gathering, counselors will be available for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to support them in their healing process. Details will be provided during Take Back The Night.

Take Back the Night is sponsored by the Women's Alliance and the Women's Resource Center. For more information, please call the Fresno State Women's Resource Center at 278-4435. For volunteer or community awareness participation, email [Stacey Dwyer at StaceyDwyer@yahoo.com](mailto:StaceyDwyer@yahoo.com)



Photos by
Mike Rhodes

LUNAFEST COMES TO FRESNO

By Carla Jo Dakin

The Fresno State Women's Resource Center brings to Fresno a national festival of films created by, for and about women. LUNAFEST, now in its third year, will travel nationwide to 30 cities. In addition to providing national exposure for emerging women filmmakers, LUNAFEST also supports one of the most important causes for women today by donating proceeds from the festival to The Breast Cancer Fund (TBCF).

In Fresno, LUNAFEST donates part of the proceeds to the Women's Resource Center which supports women as they journey through the university. Among its services, the Center provides peer counseling, support groups, and assists student activism. "October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month," notes Francine Oputa, Coordinator of the Women's Resource Center, "and so it's the right time to draw attention here in the Central Valley to this vital health issue and at the same time give the Fresno audience a chance to enjoy these provocative films."

LUNAFEST was created by the makers of LUNA bars ("a whole nutrition bar for women") in conjunction with The Breast Cancer Fund (TBCF), which LUNA has supported for many years. Although based in the Bay Area, TBCF is of benefit to women nationwide. Its mission is to identify and advocate for the elimination of environmental and other preventable causes of breast cancer. It provides grants to local community groups across the country to educate and support patients about breast cancer. As part of its goal to generate awareness of women's issues, LUNAFEST raised more than \$25,500 for TBCF in its first two years. LUNAFEST is also dedicated to unlocking an important door for women directors, by offering a national platform for artists to exhibit their work. This year the films include a documentary about a world champion triathlete, a political and social satire regarding reproductive rights, a story set during WWII of a man with perfect recall, a documentary concerning breast cancer, and a drama about a researcher and one of her subjects. Total running time for all of the short films is two hours.

To see these films this October 28, you don't have to drive to the Bay Area or LA, Boston, Minneapolis, New York, or Washington D.C. Just take the bus or drive if you must over to Fresno State and park for free in Lots D & E. Show time is 7:00 p.m. Get your tickets in advance at the Student Union Box Office (phone 278-2078) or at the door. For more info, call 278-4435 or 261-2423.



**One Night Only —
Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m.
University Center, Room 200,
CSU, Fresno
Tickets \$5 students, \$7 community;
Relaxed Parking (no charge), Lots D & E
A Benefit for The Breast Cancer Fund &
the Fresno State Women's Resource
Center**

TOM BOYAJIAN SPEAKS OUT

By Richard Stone

[This is the first of a projected series of articles based on interviews with each City Councilmember. I met Mr. Boyajian at his downtown law office. Statements in quotation marks are typically paraphrases condensing and formatting Mr. Boyajian's comments for journalistic convenience.]

Tom Boyajian waved me into his inner office as he completed a phone call. He was dressed informally in a collared polo shirt and slacks, and recognized me from attending meetings of the neighborhood group I work with. He was aware of the Community Alliance—but from the days when it was the Labor Community Alliance (i.e. not recently.)

As a native Fresnan, Mr. Boyajian has an historical picture of the city's development. He views downtown as still "the heart of the city", and he is very pleased with the many new projects currently unfolding—he cites as examples the new I.R.S. building, courthouse and library, and the Crazy Horse development.

On the other hand, he strongly feels that development at the periphery of the city has not been "natural", but has been primed by financiers making money at the expense of inner city residents. "Fringe development needs to make substantial contributions to funding repair of the infrastructure we all depend on. But because of their political clout, developers have avoided making realistic contributions. They should be paying \$5-10,000 per house, or significant linkage fees for commercial areas." (In reply to a later question about what surprised him most in his experiences as a member of Council, he prominently mentioned the political power of developers.) Meanwhile Boyajian states his concern that basic City infrastructure—waterlines, sewers, roads, etc.—are approaching critical states of decay.

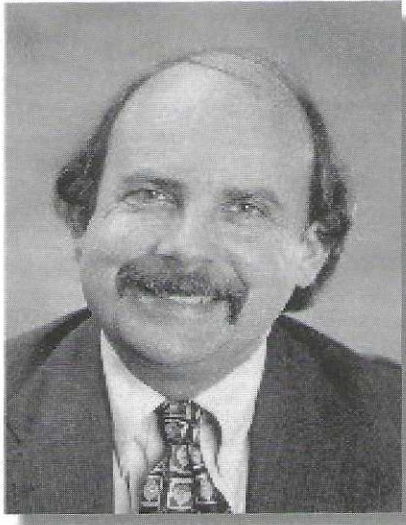
In assessing the role of the Council in city governance, Mr. Boyajian stated it is their role to make political decisions for the City as an equal partner with the Mayor. He believes the current "strong mayor" form has created an institutional block to the free flow of information and to the creation of a healthy balance between centralized and de-centralized policy initiatives. He said that although Mayor Autry is much more amenable to cooperation than Jim Patterson was, the existing lines of power (especially regarding the hiring and firing of City staff) are problem-producing.

Mr. Boyajian is also a strong advocate for building flourishing neighborhoods as the key to city revitalization. (He affirmed my mantra that "Cities are not urban theme parks", that is that building a stadium or fancy City Hall may make a Disneyland-like city facsimile but is not the key to inner-generated growth.) He is, thus, very proud of helping put the pieces together for a banquet center and an expanded supermarket near Ashlan & West that have fueled a spate of commercial and residential upgrading in the area; and of making Fresno High a locus of neighborhood energy resulting in the opening of new businesses in the area.

Mr. Boyajian feels no special difficulty in balancing district needs vs. city-wide needs, or personal beliefs with the "wishes of all our citizens". He thinks his training as a lawyer has schooled him in relative objectivity and pragmatic co-

operation. He cites his personal dismay at the recent U.S. attack on Iraq, but when Peace Fresno sought a Council anti-war declaration, he said he saw no purpose in creating a stir with what he knew was an unpopular, losing proposition.

When asked what he was proudest of about Fresno, he took a long, pained pause—a reflection of his belief that the average citizen has been shortchanged for years and is forced to live with degraded air and water, with inadequate mass transit and mid-range housing stock, because of the misplaced priorities of those with political power. Finally he said, "I'm proud of those who have stuck it out in the central city, those who made the Tower District an example of what city life can be, those who value and protect the Fulton Mall, those who live south of 'Up North' and invest in their homes and neighborhoods. They represent the future of a thriving Fresno."



Positions On....

water meters "Yes"

treatment of the homeless "treat them like people"

downtown renewal "get fees for peripheral development; get new housing downtown"

independent police review "yes"

city living wage ordinance "something in that direction is needed."

CDBG funds (for blighted areas) "should not be used for basic city services, but for special projects that stimulate economic possibility for residents of poor areas."

privitization of city services "troubling except where services have demonstrably failed."

race relations "a serious problem; change must start with children at home, in school."

alternative transportation "we must not renew our transportation tax unless it supports mass transit and alternatives to cars and sprawl."

THE ORIGIN OF THE CONFLICT

By Ellie Bluestein

Councilman Duncan's antagonism towards the Human Relations Commission started a year ago when HRC endorsed the Gay and Lesbian film festival. He was outraged, accused them of promoting pornographic films. The mayor also weighed in on this. That kind of started the ball rolling, probably exacerbated by the fact that they weren't cowed into knuckling under to his point of view. They continued to take independent positions without consulting council members, and this seemed to outrage him, the fact that he had no control over their actions. For example, they supported MLK committee's honoring Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her position against the war in Iraq. They welcomed Jesse Jackson when he came to Fresno to support the health care workers. Mayor Autry refused to sign the city resolution honoring him. So, his inability to exert power over their actions seemed to build up frustration and anger in him.

When HRC supported the peace resolution which Peace Fresno brought to the city council Duncan could no longer contain himself. He started posting news clippings in their meeting room in favor of the war, put a flag in their room and insisted that they salute the flag at their meetings, obviously implying that they were unpatriotic, and then removed Su Kapoor from the commission. Since Su was his appointee he had the power to do that. He stated at the time that it was not a personal reflection on Su, but just his intention to show his opposition to the HRC by not having any appointees representing him on the commission. Meanwhile he tried to get the council to remove funding for the HRC. When

Continued on page 10

WHY DO CONSERVATIVES *HATE* THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION?

By Mike Rhodes

There have been repeated attacks by the mayor and conservative City Council members against the Human Relations Commission (HRC) in Fresno. Why? Could it be because the HRC is being effective in doing their job of supporting tolerance, ethnic diversity, and peaceful resolution in the community?

To some, the HRC is a relief valve in the community. When community groups or individuals have a problem they take it to the HRC where they know they will be listened to. In addition to bringing community groups and individuals to City Hall to discuss and resolve problems with government agencies, the HRC plays a central role in numerous community events. One of the most prominent events is the annual Martin Luther King day parade that brings out thousands to honor the goals and work of Dr. King. This year's march was one of the biggest ever. Marching on the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq many marchers carried signs calling on an end to American aggression and No Blood for Oil. All of the elected City officials want to be at the front of the MLK march and speak at this event. It was an interesting sight to see our Republican Mayor marching at the head of the MLK march with all of those anti-war signs. But, maybe he was not amused. Could this be his revenge?

The HRC also sponsors many events honoring Cesar Chavez in the community. The desire by the Latino community to name a street after Cesar Chavez has been a thorn in Mayor Autry's side ever since he was elected. Autry tried to set up a commission to divide the community by naming a desolate downtown street after Chavez. Most Latino's want Ventura/Kings Canyon, which runs through South East Fresno to be named after Chavez. In short, the HRC is an advocate for justice, they honor those who have advocated for peace, and respect cultural diversity. That is why they are under attack by right wing/conservative forces at City Hall.

The current crisis began in March 2003 when City Council member Jerry Duncan removed Dr. Su Kapoor, his appointee to the commission, stating that the HRC had lost its direction. The progressive community came to City Hall in large numbers to demand that Dr. Kapoor be reinstated. The strong reaction in the community to Dr. Kapoor's removal surprised Duncan and he was forced to apologize and offered to re-appoint Dr. Kapoor. Dr. Kapoor returned to the commission, but by accepting the appointment from another council member.

In June 2003 Duncan and fellow City Council member Brian Calhoun attempted to cut funding to the HRC. At another City Hall hearing that was packed by the progressive community, that effort was stopped. But, out of this victory came a bizarre twist in this story. While speaker after speaker rose to talk in support of the HRC, Duncan dropped a bombshell that he would soon regret. At this meeting he sent an email that said "If I had one dirty bomb ... I could eliminate all the liberals in Fresno at once." Many in the community interpreted this message as a terrorist threat and have demanded his resignation.

