

Labor/Community ALLIANCE

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OCTOBER 2001

Flag Wavers for Peace



One nation - different cultures - united for peace see page 8

Carpenters push living wage, rights, respect

Undocumented carpenters backed by Local 701 struck Elia Drywall in mid-September. They were demanding respect and a living wage.

Their grievances against Elia and many other drywall and framing contractors include:

(1) Paychecks which list 40 hours of work at an hourly rate, when in fact the carpenters work about 60 hours at a piece rate. The bosses just squeeze the piece rate into 40 hours giving the false impression that the wage rate is higher and saving the bosses from paying overtime. This shell game also defrauds worker's compensation.

(2) Wage rates vary from day to day upon the whim of the bosses with no input from the carpenters.

(3) Bosses refuse to abide by state regulations and the state does not adequately fund the regs so they cannot be enforced.

photos: George Elfie Ballis

Police review group plan final vote Oct. 2

On October 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Sarah McCordle room of the downtown library, the Central California Criminal Justice Committee will approve the final version of our proposal for a police oversight plan, and we will start presenting it to city government officials.

The Committee was formed more than a year ago in response to numerous complaints of racial profiling and abusive behavior by Fresno police officers. We have taken the following actions:

We have examined some of the serious complaints from people in Fresno and met with the chief of police to ask for changes in police procedures that could be instituted immediately. We need to follow up now to see what is being done.

We organized a series of 4 community forums to explore the different types of civilian police review systems that are being used in California cities and the strategies for getting them accepted.

We have now developed a proposal for a police oversight plan that we think would work in Fresno. The plan calls for an Independent Police Auditor backed up by a volunteer Civilian Review Board.

We will need endorsements from many individuals and organizations to help put our plan across. For more information call Rebeca(225-7627) or Greg (455-9235)



Oct. 22: protest police brutality

Fresno will join the National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation.

Join us October 22, 2001 in Fresno: Bring candles and gather at the park at 5:30 p.m. located in front of the Fresno County Main Library and next to City of Fresno Police Headquarters located on Mariposa between O and N streets.

WEAR BLACK ALL DAY to mourn the people killed by law enforcement and to speak to those who cannot speak for themselves.

For more information call: M. Gloria Hernández (559) 268-2261, leave a message or iwapgh@aol.com. The National Day of Protest to:

- Bring forward a powerful, visible, national protest against police brutality and the criminalization of a generation.
- Expose the state's repressive program.
- Bring forward those most directly under the gun of police brutality.
- Reach into all parts of society--bringing forward others.
- Strengthen the people's organized capacity for resistance in a variety of ways.

Over seventy cities nationwide and 12,000 people protested last year.

Labor/Community ALLIANCE

This monthly magazine is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. We support the struggle for social and economic justice and believe all workers should be paid a living wage. We are affiliated nationally with Jobs with Justice. Our monthly meetings are on the last Monday, 6:30 pm, at Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness.

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Police Militarized - in Fresno too

Book review by Diane Scott

LOCKDOWN AMERICA *Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis* by Christian Parenti, 1999

This is a frightening book. It will remove any idealism you might have left about this country, its government, politicians and other public "servants." You will begin to doubt everything you learned in school about democracy (did we ever have any?) and the evil, devious philosophies espoused by our so called leaders and their wannabes.

Chapter One begins with a quote from H. R. Haldeman, Nixon's White House Chief of Staff. (President Nixon) *"emphasized that you have to face the fact that the whole problem is really the Blacks. The key is to devise a system that recognizes this while not appearing to."* During this period of the 1960's there were massive anti-Vietnam protests, the war was not going well, Blacks had become radical, militant, nationalistic, and anti-capitalistic. Women were protesting for their rights. Nixon's conservative philosophy was based on the supposition that capitalism was the means to gain continually rising profits for the already rich.

But what about the rest of us, the working people? Paul Volcker, Chairman of the Federal Reserves under Nixon, noted, *"The standard of living for the average American has to decline....I don't think you can escape that."* To pacify the protesting public while at the same time ensuring high profits for the wealthy, something had to give. Average Americans would have to work harder for less.

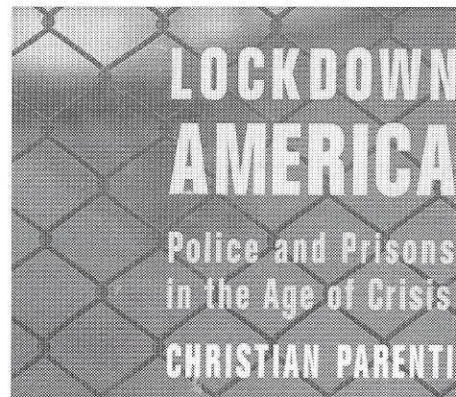
How do you get them to accept? How do you contain the blacks? You use the kernel of fear Nixon believed most Whites had to justify law and order crime control programs to contain Blacks. Nixon said, in campaigning for President, *"I say that doubling the conviction rate in this country would do more to cure crime in America than quadrupling the funds for (Hubert Humphrey's) war on poverty."* If you can't get rid of the poor (Blacks, other minorities) any other way, lock them up! That kind of statement wouldn't have been politically correct though, so it was necessary to look for an excuse to beef up the crime control departments of the country.

And, after some thought, it was decided that narcotics would be the perfect strategy. Then came the CIA and other government officials who aided and abetted the drug makers, smugglers, and dealers. The government relied at first on **The Harris Act of 1914** which allowed the policing of drugs by

the Feds based on their constitutional right to tax. This was followed by **Hobbs Interstate Commerce Act**, the purpose of which was to enlarge and retrain local police because "trafficking" was public enemy #1. The massacre at My Lai was even blamed on marijuana smoked the night before.

Then came the comprehensive **Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970**, followed by the **Organized Crime Bill** which gave an excuse to expand the state police apparatus. Next was a ruling allowing the use of illegally obtained evidence and also electronic data and surveillance systems.

Now, going along with this national trend and the glut of federal money, Fresno's police have become militarized, have added special units such as SWAT whose use quadrupled between 1980 and 1995. Gang violence was wide-



spread on Fresno's south side where poverty and unemployment were concentrated and increasing numbers of noncombatants, including small children, were being affected. In the second half of 1994 there were 55 incidents of gunfire resulting in 61 casualties, thirteen of them fatal. And the gangs began to fight back at the police. Chief Ed Winchester declared a total war on gangs and ordered in his all White SWAT team whose operation involved raiding homes, stopping cars, interrogating "suspicious" persons and storming "hot spot" corners.