The Duncan email was one of a series




Photos by
Mike Rhodes

of emails that were released in an investigation started by The Fresno Bee. An email to Council member Brian Calhoun by his aide Ann Klose said if "HRC folks bring down a crowd and get unruly," she would call police "to send over some officers to 'Cap' these guys." Calhoun wrote that another Council member, "Tom [Boyajian] hasn't taken his meds." What other insights into the thinking of Fresno City Council members and their aides might still lurk in City Hall computers? The Bee only received 9 days of email messages, and if the council member had deleted her/his messages they were not included in those released. Those (deleted) messages, still on the computers, need to be released and made public.

The story about City Council members and their staff's writing "Terrorist Threats" made national news and brought embarrassment to city officials. At a hearing on this issue at City Hall, community members demanded that action be taken and that those who wrote these messages be held accountable. Duncan offered a subdued apology that most activists in the progressive community thought was insincere. Immediately after this hearing the attacks picked up as Mayor Alan Autry demanded an apology from HRC member Debbie Reyes who asked if some of the email messages had a racist undertone. This is a reference to one message that refers to a group on the council as "the dark side."

Mayor Autry again attacked Debbie Reyes, the chairperson of the HRC, in September when she sent out a press advisory warning against potential violence by a group demonstrating on Shaw and Blackstone. This group said they were bringing guns and other weapons and discussed how these weapons would be used against their political opponents at the demonstration. The mayor objected to Debbie Reyes' use of the word *HATE GROUP* when referring to this conservative group which he described as patriotic, flag waving Americans. Here is an example of the "patriotic" messages sent to the Fresno Peace community:

Do I get to test it out!!!!!! by my new S&W 500 Thursday September 11, 2003 at 02:27 PM.

					
Caliber	.357 S&W Magnum	.44 Magnum	480 Ruger	454 Cosull	500 S&W
Muzzle Energy	500 Ft/Lb.	900 Ft/Lb.	1315 Ft/Lb.	1900 Ft/Lb.	2600 Ft/Lb.

Wow, at over 2 bucks a shot these hippies might not be worth it...I guess it's better than shooting paper targets though HEY! I'm saving a tree, see, maybe I am a little

Continued on page 14

San Francisco Mime Troupe Brings Veronique of the Mounties to Fresno

The world-renowned San Francisco Mime Troupe returns to Fresno with a satirical musical action adventure, *Veronique of the Mounties*, addressing the issues of militarism and empire. The Mime Troupe's 44th season romp will unfold at the Tower Theater on Wednesday, October 22 beginning at 7:30 pm.

Set in the near future, *Veronique of the Mounties*, finds the US government deeply engaged in its imperialistic quest to save the people of the world from themselves. After bringing "democracy" to Iraq, Syria, and France, the US turns its gaze to the terrorist threat on its northern border, CANADA. Fiction follows fiction until only one thing can protect America (and launch the Cheney/Rice run for the White House in 2008), Operation Frozen Freedom.

Meanwhile, as the Canadians mobilize to fight off invasion, Royal Canadian Mounted Policewoman Veronique Du Bois is given a dangerous mission: to journey into the heart of American darkness and recover the object that may stop the US military's insane rush to the Great White North.

Amid laughter and music, the play will answer these burning questions: Why would America turn away from its own economic and social problems and attack the peace-loving hockey fans in the north? Who benefits from a constant war on terror? Can a country with a maple leaf as a flag truly be a terrorist threat? And what has Canada got that's more valuable than oil?

Never a company to shy away from tackling large political questions, the San Francisco Mime Troupe has been producing socially relevant musical theater since 1959, a testament to the Troupe's broad constituency and its ability to speak their thoughts. The Troupe's emphasis has remained on the ensemble not the ego, on multiculturalism, equal wages, mentoring, and theater of the highest quality. The San Francisco Mime Troupe's artistic collective has produced four hit shows in the last four years, each bigger than the last. They have tackled a host of topical subjects, gene modification in food, gentrification, and CEO's in the White House. Last summer's show, *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan*, dealt with real patriotism versus the exporting of "democracy" (or was it the importing of oil?). With roots in commedia dell'arte and American melodrama, the Troupe finds inspiration for their plots in old movies, fables, classic horror tales, and science fiction. Whatever the topic, the Mime Troupe addresses it using its unique combination of clever sets and costumes, lyrical songs, sharply drawn characterizations, savvy dialog, and hilarious physical comedy.

The SFMT won its first OBIE Award in 1968 for "uniting theater and revolution and grooving in the parks". Since then, the company has been honored with two more OBIE's, the coveted Tony Award for excellence in regional theater, the Bay Area Media Alliance's Golden Gadfly Award for Lifetime Achievement, and numerous Bay Area Theater Critics' Circle Awards.

Tickets for *Veronique of the Mounties* are available from the

Continued on page 23



TIS THE SEASON FOR KFCF ELECTIONS

by Gerry Bill

As the Fresno Free College Foundation marks thirty-five years of service to the central valley, there is also a way for the community of listeners to serve their community radio station. It is time again for elections to be held for the board of directors. You could serve your community and the station by running for the board.

The foundation runs KFCF, 88.1 FM, which is an invaluable resource for our community. The people elected to the board hold that resource in trust on behalf of the listeners. It is vitally important that community-minded people be elected to the board to oversee the daring enterprise that we call KFCF.

The board of directors is elected by the foundation membership. Anyone who donates \$25 per year to the foundation or to the radio station is eligible to become a member and vote in the election. Board members serve three-year terms, with approximately one third of the board elected each year. This year three positions are up for election. As many members of the foundation as want to can run, and dates with the elected. The riot runs for ends on October still time to enter voting period will run from October 31st to December 1st. There will be some campaign activities during the voting period, including candidates statements to be posted on the website (www.fcf.net) and mailed with the ballots. There are also plans for an on-air candidates forum to which listeners could call in their questions. If you become a candidate you will have the opportunity to get your views out there, and if you are a voter there will be ample opportunity to learn about the candidates.



the three candidates most votes are nomination pe- thirty days and 17th, so there is the race. The

It is important that we all pay attention to this process to keep our community radio station functioning in a democratic manner. Run for office yourself, or encourage others who you support to do so. Participate in the forums, and remember to vote. The more of us there are doing these things, the stronger our radio station will be.

For information about the election, contact the station at (559) 233-2221.

[Gerry Bill is a current member of the KFCF board who is not up for election in this round.]



HELP KEEP CHEMICAL WEAPONS (Pesticides) OUT OF SCHOOLS

By Maria Abuelas

Parents and teachers in the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) can help to limit the amount of pesticides used in the building and on the landscape at schools.

Studies have shown that children are more vulnerable than adults to pesticide exposures because of greater skin surface to body weight ratios and higher rates of breathing. When their bodies are exposed to chemicals at critical growth times the effects can be devastating.

Teachers and staff are also suffering higher rates of illness from indoor pollution in schools of which pesticides are a part. A recent statistic reported that women teachers are diagnosed with breast cancer at a fifty percent higher rate than women in other professions.

In 1992, a handful of local activists were able to encourage FUSD to change its toxic routine of spraying schools monthly as a matter of course. The district put in place the beginnings of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program where spraying is done on an as needed basis instead.

The Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP) was formed shortly after and works on cleaning up schools and, in general, on the education of pesticide use.

In 2000, the state legislature adopted the Healthy Schools Act. The law gives parents the right to be notified 72 hours before spraying occurs at their children's school. The form for requesting notification is on the last page of the Information Handbook that went home with every student on the first day of school. It is very important that parents fill out this form so you will be notified. Responding also lets the FUSD know that parents care what is being sprayed at schools.

Teachers and staff should also watch for posted signs, usually near the office, for alerts of spraying on campus.

For more information call FresCAMP at 230-0379 or go to www.cahealthyschools.org

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT TO SPEAK IN FRESNO

By Jan Slagter



In November, San Joaquin Valley residents will have two opportunities to hear Rigoberta Menchú Tum speak in Fresno. Ms. Menchú, the 1992 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, will speak on the CSU-Fresno campus November 18th at 7:30 in the Satellite Student Union, and at a gala dinner in her honor at the Radisson on November 21st.

Rigoberta Menchú is a Quiché Mayan from Guatemala who has documented her family's and Mayan people's struggles during the time of the Guatemalan civil war, which raged from the 1960s until 1996. More than one million Guatemalan Mayans were made refugees, exiled, or internally displaced during this brutal civil war, which was set in motion by the 1954 CIA-led coup of a democratically-elected government. Of the 150,000 to 200,000 people killed during this war, the great majority have been indigenous Mayans, and the UN and Roman Catholic Diocese investigations have determined that the Guatemalan army and paramilitary forces associated with the army were responsible for more than 90% of the killings. Ms. Menchú's account of her family's struggles and the murders of her mother and father and brother by the forces of the Guatemalan state, *I, Rigoberta Menchú* brought her worldwide recognition. Since winning the Nobel prize, she has established the Fundación Rigoberta Menchú, which works on achieving human rights and establishing an ethic of world peace. She has tirelessly campaigned for Mayan people's rights to their own culture, their land, their languages. She has said that indigenous peoples must be allowed to "recover the meaning of our own history." She is a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations and the official spokesperson of the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Peoples, 1994-2003.

Ms. Menchú is a featured speaker for the University Lecture Series on November 18th. On November 21st, she returns to Fresno to be honored at a gala dinner sponsored by the Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueno, Inc. and Frente Indígena Oaxaqueno Binacional. At the dinner, Ms. Menchú will be recognized with the Xini Nuú or community leader award, along with Xochitl Galvez Ruiz, who heads the Mexican Presidency's National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Communities, and Lila Downs, singer and composer of Mixtec origin.

The gala dinner benefits the sponsoring organizations' work on behalf of the rights of indigenous people from Mexico who live and work in the Central Valley.

Time and location for this event is November 21st in the Sequoia Room of the Hotel Radisson, 2233 Ventura Street, from 5:30 to 9:00 PM.

Reservations cost \$60 per person (a tax-deductible donation).

For further information call the Centro Binacional office: (559) 499-1178, or email: cbdioinc@sbcglobal.net



October Legislative Report

By Vickie Fouts

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bring the Troops Home Now! Referendum is a new way to join with hundreds of thousands of people across the country and tell the Bush Administration and Congress to Get U.S. Troops Out of Iraq Now. Voters will be given the (optional) choice of having their referendum ballot & personal message delivered immediately via e-mail to the U.S. President, Vice President and Congresspeople. Take action at www.votenowar.org

Support UN Authority in Iraq: Contact your members of Congress to insist on greater UN authority over the nation-building process and to fully fund the reconstruction portion of the supplemental request. In order for other nations, international NGOs, multilateral institutions and Iraqi people to fully participate in the efforts to rebuild Iraq, the UN must be given political and economic authority over Iraq's reconstruction. Send an email from www.fcni.org then click Legislative Action Message

FCC Media Mergers: The upcoming Senate vote is the latest development in an extraordinary citizen backlash against a ruling by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) relaxing regulations that prohibit giant media conglomerates from merging with each other. After the 3-2 FCC ruling, Congress took up the issue under pressure from groups ranging from the National Rifle Association to Common Cause. First the House voted overwhelmingly in July to reverse the FCC decision allowing one TV network to reach 45 percent of the national audience instead of the current 35 percent. Now the full Senate is set to vote on this issue. Tell your Senator to oppose the FCC rule changes by sending a fax from www.truemajority.com

Overtime Pay Take Away: Act now to voice your opposition to changes in overtime protections, which could deny overtime pay to at least 8 million people. Send a message to your U.S. representative asking them to support an effort to block the Bush overtime take-away from www.unionvoice.org/campaign/houseotvote Vote to Impeach Bush: Join over 300,000 citizens and cast your vote on the referendum to Impeach Bush Now at www.votetoimpeach.org/

Save the Clean Water Act: Join nearly 20,000 citizens by signing a petition asking your Members of Congress to tell the Bush administration to reject the attempt by polluting industries to reverse 30 years of progress and instead make sure that the Clean Water Act continues to protect all of our nation's waters. Take action at www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction

Support Family Planning Services for Refugee Women: President Bush cut off funding to organizations providing reproductive health care to refugees, denying basic health services to women who have upended their entire lives fleeing their countries to escape the chaos and danger of civil wars and conflicts. Bush expanded the global gag rule to prohibit foreign organizations that use their own, non-U.S. money to perform, counsel, refer, or advocate safe abortion services from receiving U.S. family planning assistance administered by the State Department. (Until now, the global gag rule has only applied to family planning programs funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In effect, the global gag rule uses the power of the purse to dictate what services and information health care providers in other countries can offer their clients based on U.S. anti-choice

extremists' ideological views. Take action from www.plannedparenthood.org/takeaction/

Federal Marriage Amendment: A coalition of right-wing religious groups has launched a campaign to amend the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as strictly between a man and a woman, invalidate all state and local domestic partnership laws and nullify civil rights protections based on marital status. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO) has advanced their goal by introducing H.J. Res 56, the "Federal Marriage Amendment." Take action at www.aclu.org



Poetry Jams at CSU, FRESNO!!!

"The Silent, Loud Movement" is now en force at the coffeehouse and pub on the CSUF campus. We are having open mic nights the first Wednesday of every month during the school semester. The dates are as follows:

October 1, 2003

November 3, 2003 (at **Graves Residence Hall** (the only exception))

December 3, 2003 (Once again at **The Coffeehouse and Pub**)
Please come with the **spirit of verse!**

Conflict continued from page 6

that failed he tried to transfer them from city hall to the jurisdiction of the fire department or recreation, so they would be out of city hall and would not have access to council members. All of these moves failed because the majority of council members supported the HRC and because there was such a large community turnout in support of Su Kapoor, probably the most outstanding and well known pacifist in Fresno, a trained mediator, a Gandhian, confidant of Cesar Chavez, founder of Peace Garden at CSUF, First chair of Peace and Conflict Studies at CSUF, involved in every peace action that Fresno has undertaken in the last 30 years.

There was such an outcry at Su's removal from HRC that Mayor Autry called Duncan and Kapoor into his office and tried to get Duncan to apologize to Su and offer him a reappointment. However, Su chose to accept the reappointment by Councilman Castillo instead after being assured that he would be free to assert his viewpoint as an HRC member and be independent from the councilman's views. He did not feel he could honestly represent Duncan knowing that his positions would clash with Duncan's own.

At the last council meeting, September 16, I felt for the first time that Duncan's apology to the council and to the people was sincere, that he was very chastened by the experience and had learned something from it. It may not have changed his point of view, in fact I'm pretty sure it didn't, but I think it changed his recognition of what his role on the council, and vis a vis the electorate can be.

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 54

STOP THE INFORMATION BAN ON OCT. 7TH

Proposition 54—the Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin initiative (CRECNO)—will ban California public agencies from collecting or using information about race, ethnicity, color, or national origin. We need this information. We use it to save lives, make communities safe, improve education, and protect civil rights.

- Prop 54 will wipe out data health professionals use to fight chronic disease, develop effective prevention programs, and save lives. *The data tell us that white women are diagnosed with breast cancer at a higher rate. Asian Americans are at a higher risk for Hepatitis-B. Latinos are more likely to die from complications of diabetes. African Americans die from heart disease at a higher rate. That's why over 40 leading health organizations oppose Proposition 54.*
- Prop 54 will ban the state from collecting information law enforcement and local communities use to combat hate crimes and prevent racial profiling. *The State Attorney General, law enforcement groups, and the Anti-Defamation League all oppose Proposition 54.*
- Prop 54 will undermine the state's efforts to hold our schools accountable. *The California Public School Accountability Act is designed to achieve high standards of learning for all children. This initiative lets school administrators off the hook when they fail to close the achievement gap. The California State PTA, the California Teachers Association, the California Federation of Teachers, the University of California, and State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell all oppose Proposition 54.*
- Prop 54 will take away the information people of every race, ethnicity, and national origin use to protect themselves from discrimination in employment, education, and state contracting. *Progress in fighting discrimination is made with data. Without the facts, there are no remedies. That's why civil rights advocates oppose Proposition 54. And it's also why even opponents of affirmative action—like Tom Woods, the author of Proposition 209—oppose Proposition 54.*

.....

PROP 54 - BAD FOR HEALTH CARE
BAD FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
BAD FOR EDUCATION, AND BAD FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.
PROP 54 IS BAD FOR CALIFORNIA.

For information about the negative impacts of Prop 54,
visit www.informedcalifornia.org.

To Volunteer for the Campaign to defeat Prop 54, call the
Coalition for an Informed California at (415) 621-1490 or
send an email to info@informedcalifornia.org

HOME CARE WORKERS DEMAND A LIVING WAGE - 19 ARRESTED

By Mike Rhodes
August 29, 2003

19 home care workers and their allies were arrested in Fresno today as they demanded respect and a living wage. Shouting "No Justice, No Peace!" protestors shut down the Fresno County Hall of Records. This was the first time most of these workers had ever participated in civil disobedience. Standing with them was Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union.

As the blockade at the Hall of Records formed Jemmy Bluestein led the group in Union songs, including Solidarity Forever which could be heard throughout the building. At first the sheriffs refused to arrest anyone and re-directed traffic to other entrances. When the protestors blocked all the doors to the building the arrests began. No sooner had the police cleared one doorway, when new protestors took their place. In the end 19 people were arrested, given a citation, and then released.

At issue here is that home care workers want a living wage (at least \$9.50 an hour) and health benefits. In negotiations with Service Employee International Union Local 250 Fresno County first offered home care workers health benefits and no salary increase. The union rejected that offer and the County took the health benefits off the table, imposed \$7.50 an hour, and refused to bargain further. After insulting the workers with this inadequate wage increase they began cutting workers hours.

Dana Simon from SEIU 250 says that the union has shown Fresno County where to find the money to pay for the salary increase and health benefits. Most of the funds are reimbursed by State and Federal sources. Advocates argue that the additional buying power that will result when home care workers earn a living wage will improve the economy of this impoverished County. The union, home care workers, and their allies are beginning to believe that the County's refusal to increase these workers salary is not about the money. It is about maintaining low wages in the County so the wealthy can continue to exploit poor underpaid workers. They don't want home care workers to set a "bad example"

by emerging from poverty. The success of the home care workers could inspire and motivate other groups of workers to join a union and demanded a living wage with benefits.

Tell Ralph Jimenez that If He Has This Much Disrespect for Homecare Workers, Maybe He's In the Wrong Job.

In a Service Employees International Union Local 250 bargaining session on August 28, Ralph Jimenez, Director of Fresno County Personnel Services, argued that homecare workers just won an 11% wage increase (bringing the wage from \$6.75 to just \$7.50). Local 250 spokesperson Pam Whalen responded by saying, "The day you make minimum wage, that's the day we'll listen to you when you say 11% is enough!"

Mr. Jimenez gave this angry response:

"That's right, I don't make minimum wage! And you know what? When I was a kid I did make minimum wage cutting melons in the fields. But you know what? I IMPROVED MYSELF. I went to school and I took the civil service exams. I improved myself and you [homecare workers] can improve yourselves, too. They don't have to keep doing homecare work!"

We believe that homecare workers are some of the most "improved" people alive. If anyone is in need of "improvement, it's the Board of Supervisors' spokesman who believes we should leave our clients alone and without care. If someone believes that sacrificing ourselves for the good of others is unworthy dirty labor, maybe that person's ethics are in need of "improvement.." A person who cares about others always remembers where they came from. They don't take pride in forgetting, and they don't take pride in their power to keep others down. Let Mr. Jimenez hear from you. Respectfully tell him what you think about his words and actions.

Ralph Jimenez, Director of Personnel Services

Phone: 559.488.2690

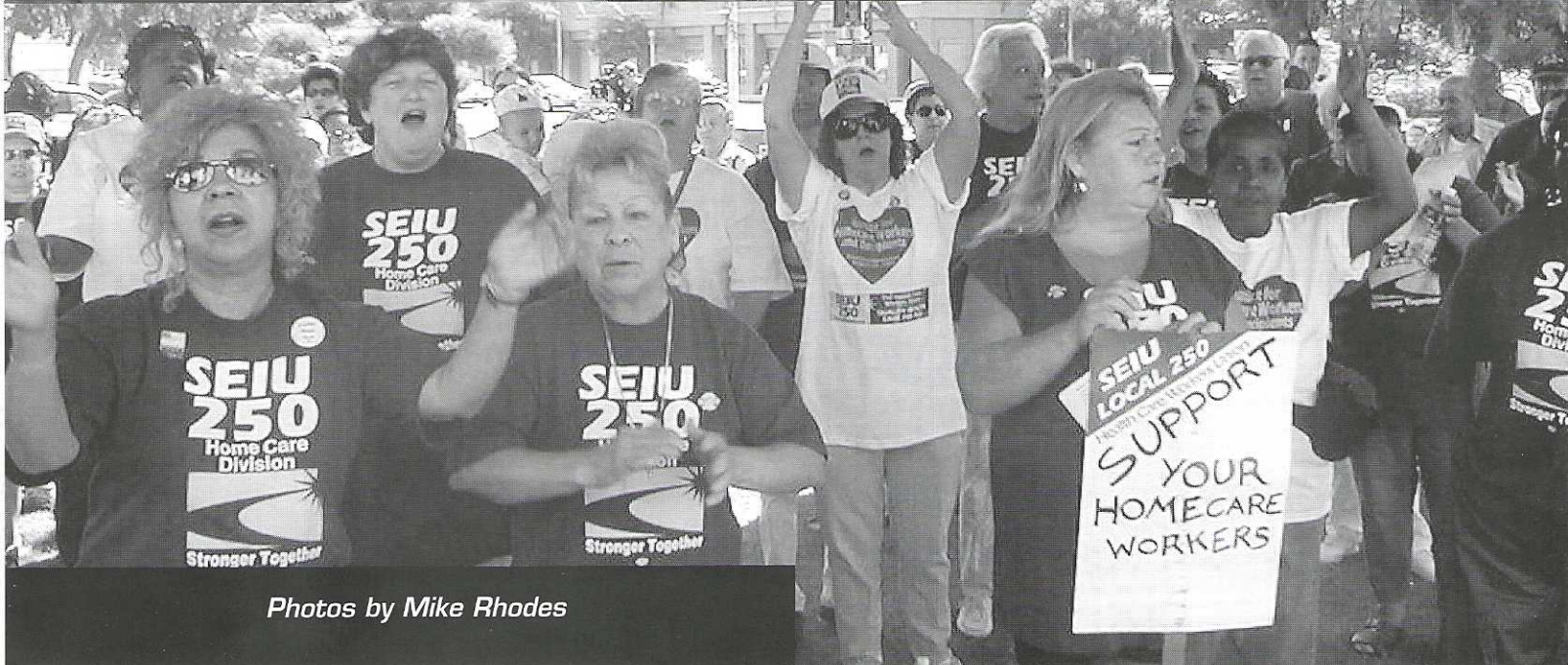
Email: personnel_administration@fresno.ca.gov

Please remember that when you call, though, to speak to him with the respect that we wish he and other county staff would offer to us. We must not lose our dignity and self-respect by speaking to them in the way they do to us.