Because of community support for Winchester's scorched earth campaign, it soon led to emergency response becoming institutionalized and the SWAT team became the **Violent Crime Suppression Unit (VCSU)** which continued to use the aggressive and unorthodox tactics they had used as SWAT. These are still being used. The VCSU averages at least one officer involved shooting every three months. Between July 1997 and July 1998 Fresno police shot sev-

enteen people, eight fatally. They also increasingly use many forms of non-lethal terror in poor communities. Much of what the police do is stop, search, harass, arrest, and brutalize petty offenders, parole violators, and bystanders.

Because we have no Civilian Review Board in Fresno, the police are free to handle all brutality complaints internally and any stats reflecting outcomes are difficult or impossible to come by. Since passage of the crime bill in 1994 the Fresno Police Force has grown from 400 to 655 and plans to reach 800 by 2002. Fresno has received \$28.4 million in federal grants and soon will have (or already has) the nation's most advanced field automation system.

Many minority young people in Fresno are routinely stopped without probable cause, searched, interrogated, and photographed. Prosecutors make use of civil injunctions (essentially restraining orders) that restrict the activities of named and even unnamed alleged gang members, many of whom have never been convicted of any crime. Civil injunctions are used because the standard of proof in civil court is much lower than in criminal court. This means the lower standard of proof is being smuggled into the high-stakes realm of criminal law.

Curfew is also used against young people. One probation officer said curfew *"gives police a tool to contact kids they suspect are likely to engage in anti-social behavior."* And in Fresno curfew is applied in racist fashion. Fresno County Latinos are five times more likely than whites to be arrested for curfew violation and African Americans are three times more likely.

The Kerner Commission on Civil Disturbances concluded it was acts of law enforcement personnel that touched off riots. As a result Fresno Community Relations was born along with youth sports, partnerships with merchants, community patrols and neighborhood watches. Throughout this militarization process, individual rights have slid away one by one, silently and unmissed (the government hopes.)

The much touted drug war has been lost. But the government still tries to use drugs to keep us scared. Why? Who goes to jail for victimless crimes? The African Americans, Asians, and poor White kids. Now, faced with all these people to lock up, we build prisons. More and more prisons are privately owned, operated, and profited from by the dollars we taxpayers drop into the treasure chests of the rich. What is the name for this outrage? I know. Right Wing Conservatism.

CLEARING THE AIR:

Lawsuits, Taxes & Doughnuts

By Kevin Hall

A sixty-day notice of a potential lawsuit against the U.S. EPA and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District was filed in mid-July by Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund on behalf of:

the Medical Alliance for Healthy Air, Latino Issues Forum, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, and the Sierra Club. United Black-Men of Fresno and Hmong American Community Inc. have joined the effort as supporting organizations.

Together the groups initiated the action at a media event in Fresno in July and followed up with a powerful presentation before the Air District's governing board in August.

The coalition has demanded that the district:

1. *Rescind its request to EPA that the deadline for achieving the ozone standard clean air be extended for an additional two years to 2007.*

2. *Adopt all pollution control measures the Air District promised to enact in its 1994 Ozone Attainment Plan.*

3. *Order Air District staff to promptly:*



Kevin Hall

should achieve attainment by the legal deadline of 2005.

b. Develop a plan to attain the national soot (particulate matter) standards by 2006. The current plan admits it is inadequate to get the job done, and yet a new plan is still not being developed.

4. *Work with local community, medical and environmental groups, as well as the affected industries, to refine the public involvement process. Recent coverage of air pollution issues in papers throughout the Central Valley reveals a strong public interest in this issue. A meaningful public involvement process involves:*

a. Developing both publicly distributed materials and clear, enforceable air pollution control measures that are sensitive to the diversity of languages in the Valley.

b. Holding meetings at times that are convenient for working parents, medical professionals, and families to attend. Nine a.m. on a Thursday is not convenient for most Valley residents.



5. *Eliminate the special exemption for the oil industry that blocks federal and citizen enforcement for the oil industry located west of Interstate 5.*

6. *Adopt the draft Air District Rule-Regulation 8-which begins to address the sources of soot/particulate matter that are causing the Valley to exceed federal health standards.*

Earthjustice attorney Deborah Reames summed it up nicely. "When state and local agencies responsible for clean air violate the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to enforce standards and deadlines," she said. "When the EPA fails to do the job, the Act empowers citizen groups to sue for enforcement."

"Residents of San Joaquin Valley seem to have little choice but to sue if they want to protect public health." For further information, go to www.earthjustice.org.

The Air District board has directed its legal counsel to request a meeting with Earthjustice attorneys to discuss the lawsuit's demands.

'C' YOU SOON

The Measure 'C' Reauthorization Committee, a 40-member group drawn from government, business and community organizations, has been meeting monthly since April. Under consideration is placement on the November 2002 ballot of a 30-year extension of our 1/2-cent retail sales tax for Fresno County transportation projects through the year 2037. Yes, that's 2037 and a total of \$2.8 billion - with a Billion\$\$\$ - in local taxes.

The first five monthly meetings consisted of informational presentations, but now things are getting interesting as we enter the expenditure plan phase.

The League of Women Voters has coordinated a discussion between various community groups

and introduced a proposed allocation formula dedicating:

- 46% of the funds to alternative transportation projects,
- 20% to road repair, 25% to local agencies (15 cities and the County) and
- less than 7% to regional highways.

The pro-freeway/highway/expressway contingent has proposed that:

- 60% of the funding go toward big roads,
- 25% to local agencies and
- less than 14% for alternative transportation.

These meetings are reminiscent of one wag's description of air travel as long hours of boredom interrupted by moments of sheer terror. Come along for the ride every month- the 4th Thur. • 3-5 pm. Call Kevin: 227-4621

DOUGHNUT GO THERE

When the opening of a junk food franchise is the cultural event of the season for thousands of citizens, you know corporate assimilation of the American psyche is well on its way to reaching Aldous Huxley's chilling vision. This corner of Brave New Fresno offers circulation problems of more than one sort.

The clogging of internal arteries is mirrored by the clogged transportation arteries. Over CalTrans' objections the City of Fresno allowed developer Kashian an entrance/exit onto Blackstone Ave., right where the on-ramp to 41 South begins. Studies have shown that excess exposure to car fumes impairs judgment.

So, imagine spending 20-30 minutes at the drive-through line sucking up those fumes, begin stuffing your face with a crispy critter, answering the cell phone and crossing a freeway on-ramp. *Pass the soma - glazed, please.*

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The Art of Working Together

by Michael Feliciano

The beauty of grassroots democracy and indeed the beauty of living in Fresno, is the strong sense that we in the progressive community are all one big family, working in solidarity to build a stronger Central Valley. To restore and promote the values of social and environmental justice. We learn from each other, and we support each other. Those of us involved with local Green Party leadership remain very committed to providing a political context for these efforts.