**Friday,
October 17
11:00 AM**

March and Rally for justice for home care workers. Demand a living wage and health care benefits now! The march will start at 11 AM at St John's Catholic Church at Mariposa and R streets. The rally will take place at Courthouse Park in downtown Fresno (on the M street side). Join hundreds of home care workers, seniors, disabled people, trade unionists, and community supporters as they demand a living wage and justice for 10,000 home care workers.



Photos by Mike Rhodes

A PEOPLE DIVIDED - A PEOPLE CONQUERED

M. Gloria Hernandez 9/11/03

If mí papá were alive to witness the current California's politics, I think he would summarize it very simply: "Pueblo dividido, pueblo vencido" A people divided. A people conquered.

All this talk of a melting pot, color-blind society, special interests, those people, the haves and the have nots, it all comes down to a divided state and country. This is happening now while our GIs are away supposedly fighting for our freedom. Whose freedom and rights are they fighting for? Certainly not the people living in America, because, Brothers and Sisters, we are a divided people.

And then I read the paper or listen or watch the news, and I think how sad, instead of pulling together, we are fighting among ourselves. And, as mis compañeros tell me..... "hablo sin pelos en la lengua", I speak clearly as no hair is on my tongue to twist my words. I, include the immigrants as WE THE PEOPLE. Because to blame them for the economic crisis and all the wrongs of the federal and state government is just plain wrong. And you should be ashamed of this.

If we are a true united state let's place the blame equally. Let's blame those who break the law by hiring them instead of you or your family members. Let's blame those who sent our jobs overseas or across borders. Let's blame those who are making it hard for them to stay home. Let's blame those who hide the truth from us. Let's blame those who are too lazy to inform themselves as to why a person would leave their country and come and "vacation" in the United States.

Above all, let's blame the ignorance of the people who push laws like IRCA, IIRRA and don't even know that those laws prohibit public aid to even legalized immigrants. Let's take a look at the previous racist immigrations laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act, the government's failure to act fast to "issue visas" to save Jewish people's lives during the war, the laws allowing the concentration camps, the years it took to create laws for Black Americans and even Native Americans to be considered citizens. Let us look at the American's People's history and learn from our stupid mistakes and let us not do them again.

Let's take the time to honor the immigrant and the contributions they have done in this state and country of ours. They were there unseen as always, working janitors, cafeteria helpers, in the twin towers and unaccounted for since they were "undocumented". They have given their sons to the wars fought by this country. They have contributed much and have gotten little in return. And they have been blamed for much more than they can actually take credit for.

Let us put some accountability back in government, let's pass laws that set limits as to how much money a rich person can use to run for office. Let us define rich, define special interest, define recall, define waste and abuse and above all let us as a people support the human and civil rights of all people.

CA 14

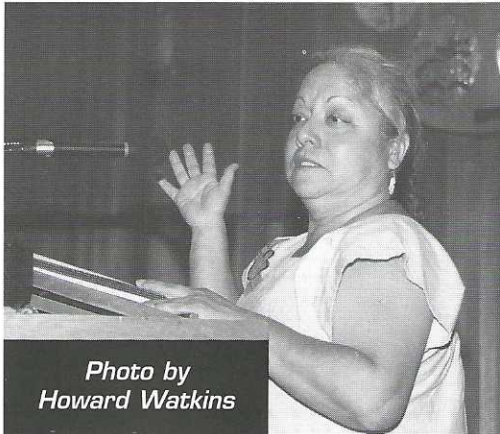


Photo by
Howard Watkins

Bottom line, brothers and sisters, I didn't vote for him, but I will vote no on the recall, because we Californians deserve what we voted for. I have too many questions of the chosen one who the recallers want. If Issa has so much money why doesn't he pay for the recall costs? If Arnold is so much for children, why does he push tobacco products in all his movies? How much money does that special interest pay him? I even question why no one knows how it is that Arnold immigrated into the United States with just a few dollars.

Above all, I question why people would even bother to vote for an action figure with a cigar in his mouth who relies on special effects to make his movies. Then, I look at the people writing his latest script and I know the answer. It's to create a diversion and division among the masses. While people go hurting and hungry, uneducated and homeless, the economy fails, our GIs dying daily, our air and water supply are contaminated, our people are forced to get welfare instead of a good paying job and sadly the real heroes, the veterans are suffering with major budget cuts and we, the people are quietly being conquered.

Sí, I think, mí papá would say few words but they should be heard loudly.

**hate* continued from page 7*

liberal HA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Issuing the press advisory was a matter of public safety. The mayor should have thanked Debbie Reyes and the HRC for exposing this potentially violent local group and warning the public to stay away from the site of their demonstration. Instead, the mayor used this opportunity to attack the HRC.

On September 16, 2003 the issue of the email incident came back before the City Council. Once again, City Hall was full of HRC supporters. City Council president Tom Boyajian made a proposal to address the email issue. He proposed sensitivity and diversity training, establishing a code of conduct for council members, and a mild rebuke of Council members Duncan and Calhoun. Most of the audience speaking on this issue supported Boyajian's proposal. Some of the speakers expressed their anger about the emails and Boyajian told them to only address the issue of his proposal. Matilda Rangel was removed by security by Boyajian because she wanted to tell him how she felt about the email messages. Other speakers were threatened, but almost everyone supported the effort to hold people accountable for what they wrote.

After the public testimony, the audience listened to an unapologetic Calhoun attack Boyajian and complain that his name was mentioned in the proposal. He threatened to sue the city council if it passed. Calhoun said that he would lodge formal complaints against fellow council members if the resolution passed. Finally, he said that if the resolution passes he would consider ending his political career. A huge roar of approval was heard from the audience when Calhoun threatened to resign. A much more contrite Duncan addressed the council. Duncan, not reading from a script, made a much more sincere apology for the email incident. He appeared to have realized the seriousness of the indiscretion and was ready to apologize and move on.

In the end, a portion of Boyajian's proposal passed. The section that rebuked Duncan and Calhoun was removed and voted on separately. In a surprise move, council member Cynthia Steerling sided with the conservative slate on the council, and the motion to rebuke Duncan and Calhoun failed.

The attacks against the HRC are not over. The mayor and other conservatives on the City Council would like to muzzle the HRC and limit their role to being another innocuous, meaningless, government bureaucracy that provides cover for the injustice in this community. The HRC has not been intimidated and threatened into abandoning their historic role and mission of struggling for peace, social/economic justice, tolerance and understanding among the culturally diverse Fresno community.



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Vickie M. Fouts, Guest Newsletter Editor, contact at 559.658.8260 or email at vmfout1@sti.net

WILPF DATES:

Wednesday, October 1, Noon: Women In Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway

Saturday, October 4, 2-4 PM: Program on Prop 54, Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color or National Origin Initiative — Fresno Center for Nonviolence — 985 N Van Ness Ave — An panel with, Rey Leon of Lationo Issues Forum, Rev. Floyd Harris, Jr. of National Action Network and Gerry Bill of FCNV will discuss Prop 54 and why we must vote NO. Co-sponsored by Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Saturday, October 4 to Saturday, October 11 Keep Space for Peace Week — Program in the planning stage. Date, time and place to be announced.

Monday, October 13, 7 PM: WILPF Board Meeting, 985 N Van Ness Ave. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, October 22, 3:30 PM: Stir It Up, WILPF Style on KFCF 88.1, program on Abolishing Corporate Personhood, hosted by Gabrielle Kirkland.

Saturday, October 25, 9:30 AM-3 PM: WILPF No. California Branches Fall 2003 Cluster Meeting, 434 T St, Sacramento, CA. The program will include reports from National & International offices, branch sharing and a presentation by Public Citizen, "Whose Water Is It Anyway?" on the privatization of water. Contact Vickie Fouts, vmfout1@sti.net or 658-8260 for more info.

WILPF Annual Retreat: Over a dozen WILPF members met on August 16th at the home of Ellie Bluestein to plan for the next year and review the past year. If you do not have email and want a copy of the retreat minutes or the year-end report please contact Vickie Fouts at 658-8260.

Our new board for the 2003-04 year are: Vickie Fouts — president, Lauralee Crain-Carbone — Secretary, Ingrid Carmean — Treasury, Gabrielle Kirkland — Membership Chair, Morghan Young - Historian & Legislative Chair, Marilyn Byrne — Telephone Tree, Ellie Bluestein — Volunteer Coordinator Chair (new position), Catherine Garoupa & Ruth Obel-Jorgensen — Program Co-chairs, Camille Russell, Jean Kennedy and Joan Poss - Members-At-Large. Newsletter editor and legislative chair are still open. Please think about taking on one of the positions. I wish to thank Carol Bequette, Desi Cortez, Jan Slagter, Julie Andrews-Young, Laura Fultz, Nora De Witt and Zay Guffy-Bill for all their hard work serving on the board last year.

Some of the actions taken at the retreat were: a donation to WILPF National in the amount of \$500 from our GAP settlement donation, went over a list of possible programs for the year with co-sponsorship with Fresno Center for Nonviolence, continue donating Jane Addams Children's Book Awards with some type of public recognition event, fund raising events for our general fund, education fund and possibly sending Vickie Fouts to the WILPF International Conference August 2004 in Sweden with Ellie Bluestein and Lynn Jacobsson, request for more activism regarding social justice legislation in Washington, Sacramento and Fresno, proposed a Peace Award to be given at public events to show acknowledgement and appreciation to those who make a difference, we will not

host the National WILPF Congress in 2005.

We agreed to donate the Fresno WILPF history to the CSUF Library Archives. We will be keeping only the last two years material. There is a process where we can borrow any information we may need for future events. Once the archive has been set up we hope to have some type of event, such as a tea, on campus to celebrate the partnership between WILPF and CSUF. If you have any WILPF materials you would like to donate to the archive please contact our historian, Morghan Young, morghanyoung@csufresno.edu or 292-0516, as soon as possible.

A WILPF Mission Survey was handed out so we can find out what members are interested in Fresno WILPF working on. We will get one out to all the members soon. Along with this was a wonderful handout of the WILPF International Program which listed how we can deal with the global issues at a local level. If you wish a copy please contact Vickie Fouts at vmfout1@sti.net or 658-8260.

We must become the change we wish to see. - Gandhi

Outreach: On September 9 WILPF did tabling at the Lane Neighborhood Association Block Party, near Butler and Chestnut. What a great way to get the word out about our organization to a group that isn't part of the choir.

On Saturday October 11th, 2003, in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day the community of Fresno will host the first annual Peoples Day Festival in the streets of downtown Fresno from the Warner's Theatre to the African American Museum. Join WILPF along with dozens of other organizations throughout the community to celebrate diversity in a fun-filled day of cultural arts, dancing, food, and exciting learning opportunities for the whole family. This is another great way to do outreach beyond the choir.

Volunteer opportunities: The Peoples Day Festival, October 11th, is an opportunity for all WILPF members to play an active role in the community. Volunteers are needed to represent WILPF in many fun activities. Contact Ruth at ruthoj@csufresno.edu to get involved.

December 6th WILPF Crafts Faire: Volunteers are needed to work different booths, to bring soup, breads and desserts. To volunteer please contact our new volunteer coordinator, Ellie Bluestein.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has. — Margaret Mead



CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

WHITE PRIVILEGE: The planning committee that met last month is proposing an on-going series of "challenging discussions" for whites to talk about white privilege. People of all races are welcome, but the emphasis will be on whites educating ourselves about the still-prevailing impacts of racism on social and international policies in the U.S.

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Center. Follow-up meetings will be held the third Wednesday each month at SO-110 (Social Science Bldg.) at Fresno City College. To enroll, or get more information, call Gerry Bill at 227-2133, or Richard Stone at 266-2559.

PEACE CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH: Now announcing the 2004 edition of our program of mini-grants (up to \$200) for projects undertaken by groups of youth under 18 years of age. Our 4th year of encouraging kids to find a way "to make it better" is underwritten by the Whitney Foundation (thanks especially to Ellen Bush and Kathryn Stephens).

The simple format for submitting proposals is explained on an informational flyer available at the Center, or by request (by phone, 237-3223; by e-mail, fcnv2@juno.com). Initial funding decisions will be made on applications received by Nov. 1.

Questions? Ask Vickie Fouts, Angela Price, Dixie Salazar, Victor McLane or Richard Stone or leave a message at the Center.

THE "M" WORD: The next few months are critical to the financial well-being of the Center. Our book sale (see box) will be held on Oct. 6; our annual phon-a-

thon to solicit donations in Nov./Dec. These are the pillars of our solvency.

The Center is operated by volunteers (except for small amounts of "contract pay" given to our treasurer, secretary and administrative aides from a specially underwritten fund.) We are subsidized by a generously low rent offered by our landlords. But even shoestrings must be paid for. Please support our fundraising efforts as fully as you can.

If you guessed that the "M word" is money, you're right—but this is a word we need to speak, and a need we can't ignore.

ARCHIVES: Vickie Fouts has arranged for the Center to have an archival presence at the CSUF Library. We are gathering up materials. If you have pictures, clippings or other appropriate stuff pertaining to our history, please let us know.

Action of the Month

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include the Intelligence Project, Teaching Tolerance and Tolerance.org. To learn more and to become involved see www.splcenter.org

Fresno Center for Nonviolence
985 N. Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 237-3223 • fcnv2@juno.com
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence>

disarmament based on strong, verifiable treaties provides the most comprehensive, preventive approach to the terrorist threat. (Source: San Francisco Bay Area PSR News, summer 2003)

PSR's SMART SECURITY PLATFORM.

1) Preventing acts of terrorism and future wars by strengthening international institutions: Reject unilateral pre-emptive war as a means of resolving international conflict and increase support for the UN and other security programs; actively support and adhere to international treaties, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; increase funding for programs which address the root causes of terrorism like world hunger, illiteracy and unemployment.

2) Stopping the spread of nuclear weapons: Set an example by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons; work with Russia to dismantle nuclear warheads and increase funding for programs (e.g., the Nunn-Lugar Act) to secure nuclear materials from falling into the hands of terrorists.

3) Reducing the threat and stopping the spread of biological and chemical weapons: Rejoin the global effort to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention; strengthen the inspection regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and accelerate the disposal of US chemical weapons.

4) Changing priorities to reflect real security needs: Eliminate wasteful military spending and invest those resources in urgent domestic needs for health care, education, jobs, etc.; provide new investments in renewable energy alternatives, and adequate funding to nations like Afghanistan to secure peace and stability. (Source: PSR/New York City Newsletter, summer 2003)

PSR will be encouraging our elected officials, community leaders and the general public to endorse the SMART Security platform.

THE WELCH REPORT

September 15, 2003

Jack H. Welch, M.D.



NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PRE-EMPTIVE WAR

The claimed pre-war "imminent Iraqi nuclear threat" has been exposed as an apparent fraud, no weapons of mass destruction (WMD) having been found. However, during the war, known Iraqi nuclear installations were left unsecured, allowing looting by Iraqis, potentially exposing many civilians to radioactive materials.

Having done its utmost to scuttle the international network of safeguards against the use of nuclear and other WMD, the Bush Administration has increased its efforts to usher in a new era of nuclear weapons proliferation. It has laid the groundwork for the production of new weapons and is developing doctrines for their use (Nuclear Posture Review). The coupling of a deteriorating economy with the blank-check military budget and massive tax give backs to the rich, promoted by Bush, represents a major assault on the quality of life in the US. We are in the midst of cutbacks in basic education, environmental oversight, and public health. Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) believes that the time is ripe for promoting SMART Security: A Sensible, Multi-lateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART is rooted in an approach that incorporates a globally based, preventive public health focus. It stresses the necessity of multi-lateral mechanisms to address the root causes of global violence. The SMART program calls for increasing support for the UN and other arenas for international cooperation. It rejects unilateral pre-emptive war as a means for resolving international conflict.

The SMART platform emphasizes PSR's traditional understanding that global

PayPal Reminder

Last month, we unveiled the new PayPal feature on our Fresno County Green Party website. We explained that we are counting on this (and you) as a means for establishing a consistent financial basis for building the Green Party in Fresno County. Since last month, only a few people have availed themselves of this opportunity. If our goal of having at least 50 Greens signed up by the end of the year to give at least \$10 per month is going to be achieved, more of you need to get involved. Spreading the Green message does not happen without money. Literature costs money to print. Mailing costs are exorbitant. Webpages are not free. Also, time that we have to spend raising funds means less time to tell people about the Green Party.

Other major parties are taking contributions from large corporate interests, often defense contractors. The Green Party seeks to rely solely on contributions from its grassroots members. **THAT MEANS YOU!!!** Please get out your credit card, go to our website at www.cagreens.org/fresno, and sign up to be a regular contributor. Our goal is to get at least 50 Greens to sign up to contribute at least \$10.00 per month by the end of the year. Right now we are at 4% of the goal. We will keep you posted on YOUR progress toward this goal. Please remember, there is no grassroots democracy without grassroots giving!

Greens, Fighting Prohibitive Access Laws and Exclusion of Green Candidates, Win Law Suit in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Greens won a major battle in the national effort by various Green Parties to overturn prohibitive ballot access rules in their respective states.

On September 11, a federal court ruled in favor of Green candidates John Stith (running for state representative from the 77th District) and Thomas Linzey (for state attorney general) in their court challenge against Pennsylvania's fees for candidates to get on the state ballot in 2000. The 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals called the fees unconstitutional, declaring that wealth shouldn't be a factor in whether a person can run for public office. "Democrats and Republicans in state office have enacted draconian rules to keep third party and independent candidates off the ballot," said Stith. "In some states, apologists for the two-party dominance are blocking Green and other third party and independent candidates from participating in public debates. Greens are challenging these anti-democratic laws in the courts and in the streets."

On July 29, a Maryland Court of Appeals struck down a two-tiered ballot access rule, calling the state's two-step requirement discriminatory against third parties. Maryland had required third parties to collect 10,000 signatures to win recognition and then submit nominating petitions with signatures from 1% of voters. On the same day, the Green Party of Alaska filed a lawsuit in Anchorage Superior Court against a state law requiring a party to draw 3% of the vote in a statewide race and in every gubernatorial race to maintain ballot status. The Green Party of New York State recently won an injunction to continue enrolling members after losing ballot status. The judge hearing the case concluded that New York's voter enrollment scheme "unreasonably discriminate[d] against minor parties and their voters."

"Prohibitive ballot access laws have backfired against the two old parties," said Ben Manski, a Wisconsin Green and co-chair of the Green Party of the United States. "Many state Green Parties who would prefer to focus on local races need to run a national candidate in order to achieve or keep official ballot status. But Democrats and Republicans, betraying a stunted sense of democracy and

irony, still whine when Green, Libertarian, Reform Party, independent, and other presidential candidates show up on the ballot."

In Mississippi, Green gubernatorial candidate Sherman Lee Dillon has been blocked from participation in debates and forums organized by the League of Women Voters and various newspapers and television stations throughout the state.

"A local League of Women Voters representative called me names, yelled, and hung up on me when I asked her to provide the Federal Statute number or reference which she insisted they followed in order to exclude Green Party gubernatorial candidate Sherman Lee Dillon from a debate that the League is sponsoring with the local public TV station in Jackson on October 16," said Mississippi Green Party member Mary Jo Brooks. "Our candidate's rights are being violated, and so are the rights of Mississippi voters, who deserve to hear the views and positions of all candidates whose names will be on the ballot."

"The Republicrats treat the two-party system like a country club where certain parties, i.e. Greens, need not apply for membership," said Barbara Trypaluk, Green candidate for supervisor of Saratoga Springs, New York. "The Board of Elections in Saratoga county, where I'm running for supervisor, purposely excluded the Greens from a workshop on gathering petition signatures to get on the ballot."

Fresno Fair Booth

Come by and visit us at the Fresno Fair. For the first time in many years, the Fresno County Green Party will have a booth at the fair. We are excited about this opportunity to reach out to those in our community who are not yet familiar with the Greens.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Get Involved!

Come to the Fresno County Green Party's monthly meeting at the Center for Nonviolence located at 985 N. Van Ness on October 9th at 7:00 p.m. and get involved. Listen to the Green Scene on KFCF 88.1 on October 15th at 3:30 p.m. And don't forget to visit our website at www.cagreens.org/fresno (where you can now donate via PayPal) or call us at 265-3647.



*The traffic light
signal for "Walk"
has been co-opted
by the Australian
Green Party.*

GO GREENS

Porterville Resolution on the Patriot Act Passes

By Bill Warner

On September 2, 2003, the Porterville City Council unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming Porterville's commitment to the Constitution and to our fundamental rights. A copy of the resolution accompanies this article.

Merrily Davies and Carolyn Waller got together the resolution and got it on the Council agenda. There were some audience comments and pleas for passage at the meeting prior to September 2, but one council member was absent, and at the request of the lone dissenter of the four present, the Council agreed to put it off a week until the missing member could be in attendance. In the meantime, we put out a request for concerned citizens in the area to contact the council members individually by letter, e mail, telephone, or personal contact. According to the mayor pro-tem, who called me about a couple of points before the meeting (I had written each of them a letter with reasons why we needed to pass it) he received many e-mails and phone calls on the resolution. I had about a half-hour talk with the member who had missed the previous meeting, and found him in the process of weighing the pros and cons. He later proposed a couple of changes in the resolution, such as having the entire Council sign it, and inserting language concerning not extending rights to "illegal aliens."