Periodically, we are reminded that there are some simple guidelines of interaction to be followed, as part of the etiquette of organizing and activism. Occasionally, we run the risk of stepping on toes and, once in awhile our freedom of speech reveals the potential for conflict. It is good for us to know our boundaries. But it is even better for us to be made aware of who is working with us — and who is working against us. Recently, we have been provided with some excellent examples of why working together is such an art form, and why attention to detail means so much.

We were fortunate to have a Green Party presence at the recent demonstration against police brutality, organized by the Central California Criminal Justice Committee. Our activities at the demonstration stimulated some very interesting debate among Fresno Greens, as to whether or not tabling and voter registration should have been conducted at an event that was organized in response to three very tragic incidents of police violence.

Surprisingly, we received some "valuable" exposure from the Fresno Bee; efforts to show support for the issues at hand and offer a political solution were labeled as "tacky" and opportunis-

tic. The general feeling among Greens is that we needed to be there, but beyond that, there are mixed feelings. There is one point that stands as a very clear breach of etiquette - the fact that we did not ask the organizers of this event for permission to have a table setup.

After speaking with Rebecca of the CCCJC following the event, and offering Green apologies, I was very relieved to hear her express gratitude and enthusiasm for the Green Party presence, and



our position on criminal justice. Things could have been very different, and we thank the Central California Criminal Justice Committee for their responsiveness.

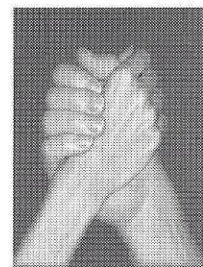
And so, it is always wise to take a quick glance at the big picture! But as much as we would love to do so, it is probably not possible to rule out every point of friction within our activist circles. Our "big family" can begin to feel a bit dysfunctional at times.

On June 13th, the Central Labor Council staged a demonstration at the Federal Building in downtown Fresno, to protest the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) resistance to price-caps for California utility customers. In a partially pro-Gray Davis environment, a local activist was presenting an anti-Gray Davis banner, and was harassed for doing so. Now, we all like to think that one is welcome to exercise free-speech rights as established by the 1st amendment, but one must also be prepared to accept a reaction from those with opposing views; and the resulting ill-will can be bizarre. Somehow, the presence of this outspoken citizen, this lone utility customer engaging in "free speech," prompted the Central Labor Council to ban venerable labor activist

Mike Rhodes from any future CLC events. They accused Mike of staging a counter-demonstration. You see — one person really can make a difference!

Always wise to take a glance at the big picture. This thinking goes for not just those "piggy-backing" or attending another group's demonstration. This is equally useful for the organizers. It is unkind, counterproductive, and possibly confrontational to intentionally crash another group's shindig, and this rarely happens in our city. By the same token, I shutter to think that there would be progressive events taking place in Fresno organized by folks that are reluctant to allow tabling (when appropriate,) or to display a piece of literature for fear that they would then have to accommodate everyone else.

We encounter enough resistance from the corporate/political infrastructure to be treating each other this way. In an ongoing effort to forge new alliances and nurture long standing relationships within Fresno's progressive community, the Fresno County Green Party has deepened its commitment to publicly show support, whenever possible, for demonstrations and other events that are compatible with the Green Party platform. Hopefully, as human and financial resources continue to become more limited in the progressive community, we will get better and better at maximizing our effectiveness by networking, sharing, and supporting each other's efforts.



Again, we Greens like to think that our presence offers a diversity of local citizens the opportunity to learn about grassroots democracy, and to reclaim their voice as members of this community. We do believe that this is a great way to highlight the ideological and political overlap that occurs between progressive agendas, and what is currently the only political party in California that is actually growing in numbers - The Green Party.

To learn more or register Green, Visit www.greens.org/cal/fresno, or call 265-3647. To volunteer, E-mail Michael Feliciano at mlf1968@yahoo.com



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British prisons have listeners

by Maria Telasco

I was here in Britain courtesy of Amnesty International to tell a dozen or so Amnesty and church groups about the death penalty and prison conditions in our country.

In every crowd, at least one person's body language, while British-ly polite, said *"She's making this up."* Fortunately, there was always also at least one who'd call out *"Yes, I read about that,"* or *"I saw that on the telly."* To say they found malfunctioning electric chairs and windowless secure housing units (SHUs) somewhat incredible is an understatement.

Some members of the audiences said *"Our prisons are hell holes, too,"* but when asked, the speaker had not really visited one. Their tabloids, like ours, focus in on one egregious instance, exaggerate it, and generalize from it.

Of the four prisons I visited in England and Wales, three were old, and the buildings were run down. But the positive, non-hostile demeanor of both prisoners and staff was a shock to my system. They actually appeared to like, respect and get along well together. Something's not right, I thought, this must be my imagination.

They allowed me to go wherever I wanted, speak to anyone I chose. A prisoner who was to be freed the next day told me he had turned his life around.. He'd been in prison for nine months, for robbery, during which time he learned to read and write, and was on the way to an apprenticeship program upon release.

The officer showing me around was a friendly sort; he spoke to the prisoners in the same casual but respectful way he spoke to me. *"You seem to actually like these fellas," I commented. He said, "They are human beings; we should not treat them as anything less."* My mind flashed back to an officer at an American prison whom I heard say *"These savages are animals, so why should we treat them like they're human?"*

At a women's prison, the Principal Officer spent hours, long after she was off duty and free to go home, showing me with pride the educational facilities, job training areas and gym. Yes, gym. In both the men's and women's institutions, they have gymnasiums staffed with correctional officers who have an interest in sports and body building, and

who apply for these positions. Sports and physical training are one of many modalities offered to help prisoners deal with their problems and develop interpersonal skills.

Carrot-and-stick, the gym is a privilege that prisoners have to earn, and can lose if they commit disciplinary infractions.

I didn't get to see the nine-bed mother-baby unit, as some of the mothers were breast feeding, and a visitor would invade their privacy.

They are allowed to attend work, educational and recreational programs to which they can bring their babies, who are permitted to remain until the age of 18 months.

In addition to staff professional counselors, inmate volunteers are trained as peer counselors. Whenever a prisoner has a problem and requests a "listener," as they are called, that need is met immediately.

Listener and client are admitted to a special room reserved for the purpose, furnished with two upholstered easy chairs (honest!) and plenty of coffee, tea and biscuits (cookies). One pair we peeked in on at a men's prison were in their 36th hour of a marathon session brought on by the prisoner's family problems.

I met many people who write to and visit American death row prisoners. They all expressed some of the same feelings I have experienced at such visits: fear, discomfort, rudeness of some guards, the general oppressive ambience, the atmosphere of antipathy and animosity between staff and prisoners, as well as staff and visitors. In English prisons, I sensed none of these emotions, no fear, no disrespect, not on anyone's part.

Do they have their problems? Sure. But one big difference is that they acknowledge the problems and seem to be striving to correct them, while in America, or California at least, the general attitude seems to be denial of problems and all-around hostility. They have a drug problem, and use drug-sniffing dogs to check suspect visitors.

Prisoners are not strip searched for visits unless staff have a strong reason to suspect contraband, another example of how they treat people as individuals. In England visits are officially limited to either 15 or 30 minutes, every week or two.

Officers say they realize the importance of visits, and try to extend them whenever possible. In California prisons, visits could be up to six hours at a clip, as many as four days a week, but many visitors and prisoners complain that officers try to make the visits as short



Maria speaks against the death penalty in California

and uncomfortable as possible.

While visiting prisons, I was re-reading the prison diary of Bobby Sands, an Irish freedom fighter who died on hunger strike in an English prison in 1981. In his smuggled material he recounts stories of horrors like six times daily strip searches, beatings, being held naked in a near-freezing cell smeared in feces.

He talks of the cruelty of a chaplain who came by to visit, knowing Sands was near death. *"You better hurry up and finish [reading] that book," the chaplain said, "and good thing it's not any longer as you'd be unable to finish it."* Reminded me of the stories we hear from our death row inmates, about guards, and even chaplains, who taunt them with *"you're going to fry"* and worse, and the beatings that seem to be the norm in some of our institutions.

I'm not so naïve as to think the British prisons are "country clubs," and I know all of theirs are not better than all of ours. But I figured out what I think is a

(continued on next page)

British prisons more humane than U.S. *(continued from previous page)*

fair distinction: their best one is better than our best one, and our worst one is worse than their worst one. The big difference is in the attitude of prisoners, staff, and the governing boards of Her Majesty's Prison Service.

- There are no control units or SHUs.
- They do have some solitary confinement or disciplinary cells for those who get extremely violent or otherwise out of control.
- Whenever staff finds it necessary to place a prisoner in one of those cells, they are required by law to immediately notify the "gov'nor" (warden) and the Board of Prison Visitors, and official independent oversight organization.

- Most prisoners stay in the "hole" about half a day, and 72 hours is considered an extremely long time for such confinement.

**"They are human beings
and we should
not treat them
as anything less."**

Every prisoner in those cells must, by law, be visited every 24 hours by the gov'nor, chaplain, psychologist, and BoPV representative.

- Prisoners, like everyone else, are covered by the National Health Service

(NHS) so medical care is not an issue. Staff told me they could not imagine denying or delaying medical care under any circumstances, because they presume anyone requesting medical attention must be sick. They believe one reason health care runs so smoothly is that the costs are covered by NHS and do not have to come out of the prison budget.

I was beginning to think all this was staged to impress me, until I observed an officer and a prisoner, unseen by me, make eye contact, smile broadly and greet each other. "G'mornin, Frank. How're ya keepin'?" The prisoner responded, "G'mornin, yer-self, Dan." Eye contact... Smiles....First names... I was convinced.

PATIENCE MILROD

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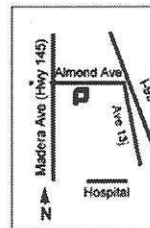
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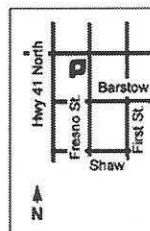
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DAY AND EVENING HOURS

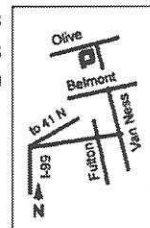
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Van Ness
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(559) 488-4900



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cause us all to
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Michael Feliciano

mit our ignorance, our crime
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Richard Gomez.

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oretta Kissinger

U.S. and the CIA have created this crisis. First, when Reagan was in office we sent huge amounts of money and training to the mujahedeen--especially the most extremist groups--to overthrow the most progressive leadership Afghanistan had ever had just because they were friendly to the Soviet Union. We trained both Osama bin Laden and those who became Taliban and gave them huge amounts of arms and money. We also looked the other way during the trade in drugs coming out of Afghanistan and then fairly recently gave the Taliban \$45 million to control the "drug trade." Hypocrisy and irony are flowing freely.

—Lynn Jacobson

Kill civilians in Afghanistan, and thousands of zealots will be born each day. It is a hopeless, futile and counterproductive plan, but the only plan imaginable by a militaristic state that knows nothing of passion having outlived its own and refused to learn about the passions of others.

—Catherine Campbell

photos: Mike Rhodes & George Elife Ballis



New Globalism of Brotherhood



Kehinde Solwazi (2nd from right) is the head of the African American Studies program at Fresno City College, and an indefatigable community activist. Below is his interview (by Richard Stone) following his return from Durban South Africa, where he participated in the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance.

Q. What was the purpose of the conference? A. The conference was convened as an opportunity for all nations as equals to address racism and xenophobia. In examining the root causes of these, as played out around the world, we inevitably came to the related issues of AIDS, gender division, and most basically poverty.

Q. Why did you feel a personal need to go? A. Confronting racism and undoing its ill effects has been the core of my lifework. I have been especially involved with the impact of slavery on people of African descent. The conference was an international forum for these particular concerns.

I went as a regional representative of the National Black United Front. We were given official status as an NGO (ed. Non-governmental Organization) and I was able to work on our position paper and to lobby specific countries--mostly African--for their support. Our group was probably the most vocal and visible single delegation--we became known as "the Durban 400."

Q. What was it like to be in South Africa? A. Fantastic! The hosts embraced us with full brotherhood, acknowledging the anti-apartheid activism of African Americans. They told us, "You're at home now" and we felt it in every way.

On the other hand, the ghost of apartheid can be felt, especially when you leave the central urban area. Durban is a super-modern city in all respects, but just a few miles away black Africans still live in dirt huts, without electricity or running water.

The color differential and its implications are plainly there. Stores are not owned by black Africans, and there is heavy security all over. It reminded me of the South in the 60's, when the Jim Crow laws had been abolished but the economic structure hadn't yet changed. But you know, it's only been 7 years since Mandela was released from jail.

Q. How was the official American presence perceived? A. The U.S. is seen through international eyes as bullying and disrespectful. The U.S. arrogance is noticeable in so many ways, and freely commented on. People were especially provoked when the U.S. made great noise about refusing to participate, but kept a strong diplomatic presence trying to manipulate the conference behind the scenes.