We made a number of presentations to the Council at the Sept. 2 meeting during oral presentations, starting with Merrily's quote from the Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Assn. which supported resistance to the Patriot Act. She stressed that it was a non-partisan issue. A number of passionate and well-reasoned arguments including personal experiences as well as legal clarification (a lawyer in the audience pointed out that citizens of other countries here already had a number of rights, and that it was inappropriate to include wording to make the resolution just apply to "legal" residents. The Council agreed affirmed human rights without singling out "illegal aliens." The resolution was made deliberately vague which could allow all of the councilmen to support it. Porterville is not known for its liberal politics. An ex-mayor of Porterville spoke against the weak resolution, calling it an "ultra-liberal" measure. This was particularly humorous, coming after Merrily's presentation with quotes from the NRA and the American Conservative Union!

The resolution did not include specific requests to city employees such as the police chief to refuse to cooperate with the FBI in turning over immigrants, etc.

This type of language in the original Visalia resolution was one of the reasons they could not get theirs passed, I think. At the Council meeting in Visalia the same night, they drew a 2-2 stalemate on a watered-down version, the deciding vote, reportedly pro-resolution, did not materialize as this member was absent. One of the anti-resolution members said that it was now a "dead issue." Daniel Lee and the Visalia contingent intend to keep the issue alive.

Maybe the message in all this is:

- 1) Keep the proposed resolutions positive, affirming the rights that are under attack
- 2) Lobby the Council members as much as you can, keeping the tone of the argument persuasive and not negative
- 3) Keep the notion that this is not a partisan issue. The idea is to present it positively, with the result that voting it down would almost seem un-American!

Heartiest congratulations to our courageous and indefatigable ladies, Merrily and Carolyn and all of those who lobbied and addressed the Council. Also big

vote of thanks to Daniel Lee who has been working so hard with the Visalia project. Maybe with the Porterville resolution passed, it will be easier for others in the Valley.

RESOLUTION No. 112-2003

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA TO UPHOLD THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE OF PORTERVILLE.

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville fully supports the Constitution of the United States and its amendments, particularly the Bill of Rights and

the 14th Amendment and the Constitution of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental human rights and civil liberties guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of California are essential to the well-being of the citizens and community of Porterville; and

WHEREAS, several provisions of the USA PATRIOT ACT enacted at the State and Federal level may threaten the fundamental rights and liberties set forth in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City (" the City Council") as follows:

Section 1. We, the City Council of the City of Porterville have sworn to uphold and

Continued on page 23

For more information go to: <http://www.southvalleypeacecenter.org/>

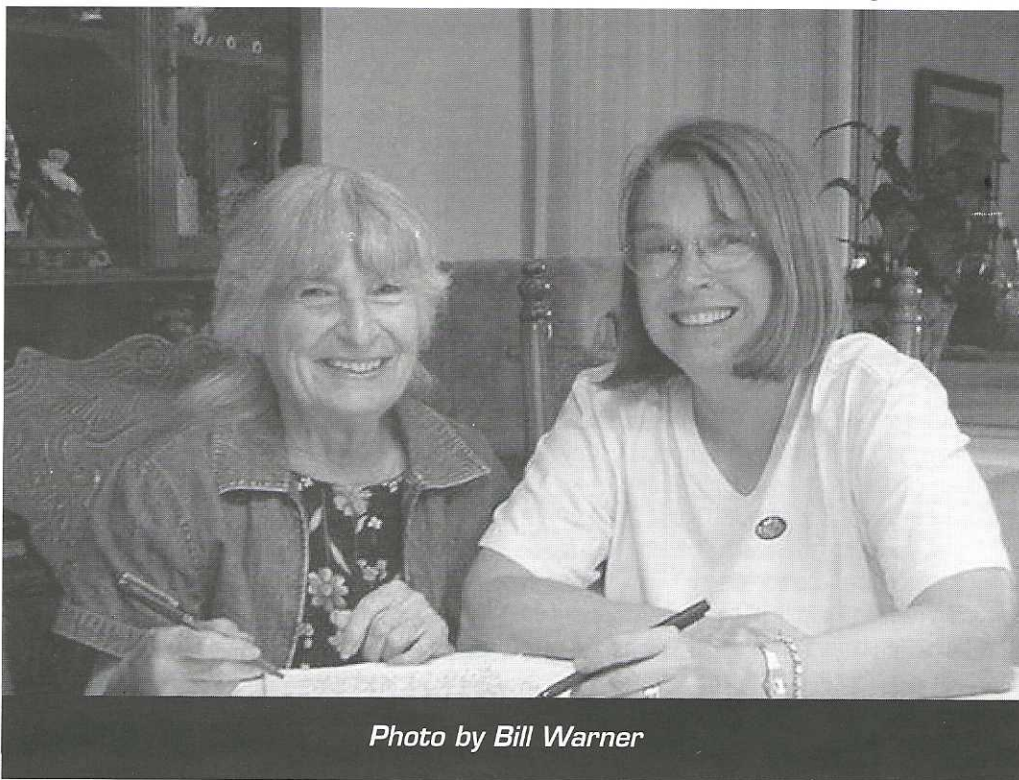


Photo by Bill Warner

Wednesday, October 1 • 8 PM

At Fresno Pacific University - Ashley Auditorium

Video: "A Force More Powerful" - Segment to be shown is "Gandhi's 'Walk to the Sea'"

Following video presentation, discussion will be led by Richard Stone

For info: Richard Stone 266-2559

Thursday, October 2 • 1 PM, 4:30 PM, and 7 PM

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, will be speaking in Fresno at the CSUF Peace Garden at 1 PM on Oct. 2, Gandhi's birthday, for a garlanding ceremony, followed by a dialogue in the Renaissance Room on campus. At 4:30 PM he will speak at Fresno Pacific U, and he will give a free public address at the Memorial Auditorium downtown at 7:00 PM.

Saturday, October 4 • 8:30 AM 3:30 PM

Support the Fresno Center for Nonviolence by coming to our fundraising Book Sale, in the parking lot at Olive and Maroa (adjacent to the Chicken Pie Shop). See details, page 2. Call Angela at 435 6383 for further information.

Saturday, October 4 • 2 4 PM

"Proposition 54 prohibits the state and local governments from classifying individuals by race, ethnicity, or national origin for any purpose other than those outlined in the initiative." What are the truths behind this statement? How will it affect you and your family? How will it affect health care? Come to the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness to hear these guest speakers: the Rev. Floyd Harris, President of National Action Network for Fresno & California; Mr. Rey Leon, Senior Policy Analyst for Latino Issues Forum; Mr. Gerry Bill, Sociology Instructor at Fresno City College & FCNV Board Member. For further information contact Vickie Fouts at vmfou1@sti.net or (559) 658 8260. Program sponsored by Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Peace Fresno, and Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition.

Tuesday, October 7 • Recall Election

Friday, October 10 • 5 PM or 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents City of God at the Tower Theatre. Tickets are on sale now at the Tower Theatre box office, 815 E. Olive Ave.; at The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave.; and at The Fig Garden Bookstore, 5094 N. Palm Ave. Tickets are \$9 (\$7 for students and seniors). For more information about this film or Fresno Filmworks go to <www.fresnofilmworks.org>.

A photographer named Buscape narrates short stories to recall his childhood growing up in one of the most crime-ridden areas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The film introduces many characters, including a boyhood friend on the path to becoming a drug dealer in what was one of the world's most dangerous areas from the late '60s to the early '80s.

"A life study of an urban landscape, from its illegitimate birth through traumatic maturity, and on into a not-quite death that, for the generations who call City of God home, is a perpetually self-fulfilling cycle."

Bob Strauss, Los Angeles Daily News

Saturday, October 11 • 10 AM Sunset

San Joaquin Valley People's Day Festival a celebration of all cultures of the San Joaquin Valley. Come spend a day at the Valley's neighborhood block party, supporting local talent, enjoying music, dance, and art, and participating in multicultural community-building a day where we can all come together at the same place at the same time, and enjoy our diversity, free! Where: Uptown Cultural Arts District, Van Ness & Calaveras

Sunday, October 12 • 12 Noon

Immigrant Rights march will start on the Fulton Mall. For more information contact the San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights at (559) 498 6033.

Tuesday, October 14 • 2 PM

"Ecology and Democracy : The role of democratic decision making in building community and creating sustainable food systems," Fresno Pacific University, Ashley Auditorium (MacDonald Hall 148). Parking at the Steinert Field lot at the corner of Heaton and Winery (at the southeast corner of campus) and at Butler Church (corner of Winery and Butler). Speaker Adam Wolpert is a painter, teacher, cofounder of The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, and director of the OAEC Arts Program. See <www.oaec.org>. Sponsored by the environmental studies department at Fresno Pacific University. For more info call (559) 486 8815 or email jhofer@hotmail.com .

Wednesday, October 15

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the November 2003 Community Alliance magazine. Send information to AllianceEditor@comcast.net.

Wednesday, October 15

George W. Bush visits Fresno for a fundraiser, with admission ranging from \$1000 to \$2000 per person. A coalition of groups is planning to protest administration policies. Time and place of the protest to be announced.

Wednesday, October 15 • 6 PM

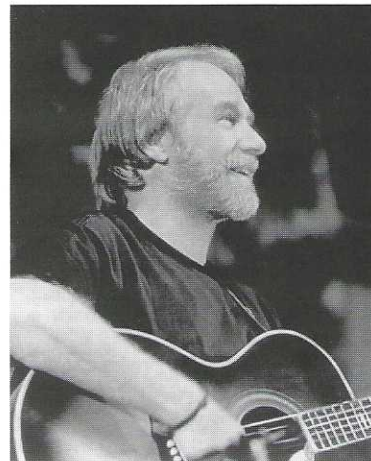
The next meeting of Central California Criminal Justice Committee will take place at the Sarah McCordle room of downtown library. They will assess where they are at after the proposal of the mayor's IPA committee has made its presentation to the city council.

Wednesday, October 15 • 7 PM

White Privilege: There will be an ongoing series of "challenging discussions" for whites to talk about white privilege. People of all races are welcome, but the emphasis will be on whites educating themselves about the still-prevailing impact of racism on social and international policies in the United States. The first meeting will take place at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Follow-up meetings will be held the third Wednesday each month at SO-110 (Social Science Bldg.) at Fresno City College. To enroll or to get more information, call Gerry Bill at 227 2133 or Richard Stone at 266 2559.

Thursday, October 16 • 10 PM

Channel 49 Father Roy Bourgeois will talk about the School of the Americas. Bourgeois was interviewed while in Fresno on September 5, 2003.



Thursday, October 16 • 7:30 PM

DAVID MALLET singer/songwriter/guitar & harmonica

Fresno Art Museum 2233 First Ave Fresno

Admission: \$12 advance; \$15 at door

Information: Pat Wolk 559-431-3653

David Mallett hails from a small town in northern Maine, and in a career that spans 4 decades, his music has traveled to all corners of the world. His songs have been recorded by more than 150 artists, including Pete Seeger, Alison Krauss, John Denver, Emmylou Harris and the Muppets. He has released 11 albums and published 2 books.