Q. What struck you most about your experiences at the conference? A. The strength and beauty of the South African people, and their feeling of commonality with African-Americans. It felt to me, too, that apart from the U.S. and its closest allies, there was unanimity in opposing racism, caste systems and economic oppression. Corporate globalism is understood as global apartheid by everyone except the American public.

Q. What were the most significant outcomes of the conference? A. For me, the statement on slavery felt like a public vindication of my life's work. For the first time, black peoples were given full respect as human beings, and acknowledged for suffering a genocide as devastating as any in history. The conference seemed to me a great affirmation of respect for life in all forms, for indigenous peoples, and other species, and the environment.

Q. What did you bring back home to Fresno? A. Feeling the strength of international support, I am even more motivated to continue my activism. I want to speak to as many people as possible--my own natural constituency of course, but others, too. People need to hear that there is another kind of

"new world order" evolving that our media hides from us. I greatly appreciate the chance to have my thoughts published in this paper, at least.

*Quotes from the Closing Statement by the
PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE,
NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA.*

"...We have agreed that the depredation of the systems of slavery and colonialism had the degrading and debilitating impact on those who are black, broadly defined. We also agreed that slavery is a crime against humanity and that an apology is necessary, not for monetary gain, but to restore the dignity and humanity of those who suffered...An apology restores the dignity, self-worth and humanity of the black body, broadly defined. We also agreed that other remedial actions would have to be adopted to correct the legacy of slavery and colonialism and all other forms of racism. We agreed to work consciously to uplift women who have been victims of these ills, because of their race and gender."

"...We agreed that the discrimination against, and the lack of opportunities for the minorities and the indigenous peoples everywhere...could only be ignored at our perpetual peril. Accordingly, we have reached consensus that access to education and changing curricula to reflect the interests of every group in every society must be encouraged. We requested that the media and other forms of communication medium help promote positive values of tolerance, understanding, ubuntu/humanness and the richness of our world diversity...."

"...The Conference, therefore, agreed that ["globalization"] should be harnessed and directed at the most pressing challenge of our time-- "poverty eradication." Globalization has generated enough wealth and resources to do that. We also agreed to deal with the structural conditions that sustain inequality of the global economy, that in turn encourages underdevelopment and marginalization, which is at the root of racism today..."

KEHINDE & DR. SUDARSHAN KAPOOR,
who also attended the conference.
Will be giving A "REPORT BACK"
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Life in a Day

of a Corporate Associate

by Reyna Gillet

Do you want to know what today's progressive youth are doing, thinking and being? They are the newly recruited associates for corporations.

I myself work for a national office supply chain. I have guidelines, codes of conduct, zero tolerance policies and not to mention a pretty strict dress code. (No more than one earring per ear.) I work in North Fresno's premiere shopping center, River Park. Where all of the shoppers can come together to enjoy a movie in a stadium-seating theater, and spend \$7 for popcorn.

After the movie buy a pick me up - a \$3 coffee drink, and wander through the aisles of the bookstore that puts mom and pop owned booksellers out of business. Don't forget to clog your arteries before going home with a nice donut.

An evening at River Park is an evening for the whole family. But look beyond the counter into the eyes of the young cashier. You will see a struggling college student working for a little above minimum wage. The sad thing is the person behind the counter beat out 20 other applicants who applied for the same low paying job.

Some days at work can be rewarding for me. For example, when I stay half an hour after work just to make copies of a customer's mother's funeral announcements, and they tell my manager how helpful I was. Other days I want to trip my manager as he runs to the front of the store to answer an important call.

On slow days I - watch - each - minute - on - the - clock - tick - by - and - wait. The loud humming of the machines blocks out the noise of customers saying, "Excuse me young man." As they mistake me for a guy-instead of walking around to the front of the counter to notice that under that short hair cut lies the disgruntled face of a 23 year old girl just trying to survive.

To tell you the truth, if I had to choose between being unemployed and being able to stay home and watch daytime TV or having to go to work... I would choose work.

The greatest lesson I learned from daytime TV was this: If you don't try to do better with your life, you might end up on an episode of Cops. I don't have to eat government cheese, or worry about the rent. I am proud to have the opportunity to work. This is the time in my life where character is built. Corporation or not, it's still a job.☺

KFCF - ONE BOARD OPENING

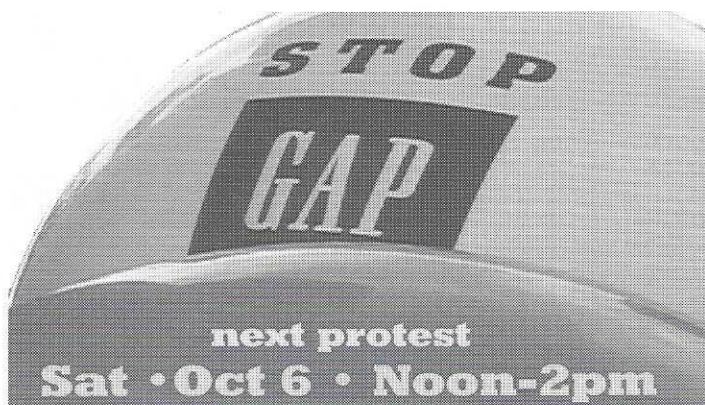
By Vickie Fouts and Mike Rhodes

There is still an opening for a new board member of the KFCF/Fresno Free College Foundation (FFCF). All interested KFCF/FFCF members can check out the details at www.kfcf.org or call Vic Bedom at the KFCF/FFCF office at (559) 233-2221.

The next board election will take place in November 2002. The By-Laws have been amended to accommodate staggered elections. The top 4 vote getters will serve 3 year terms. Next 3 highest will serve 2 year terms & last 4 vote getters will serve a 1 year term & then from there on out everyone will serve 3 year terms.

The next Annual Banquet for KFCF/FFCF is scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2001 at the Downtown Club.

For a complete listing of local programs on KFCF 88.1 FM you can visit their web site at: <http://www.kfcf.org/>. There is also a 24 hour archive available at this site of all programming on KFCF. This can be very useful if you miss something during the past 24 hours or want to re-play the information.



Call Gabi for more information: 875-0057

Half Way to Free Speech Victory

In early September Fresno judge Kent Hamlin dropped one of two charges against the GAP 19 who were arrested May 6 of last year at Fresno's Fashion Fair for non violently protesting GAP sweatshops. The judge is now considering a DA plea not to drop the second charge. If that charge is not dropped the next court hearing will be October 9, 1:30 pm in Department 31. The dropped charge was trespassing for which the protesters were arrested. The second charge was interfering with business, which the DA added months later.

THE WORKERS RIGHTS CENTER

has moved to

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If you have a question about your rights as a worker
or feel your rights have been violated
Call Leonel Flores at the WRC.



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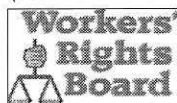
BOARDS DEFEND WORKERS

by Mike Rhodes

Workers' Rights Boards (WRB) are being formed all over the country. It is an indication of the failure of the National Labor Relations Board to defend workers rights. Typically, WRB's are committees made up of local labor, religious, political and community leaders who lend strategic support to unorganized workers fighting for justice.

The Labor/Community Alliance is excited that the United Farm Workers have taken the lead in this area to form a WRB (see article below). During a campaign for workers' rights, members of a WRB are called upon to exert moral and political persuasion aimed at turning around an unfair employer. When initial efforts fail, the WRB spearheads direct action, media blitzes and other highly visible and aggressive tactics to compel a boss to meet protest demands -- or face widespread public exposure and scrutiny.

Ultimately, the WRB looks to promote alternative organizing models that unify and empower workers, while educating the broader community about workplace abuses and engaging everyday people in the struggle to improve employment standards.



HELP for FARM WORKERS

by Carol Bequette

The Central Valley Commission for Immigrant Workers' Rights (CVCiWR) is signing on progressive Valley groups to support the United Farm Workers who stand firm with agricultural workers in their struggle to obtain justice and dignity.

The CVCiWR will take action to promote the protection of workers' rights by calling on leaders in the industry, such as the Western Growers' Association and the Farm Bureau, to rectify any abuses in the industry. If your organization would like to be involved with this movement, contact Daniel Romero at (661) 725-9730.

WHAT IS "The Right Stuff?"

"The Rights Stuff from the Left" was the right NAME for the TV show produced under the auspices of the Center for Nonviolence from May 5th to August 25th. But what the right CONTENT should be was a matter of controversy and disagreement from day one. The lack of consensus--and the resulting lack of support--has necessitated putting the show on hold while we attempt to re-organize.

What four months of productions showed, however, is instructive. Our friends wanted to hear more focus on basic issues like job losses to globalization and the impacts of environmental poisoning. But even as it was, we received phone calls almost every week --mostly supportive-- from people who aren't "in the choir" of known activists. Some folk even sent money or offered to help with fundraising (including an offer by a young woman to put on a bikini carwash with her friends!!)

One week we specifically asked people to call in simply so we could count viewers. We received 25 calls. TV experts tell us each call represents 500-1000 non-callers. So we know we were reaching a goodly number of new people, especially since virtually all our allies tell us they don't watch TV.

We also acquired two commercial sponsors along the way (Elite Business Services and Off-Line Independent Energy Systems) who saw value in the chance to educate viewers about their businesses as well as their political inclinations.

All this is to say that, despite the disagreements over what we should do and how well we were doing it, something important was happening. Our voices were being heard where they haven't been heard before, and we were being forced to think seriously about how to present ourselves to those who don't already share our presumptions or convictions.

We have now come up with a different idea of how to produce the show. Rather than trying to persuade folks like you to buy into what was perceived as "our show", we want to invite people and organizations to make it "YOUR show". You will have an opportunity to take ownership of one or more half-hour segments to present your issues on your terms. We will create a format to use if you want, and assistance in production, and some financial sponsorship via ads and donors. YOU WILL GENERATE THE IDEAS AND-- yes, here's the catch-- THE MAJORITY OF FUNDING FOR "YOUR SHOW".

Are you willing to find the money to put your ideas out to a significant NEW audience at the rate of \$370 per show? If we can get commitments for 6 months of programming, we will go back to the station and negotiate a contract.

So think about it...and remember the 2002 elections are right around the corner, with local offices, major primaries and initiatives galore at stake. Do you have a message for the general public about these things? Or do you really want to rely on The Bee to decide if your viewpoint is worth the public's while? To participate in this adventurous endeavor, contact Vincent at 439-0821, or Richard at 266-2559.

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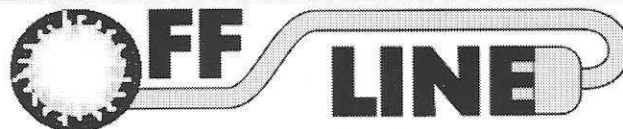
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October Events

SEE YOU THERE

Monday, October 1 7:30 PM
Monthly meeting of the **Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides** (FresCAMP). Call 439-0280 or 227-6134 for further information.

Tuesday, October 2 6 PM
The Central California Criminal Justice Committee will meet at the Sarah McCordle room of the downtown library. The group will approve the final version of their proposed police oversight plan, and will start presenting it to city government officials. The plan calls for an Independent Police Auditor backed up by a volunteer Civilian Review Board. They will need endorsements from many individuals and organizations to help put our plan across. For more information call Rebeca(225-7627) or Greg (455-9235)

Wednesday, October 3 3:30 PM
Stir it Up on KFCF 88.1 with host Pam Whalen from **Labor/Community Alliance**.

Wednesday, October 3 7 PM
FREE OPEN MIC POETRY READING AT FRESNO STATE'S COFFEEHOUSE & PUB: Come celebrate the spoken word and the end of summer with us at Fresno State's Coffeehouse & Pub (across from the University Student Union)! Poetry, prizes, performance & plenitude! Our regular schedule will be the first Wednesday each month. COME JOIN US FOR THE FINEST POETRY IN FRESNO!!!

Wednesday, October 3 7 PM
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Board/General Meeting at Carol Bequette's home, 3647 Circle Drive West. Call 229-9661 for more information.

Thursday, October 4 5 to 8 PM
Central California Legal Services Annual Awards Reception. Call 570-1242 for more information.

Saturday, October 6 9 AM
Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meeting. Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

Saturday, October 6 12 Noon - 2 PM
Protest The Gap's use of sweatshops. Demonstration will gather at Fashion Fair (Shaw Avenue and Angus Street at the north end of the shopping center). Call Gabrielle Kirkland for more information: 875-0057.

Tuesday, October 9 1:30 PM
Court hearing for The Gap 19 will be in Department 31 of the Fresno County Courthouse. Call (559) 226-0477 for more information. The ongoing criminal and civil proceedings are an important struggle for our rights of Free Speech and in defense of the First Amendment. See pictures from the May 7, 2000 GAP demonstration where 19 anti-sweatshop protestors were arrested at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/gapphotos.htm>

Wednesday, October 10
Deadline for submissions to the November issue of the Labor/Community Alliance Newsletter. Send calendar items and articles to <LCAeditor@mediaone.net.