Friday, October 17 • 11 AM

March and rally for justice for home care workers. Demand a living wage and health care

benefits now! The march will start at 11 AM at St John's Catholic Church at Mariposa and R Streets. The rally will take place at Courthouse Park in downtown Fresno (on the M Street side). Join hundreds of home care workers, seniors, disabled people, trade unionists, and community supporters as they demand a living wage and justice for 10,000 home care workers.

Wednesday, October 22 • 5:30 PM

Demonstration against police brutality will be held in Fresno. Participants are asked to wear black and to bring candles and the name of any loved one who has been lost to law enforcement/ migra / prison guard violence. For more information contact No Nos Vamos at (559) 498 6033 or defensora@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, October 22 • 7:30 PM music, 8 PM show

The San Francisco Mime Troupe is coming to the Tower Theater in Fresno. See the story on page 8.

Wednesday, October 22

Michael Moore will be speaking in Stockton to discuss his new book about the connections between the Bush administration and the bin Laden family. The talk will be at the University of the Pacific and is supported by the Peace & Justice Network. For more info call (209) 467 4455.

Friday October 24 Sunday, October 26 • Various times

The Sixth Street Cinema and the California Council for the Humanities are pleased to present "Dialogue on the Decalogue," a film festival/conference based on master Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski's award-winning Decalogue series, October 24 26 in Mariposa. These ten short films are loosely based on the ten commandments and deal with the ethical, moral, and political ramifications of the ancient writ in modern times. Film, humanities, and ethics scholars will offer comment and discussion about the films. Tickets are \$20 for the entire weekend, or \$3 per film. Please go to <www.decalogue.org> or call (209) 742 6666 to register or for more information.

October 25 & 26

ACT UP! Central Valley Youth Organizing Conference, Fresno State, University Center. Join young people from throughout the Central Valley who are organizing for change in their communities around issues of environment, education, health, and justice. Participants will share experience, skills, and strategies through workshops and performances. Help with transportation and lodging is available. Contact the conference organizer: Manuel Perez, (530) 758 3688 or manual@youthinfocus.net. Sponsored by the California Fund for Youth Organizing of Tides Foundation in partnership with ACT UP Steering Committee, California Prison Moratorium Project, Campus Coalition for Peace and Civil Liberties, Center for Race Poverty and the Environment, COPAL, Fresno Barrios Unidos, Gay-Straight Alliance Network, Escuelas Si! Pintas No! (ESPINO), Latino Issues Forum, Madera Youth Justice Coalition, MECHA Fresno State, University Student Pride, Youth in Focus.

Sunday, October 26 • 8 PM

Ani DiFranco will perform at the Tower Theatre. "DiFranco has an uncanny knack for writing songs that seem to talk directly to each member of her audience." The Boston Phoenix For more information visit www.righteousbabe.com/artists/index.asp or call (559) 485 9050.



Sunday, October 26 • 2 PM

Hoyle Osborne in a house concert at 6661 N. Forkner, on the Wolks' Yamaha baby grand, tuned to perfection by Terry Barrett. Ragtime, boogie-woogie, Harlem stride, blues, Latin-American dance tunes, and original compositions: Hoyle Osborne plays them all with grace and feeling, eloquence, and a masterful style elegant, and yet never afraid to get down, sometimes funky, always soulful. His driving spirit evokes the great players of the past, and yet is uniquely his own. A consummate entertainer, he spices his performances with vivid stories of the music's origins and its often-colorful creators. Space is limited to 35. Admission: \$10. Phone for reservations: (559) 431 3653.

Tuesday, October 28 • 7 PM

The Fresno State Women's Resource Center brings to Fresno a national festival of films created by, for, and about women. LUNAFEST, now in its third year, will travel nationwide to 30 cities. For more information, go to page 5

Tuesday, October 28 • 7 9 PM

An important cable access needs assessment meeting will be held at the Ted Wills Community Center, 770 N San Pablo. This focus group meeting is for all community, civic, and nonprofit organizations. The community's ability to have Public, Education, and Government access on the cable network depends on community participation. Your presence at this meeting will make a difference.

Wednesday, October 29 • 6 PM

Take Back the Night is a gathering and march that will be held at the Fresno State Peace Garden. For more information see page 5.

Thursday, October 30 • 7 - 9 PM

A cable access needs assessment meeting will be held at Fresno City Hall, in the Council Chambers. This focus group meeting is for the General Public. The community's ability to have Public, Education, and Government access on the cable network depends on community participation. Your presence at this meeting will make a difference.

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. Anyone who'd like to devote a few hours of their time on Sundays are invited to leave voice mail for Nick at (559) 499-7927 to arrange to help him and other volunteers prepare lunch at 12:30 p.m. at his home in the Tower District. Lunch is served 3 p.m. at Courthouse Park near the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue. Donations of plates, bowls, spoons, and forks made of recyclable material are greatly appreciated.

Every Tuesday • 7 PM

Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness. If you want to help stop Bush's endless war against the world - come to this meeting! For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223). For more information about Peace Fresno call 487-2515 or visit their web site at: <http://www.peacefresno.org>

Every Tuesday and Thursday • 6:45 - 9 PM

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets) each Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229-6410 liza.apper@stbencatholicworker.org or visit their web site at: <http://www.stbencatholicworker.org>

Every Friday • 9 AM - 5 PM

Stone Soup cultural art store featuring authentic Hmong Cultural Arts is open at 1345 Bulldog Lane in Fresno. Call (559) 224-7613 or email stonesoupfresno@yahoo.com for more information.

Every Friday • 7 PM

Reedley Peace Center, holds its weekly peace meeting at the Fellowship Hall at Reedley's First Mennonite Church 1208 "L" Street, Reedley, Ca ... Programs vary but the focus is always on peace issues local, state, national, international....the contact is Carol Krahbel 559-637-9098 or email krahbel@cvip.net. The meeting is free and open to the public and handicapped accessible.

Every Saturday • 1-2 PM

Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. The location for cooking on Saturday is at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 East Barstow Ave., between First and Cedar starting at 9AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 452-0277 (Dallas). e-mail fresnofnb@yahoo.com. Visit the Food Not Bombs web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

Every Saturday • 1 PM until the last patient is served

Medical Clinic for the homeless, active injecting drug users and prostitutes. You can find them near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park.

* Staffed by Dr. Marc Lasher and volunteers.

* Accepting financial donations. Contact: 266-0444

Every Saturday • 1-3 PM

Fresno Free Bicycle Repair Clinic. Most Saturdays, 1:00 - 3:00ish. Donations of bicycle parts, inner tubes & blinky lights welcome. Volunteers needed to help with minor repairs. The bicycle clinic is near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park, beside Food Not Bombs. For more info and to arrange donations, fresnofreebikeclinic@yahoo.com

Every Saturday • 2 - 3 PM

Peace Bakersfield meets every Saturday at 2:00 pm at the Beale Library in downtown Bakersfield. They will wait for people in the front of the library near the front doors before going inside for the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Your ideas are the basis for our action. Beale Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield. For more information call (661) 633-2930

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

2nd and 4th Sunday of every month • 1 PM

South Valley Peace Center meets on every second and fourth Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at the Visalia Friends Meeting House, 17208 Ave. 296, Visalia. Contact is: David@DavidChandler.com.

1st Monday of every month • 7:00 PM

FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticide) meets at The BIG Community building behind the house at 4230 N Arthur. For more information email FresCAMP@yahoo.com or call (559) 227-6134.

2nd Monday of every month • 7 PM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Meeting is at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information email vmfou1@sti.net

3rd Monday of every month • 7 - 9 PM

The National Organization for Women (NOW), at the Center for Non-Violence, 985 N. Van Ness. Information at 252-7569.

1st Tuesday of every month • 6 PM

The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights meeting. For more information call (559) 498-6033.

1st Tuesday of every month

Health Care for All meets at the King Buffet, 3254 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia (dinner \$10). For further information, call 559 732-3910 or 559 732-5102, or e-mail bwauchope@comcast.net.

Tuesday, September 23 • 7 PM

Health Care for All Tulare/Kings Counties will meet Tuesday, September 23, at 7 o'clock, instead of the usual first Tuesday of the month. Guest Lindsay Mann, CEO of Kaweah Delta Hospital, will speak on the hospital's expansion plan. The meeting will be at the Tulare County Office of Education Annex, at Shirk Road and Doe Avenue, in the Eldenwood Room.

2nd Tuesday of every month • 7 PM

The Fresno Free College Foundation (owner and operator of KFCF 88.1 FM) Board of Directors meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4144 N Millbrook in Fresno. The public is invited. For more information call (559) 233-2221, email kfcf@kfcf.org, or visit www.kfcf.org

3rd Tuesday of every month • 7:00 PM

Stonewall Democrats will hold their regular monthly meeting. Contact Jay Hubbell for meeting details. You can contact Jay at (559) 292-4905 e-mail kucinich2004@comcast.net or visit the website <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

1st Wednesday of every month • 12 Noon

WOMEN IN BLACK - Silent Vigil at the Fresno County Courthouse-Entrance. Show your support for PEACE and for negotiated settlements of US current military actions! Meet downtown at the Fresno courthouse, from 12-1:00 PM and stand silently, advocating PEACE. For more info: 278-7140 or 225-2850.

1st Wednesday of every month • 7 PM

The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meeting's are held in the State Building Assembly Room. Call Sam Pack Chair phone 495-0606 for more information or agenda item. Fresno Central Democratic Committee-Vice Chair-Barbara Pyle-291-6024.

1st Wednesday of every month • 7:30 PM

Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter at the Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue in Fresno.

3rd Wednesday of every month • 6 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at the Sarah McCordle room of the downtown library.

2nd Thursday of every month • 7:00 PM

Fresno County Green Party Council Meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness Ave (S. of Olive). The Fresno County Green Party invites you to its regular monthly County Council meeting. The four pillars of the international Green movement are Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, and Ecological Wisdom. Call 265-3647 for details or go to <http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>

3rd Thursday of every month • 6:00 - 8 PM

Fresno County Bicycle Coalition - monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. They have committees on Political Action, Promotion & Education, and Facilities Planning. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike friendly, you are invited to join this group. King's Men Cafe and Coffee House, 1495 N. Van Ness Ave. @ Home Ave (3 blocks N. of Olive, 1 block S. of McKinley Ave). For more information call 559.444.2065.

1st Friday of every month • 4:30 PM

Vigil to Stop the Bush Administrations war against the world are held at Shaw and Blackstone in Fresno.

2nd Friday of every month • 7 PM

Vigil to protest the murder of immigrants at the border and by the police in this country. This vigil is organized by El Comite No Nos Vamos. 328 N Fresno Street. Call (559) 498-6033 or 497-0206 for more information.

1st Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley are held each 1st Saturday of the month at Denny's Restaurant at Abby and Divisadero. Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

1st Saturday of every month • 2 - 4 PM

Women of Spirit - a gathering of women rediscovering their own spirituality and enabling others to do the same. You are invited to join the circle of women the first Saturday of each month, at 7319 N. Fourth St., Fresno. Beginning and closing meditation, discussion and activity, light refreshments after closing. The event is free. Both men and women are welcome. Questions, call Veena Kapoor (559) 435-2212.