Wednesday, October 10 12 NOON
Community Hunger and Nutrition Forum, sponsored by Fresno Metro Ministry will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 3973 N. Cedar (between Ashlan and Dakota). For more information: call 485-1416 or email <metromin@qnis.net>.

Wednesday, October 10 3:30 PM
Fresno Center For Nonviolence radio show on KFCF, 88.1 FM. Vincent Lavery hosts the FCNV radio show on the second Wednesday of each month.

Thursday, October 11 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>

Friday, October 12 3:30 PM
Lloyd Carter will host his monthly radio show, **Down in the Valley**, focusing on San Joaquin Valley water, environment and Ag issues, on KFCF, 88.1 FM.

Saturday, October 13 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).

Sunday, Oct 14 **Amnesty march** Call 498-6033

Tuesday, October 16 7:30 PM
Fresno Stonewall Democrats meet on the third Tuesday of every month. The August meeting will be at the Express Restaurant, 3075 N. Maroa, Fresno. For more information call Jay Hubbell 292-4905, e-mail: hubbell@online.no, or visit their new web site at: <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

Wednesday, October 17 3:30 PM
STIR IT UP on KFCF 88.1 FM featuring the **'Green Scene'** and hosted by Theresa Rogerson and Jeremy Hofer of the Fresno County Green Party and the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP), this program focuses on Green values, including ecological wisdom, social justice and grass roots democracy.

Thursday, October 18 7:30 AM
Community Health Care Roundtable sponsored by Metro Ministry meets at Trinity Lutheran Church 3973 N. Cedar (between Ashlan and Dakota). For more information: call 485-1416 or email <metromin@qnis.net.

Thursday, October 18 7:30 PM
Death Penalty Focus regular meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact Maria Telesco at: <martel0000@aol.com> or visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/focus/>

Saturday, October 20 3 PM
JOIN CRITICAL MASS ON THEIR MONTHLY RIDES THROUGHOUT FRESNO to educate motorists that bicyclists exist, that we are entitled to an equal share of the roads, that the politicians need to work to assure our safety with bike lanes. When we ride in large groups, people DO notice and the more people see us, the more aware they will be of our rights and less likely to sideswipe us next time they pass us on the streets.

Monday, October 22 5 PM
National Day of Protest. Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation. Protest will start at the Park in front of the library and next to the police headquarters and will start with a "speak out" by family members of victims. For more information call: M. Gloria Hernández (559) 268-2261, leave a message or iwagph@aol.com. See page 2 for more details.

Wednesday, October 24 3:30 PM
"Stir It Up" WILPF-style on KFCF 88.1 FM. Join hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

Friday, October 26 5 PM
Street Heat on KFCF 88.1 FM featuring Labor and Community activists.

Saturday, October 27 8:30 AM - 4 PM
Fresno Center for Nonviolence fundraiser. First annual sale of Books, CD's and Videos at the courtyard on Olive opposite Echo Ave (just across from Echo Restaurant. For more information call 237-3223.

Monday, October 29 6:30 PM
The Labor/Community Alliance meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. Call 226-0477 for details, or see <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/>

ONGOING ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Saturday 1-2 PM
Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 266-5305 Or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas). Visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

Every Sunday 1-2 PM
Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry at Courthouse Park in Downtown Fresno. Cooking every Sunday starting at 10 AM at 743 E. Weldon Avenue in the Tower District. Volunteers are needed. For more information see their web site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/>

Daytime Curfew Rides Again from Kevin Hall

The daytime curfew is being pushed for the second time this year by Fresno's would-be cowboy in chief, Mayor Alan Autry, with new police chief Jerry Dyer playing Tonto to Autry's Lone Ranger. They've given it a new name, "Juvenile Accountability," and made a few other superficial changes. Nonetheless, its impact on people's constitutional freedoms would be profound, and the civil rights of countless young adults and teens infringed upon.

The proposed law would create a new class of crime, thereby providing the police with "probable cause" for arrest. Anyone suspected of being out of school without permission could be taken into custody -- including adults. Despite their claims to the contrary, the police do not currently have this power. Unless they have probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed, they cannot make an arrest, issue a citation or haul you in to the detention center. The new law would change all that by casting a shadow of probable cause over all of Fresno. It may reach the city council October 2 or 9. Call Kevin Hall for latest wrinkle: 559 227-6421

BOOK/VIDEO/CD SALE Message from Angela

The Center needs help in our new fall fundraiser. In an attempt to get our friends to come and BUY (I failed miserably with yard sales) my hope is that you might be tempted by a *used* BOOK/VIDEO/TAPE/CD SALE • Oct. 27th. Johnnie Bedrosian has kindly donated his courtyard on Olive Ave, opposite the Echo Restaurant for this sale.

Would you, therefore, plan on donating stuff (suggestion: 10 books, 2 videos, 2 cd's, 2 audio tapes)...and then coming down to the sale and buying them back. (That's a joke! but how about buying a similar number of items?) If most of our members participate in this way, I guarantee we will bring in \$2000, which will really help towards our 10th anniversary programming. If you're near the Bedrosian Armenian Deli on Ashlan & 1st, you might stop by and say thanks. Also if you can help sort books on Friday the 26th, or with set up and selling on the 27th, call Angela: 435-6383.

OPEN HOURS, AGAIN: We will again be experimenting with keeping the Center open--Tues., Wed., Thurs. from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vince Lavery will be the anchorman, with the likes of Angela Price, Diane Marks and Richard Stone co-hosting. Drop by for conversation, to make use of our libraries, or to plan heroic deeds for the forces of good.

MATCHING GRANT DEPLOYED: Extensive conversations with friends led to the following decisions for using our Matching Grant money. 1) Around \$5000 will be used to create a reserve/emergency fund to assure the Center's basic operations for the upcoming years. Most of this will be kept in a CD. 2) A similar amount will be used to engage a part-time coordinator of volunteers and special projects. This person will recruit and supervise volunteers not just for the Center but for many of our allies. (See classified ad for details.) 3) The rest will be disbursed as grants for projects that submitted requests during our planning period: the Labor/Community Alliance, the Central California Criminal Justice Committee; the Central California Institute, and the shepherd's newspaper (by way of Central California Legal Services). Thanks again to our anonymous donor, and to all who answered the challenge well before we dared hope.

PEACE CHALLENGE: The 3rd Walton Peace Challenge for Youth is now under way. We are accepting applications for mini-grants up to \$200 for projects involving youth (up to 18 years of age). The projects--aimed at "Making It Better" in the participants' world--will require at least 3 youths and an adult supervisor. To request an information sheet/application, leave a message at the Center (237-3223) or with Richard (266-2559) or drop by the Center during open hours.