2nd Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

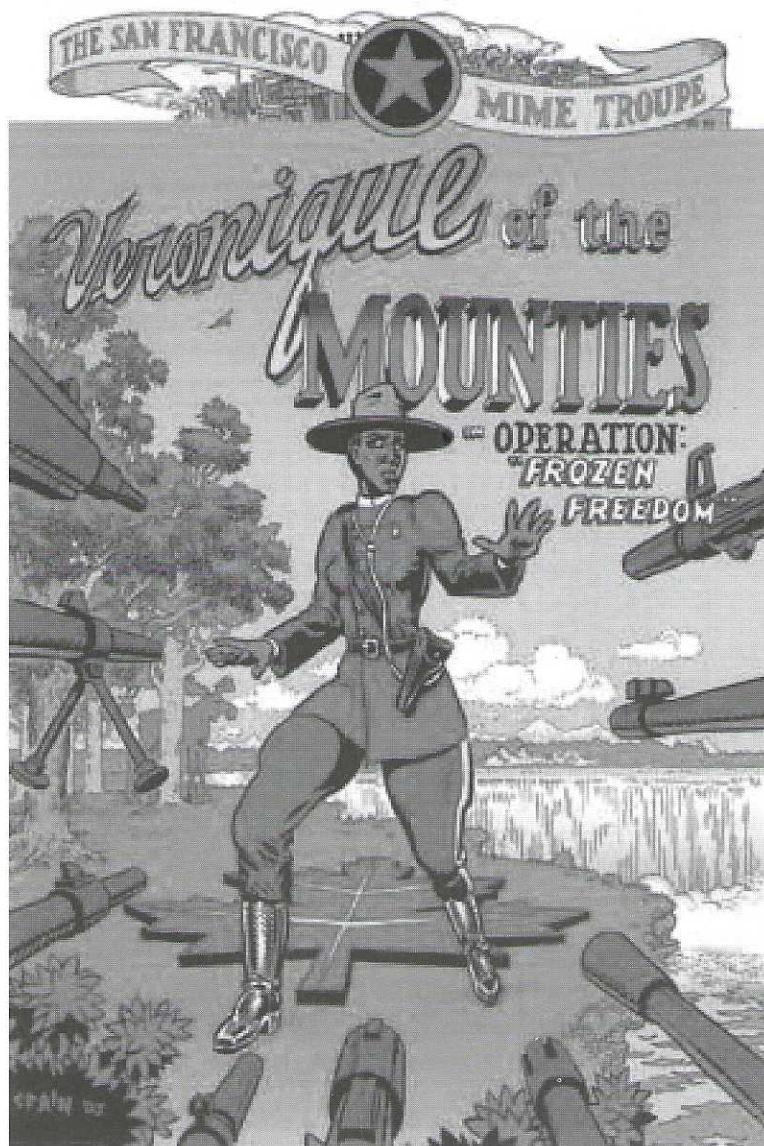
Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their web page at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/> or call 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).

Last Saturday of every month • 9 AM

Regular Monthly meeting for the Fresno County Democratic Latino/Chicano Caucus. They meet at Bobby Salazar's Restaurant Located at 2839 Blackstone between Shields Ave. & Princeton St. Come out and have breakfast with us and meet some nice people... Everyone is welcomed. Contact: Tony Pacheco 977-3859 or 864-8843 TonyPchc@aol.com

The San Francisco Mime Troupe is coming to the Tower Theater on Wednesday, October 22.

See the story on page 8.



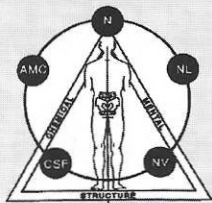
For up-to-the-minute information about what is happening in Fresno's progressive community, join the Community Alliance email alert network. We send out an updated calendar of events once a week and alert you when there is an emergency rally or demonstration. This is a free service. You can join by sending your email address to:

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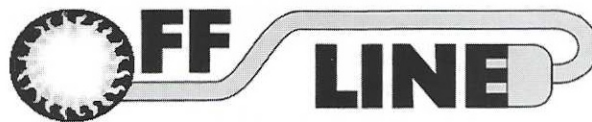
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Give George W. Bush a Great Fresno Welcome

By Ken Hudson

George W. himself will be in town Wednesday, October 15 for his presidential campaign fund-raiser luncheon with admission to be set at \$1,000 - \$2,000 per plate. Groups and individuals will have an opportunity to convey their particular messages outside the event. We will assemble an hour before the luncheon begins. As of press time no location or time has been announced, but as soon as we become aware of those details it will be available at www.peacefresno.org and (559) 487-2515. If you would like to receive an e-mail notification, you may register for our free "once-a-week" update by going to the "Membership" page of our website. If the information is still not available by noon on Sunday, Oct 11, call Vincent Lavery at (559) 455-0821 and leave your name and phone number. He will then phone you immediately when the official information is known. We all look forward to being part of one of the greatest anti-administration protests that the Central Valley has ever seen.

Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of the Americas Watch, will be featured on KNXT Ch. 49's Special Presentation on Thursday, October 16 at 10:00 PM. This television interview by Jim Grant will include video clips from the SOAW films "School of Assassins," "Crossing the Line," and "Hidden in Plain

Sight." The show covers the efforts and the need to permanently shut down the School of the Americas, now renamed "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation." It is run by the U.S. military at Fort Benning, Ga., training Latin American soldiers to commit acts of kidnapping, torture, rape and assassinations against their own people (www.soaw.org). Ask your Congressional Representative to support HR1258 to end the funding of the School of the Americas. This program was taped in Fresno last month.

Peace Fresno will participate in the People's Day Festival, Saturday, October 11, 10:00 AM to sunset at Van Ness & Calaveras in the "Uptown Cultural Arts District" of Fresno, celebrating all cultures of the San Joaquin Valley. We will conduct workshops on conflict resolution and peace-making skills, show videos, perform a skit, and present literature on nonviolent alternatives to militarism, military recruitment in the schools, the Patriot Act, and alternative news sources exposing misinformation/propaganda regarding the Iraqi war and occupation.

Peace Fresno will resume peace demonstrations at Blackstone & Shaw on the first Friday of each month, 4:30 — 6:30 PM.

**Meetings are each Tuesday, 7:00 PM
at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness.**

Resolution continued from page 18

support the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution of the State of California. We know that the United States of America as well as the State of California is governed by the "rule of law." The City of Porterville is committed to upholding the law of the land as well as the human rights of all persons in Porterville, including, but not limited to, United States citizens and citizens of other nations who have entered into the United States in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, and the free exercise and enjoyment of any and all rights and privileges secured by the constitutions of the United States of America and the State of California.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Porterville calls upon all City officials and employees to continue to respect the human rights and civil liberties of all members of this community, including, but not limited to, those who are citizens of other nations who have entered into the United States in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations. Such respect shall not be construed to encourage or condone violation of any State or Federal law.

Section 3. The City Council of the City of Porterville also calls upon all private citizens, including residents, employers, educators and business owners, to demonstrate similar respect for human rights and civil liberties. Such respect shall not be construed to encourage or condone violation of any State or Federal law.

Section 4. The City Council of the City of Porterville urges the State Legislature, the Governor of the State of California, and the United States Congress, particularly the delegation representing Porterville to actively work for the revocation of any law or executive order that limits or violates fundamental rights and liberties embodied in the constitutions of the United States of America and the State of California.

Section 5. The mayor and Council shall sign this Resolution and the City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

Adopted this 2nd day of September, 2003/

Mime Troupe continued from page 8



Tower Theater Box Office located at 815 E. Olive Avenue in Fresno, or by phone at (559) 485-9050. The prices are \$17 for students, seniors, and children 12 yrs and under & \$22 for all others. All seats are general admission.



Clear Channel Monopoly Draws Criticism

By Jeff Perlstein

Clear Channel Communications of San Antonio, Texas may not yet be a household name, but in the past seven years the radio station conglomerate has rocketed to a place alongside NBC and Gannett as one of the largest media companies in the United States.

Before passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, a company could not own more than 40 radio stations in the entire country. With the Act's sweeping relaxation of ownership limits, the cap on radio ownership was eliminated. As a result, Clear Channel has dominated the industry by growing from 40 radio stations nationally in the mid-90s, to approximately 1225 stations nationally by 2003. The station also dominates the audience share in 100 of 112 major markets. In addition to its radio stations, Clear Channel also owns television station affiliates, billboards, outdoor advertising, and owns or exclusively books the vast majority of concert venues, amphitheaters, and clubs in the country. According to NOW with Bill Moyers, in 2000 Clear Channel purchased the nation's largest concert and events promoter, and in 2001, the Clear Channel did 70% of national ticket sales.

In 2001, Denver concert promoter, Jesse Morreale, sued Clear Channel. Morreale's suit claims that Clear Channel's use of its billboards to advertise Clear Channel-booked shows at Clear Channel-owned music is in essence a

monopoly. The suit also alleges that Clear Channel stations have threatened to withdraw certain music from rotation unless the artist's book concerts through Clear Channel and play at Clear Channel-owned music venues.

Clear Channel has also drawn criticism for using "voice tracking." Voice tracking is when one DJ produces a standardized

national broadcast and formats it into their radio stations nationwide- giving the semblance of a local broadcast. By this process, Clear Channel can produce its radio format in San Antonio, Texas and play it on its 1225 radio stations without regard to local music, culture, or issues.

In January 2002, a train carrying 10,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia derailed in the town of Minot, causing a spill and a toxic cloud. Authorities attempted to warn the residents of Minot to stay indoors and to avoid the spill. But when the authorities called six of the seven radio stations in Minot to issue the warning, no one answered the phones. As it turned out, Clear Channel owned all six of the stations and none of the station's personnel were available at the time.

Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota grilled Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman Michael Powell over the consolidation of media in the U.S., using the Minot incident as a warning and an example. At a Senate Commerce Committee meeting Dorgan warned that as large media companies, like Clear Channel, buy up the last remaining independent media outlets across the country, the public suffers. According to chairman Powell, there is strong evidence that a lot of times local independent run stations cannot afford to produce quality local news. However, a recent study by Columbia University's Project for Excellence in Journalism found that TV stations owned by smaller media firms generally produce better newscasts.

Such branding and consolidation is counter to the FCC's mandate of encouraging media diversity. The FCC is doing very little about the results of increased media concentration. This may be a result of the relationship that exists between the FCC commissioners and the broadcast companies and their lobbyists. According to the Center for Public Integrity (CPI), media companies and lobbyists developed a very cozy relationship. As Chuck Lewis of CPI notes, "We found that 1400 trips [by FCC commissioners]— all expense paid trips — were paid for by broadcasters. How can the FCC judge and discuss media ownership if they're taking trips from these guys?"

The FCC is in fact investigating one complaint made against Clear Channel. An advertiser in Ohio claims that Clear Channel is circumventing existing ownership limits by operating stations through shell companies in a practice known as "parking" or "warehousing" stations. Clear Channel has sold off stations to alleged front companies, which allows Clear Channel to continue operating the properties while also providing an easy way to buy back the stations, now that the FCC has further relax ownership limits.

On June 2, 2003, the FCC approved new ownership limit caps giving a green light for further media consolidation.

The above article is number 17 in Project Censored 2004: Top 25 Censored Media Stories of 2002-2003. For more information go to: <http://www.projectcensored.org/>



**Media
Consolidation
in Fresno**