THE FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE ANNOUNCES OPEN POSITIONS

We seek an independent contractor to recruit, coordinate and supervise volunteers; and to assist in organizing special projects. 10-15 hrs/week, at \$10/hr, for 5-8 mos. (until funding is depleted). Requirements include interest in progressive causes; ability to make and maintain personal contact with large numbers of people; competence on phone and computer. Hours flexible, but ability to spend some regular weekday hours at Center very helpful. Possibility of extending contract through own fund-raising efforts. Also needed: treasurer, with \$50/mo stipend for receiving check requests, cutting checks, keeping check book, preparing monthly reports & annual statement. Knowledge of financial requisites for non-profit organizations, familiarity with Quickbook program big pluses. For information, call Center at 237-3223, or Richard at 266-2559.

THE WELCH REPORT

September 10, 2001

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

WOOLING CHINA ON U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE

Senior administration officials have been quoted in the New York Times as saying that in an effort to overcome Chinese opposition to the missile defense program, the Bush administration plans to tell leaders in Beijing that it has no objections to their military buildup.

Robert Kagan, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has said, "...we're trying to calm Chinese sensitivities by indicating a certain acquiescence in their modernization program. We're sending signals that the reason they don't have to fear a missile defense is our acceptance of their effort to overcome it, which strikes me as a form of strategic insanity on our part." (Washington Post Sept. 3)

GROWING RIFT BETWEEN US, EUROPE

As the US-European (and world) rift widens -- on issues from missile defense and nuclear testing (which the Bush administration wants to resume) to land mines, global warming and a germ-warfare ban -- some European leaders and US Democrats suggest that President Bush is drawing the US into a new era of isolationism. The Bush administration calls this "joining allies when it suits US interests." (Fresno Bee July 27)

NEXT AMBASSADOR TO THE UN?

President Bush's choice for next US ambassador to the UN is John D. Negroponte, the man who gave the CIA-backed Honduran death squads open field when he was ambassador to Honduras from 1981 to 1985.

Thirty-two women fled the death squads of El Salvador after the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1980 to take refuge in Honduras. Some months after their arrival these women were forcibly taken from their living quarters, pushed into a van, and disappeared. In May 1982 a delegation was in Honduras to find out what had happened to these women, before whom John Negroponte denied any knowledge of their whereabouts.

During Negroponte's tenure the US launched a covert war against Nicaragua and trained Honduran military to support the Contras. Negroponte worked closely with the armed forces chief in Honduras to enable training of Honduran soldiers in psychological warfare, torture and kidnapping. In 1994, the Honduran Rights Commission outlined the torture and disappearance of at least 184 political opponents, and specifically accused Negroponte of a number of human rights violations.

In 1996 Jack Binns, Negroponte's predecessor as US ambassador in Honduras, told the Baltimore Sun how a group of Salvadorans, among whom were the women the delegation had been looking for, were captured on April 22, 1981, and savagely tortured by the Honduran Secret Police before being placed in helicopters of the Salvadoran military, from which they were thrown out in flight after take-off from the airport! Binns said that the North American authorities were well aware of this action.

"Given the history of John Negroponte in Central America, it is indeed horrifying to think that he should be chosen to represent our country at the UN, an organization founded to ensure that the human rights of all people receive the highest respect." (Source: Sister Laetitia Bordes, San Jose Peace Center's Peace Times August 2001)

OCTOBER WILPF EVENTS CALENDER

- Wed 3 WILPF Board/General Meeting 7-9 p.m. at Carol Bequette's home, 3647 Circle Drive West. Call 229-9661 for more information.
- Sat 13 Flyer distribution and postcards at the post office. Call Ellie for information 229-9807. See below for details.
- Wed 24 "Stir It Up" WILPF-style. Tune in to KFCF 88.1 FM from 3:30 to 4 p.m with hosts Lauralee Crain Carbone and Zay Guffy-Bill.

"Technically Ridiculous"

On Saturday, October 13th, 198 civic, religious, peace-oriented, women's, professional and other organizations in locations throughout the world will hold an international day of protest against the militarization of space. The UN's Outer Space Treaty, which bans weapons of mass destruction in the heavens, became operative on October 10, 1967, and the UN General Assembly has declared October 4-10 as "World Space Week." Jimmy Carter himself called President Bush's ballistic shield plans "technically ridiculous." What about you? Call Ellie Bluestein to find out how you too can become involved in distributing flyers and postcards at our local post offices. 229-9807



Fresno WILPF Branch Retreat

We had a wonderful turn out for this year's retreat. Besides plenty of good food, drink, and conversation, we were able to get a lot planned for the next year. We focused on programs we would like to see happen in the future and we realized our first on September 22 when Sarah Hedgepeth-Harris met with us. Here is what's on tap for the future. Be sure to check this page in future editions for dates and times.

Tentative Programs: October: Witness for Peace, speaker from Columbia November: Panel discussion about Race Conference in Durban, South Africa. December: Peace Community Crafts Faire January: Bruce Gagnon discussing STAR WARS February: Black History Month, WILPF/Black Women's Caucus March Women's Herstory Month. *If any of the above interest you, please call Desi Cortez at 224-2976 to help out. Without the help of our members the proposed programs may not happen. Thanks!*

WILPF Has a New International President

For the first time in its almost ninety years of history WILPF now has an international president who is from the Southern region. **Krishna Ahooja Patel** has been elected International President of WILPF for 2001-04. Krishna is of Indian origin and now lives in Geneva. She has been a staff member of the United Nations for about 25 years, the longest period of which she spent in the International Labor Organization, ILO. During the UN Decade For Women, she was the editor of Women at Work the only UN journal on working women.

The newly elected vice presidents are from different regions of the world: Olga Bianchi (Costa Rica), Liss Schanke (Norway), Lucinda Amara (Sierra Leone) and W. Dulcy de Silva (Sri Lanka). The international treasurer Coby Meyboom is from the Netherlands. The 28th WILPF International Congress (2001) was scheduled for Jerusalem, but due to the unstable political situation in the area the venue had to be changed to Geneva at short notice.

WILPF focused on the Middle East issue in a special seminar included in the meeting. The seminar concluded by demanding a peace policy to break the deadlock in the Israel/Palestine conflict, based on the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions. The seminar also called on UN Security Council to appoint a Middle East coordinator for negotiations with representatives from the whole region. WILPF will make efforts to send delegations to meet with heads of state or government

in the area, to promote WILPF's peace policy. In recognition of the serious situation, WILPF has appointed Hanan Awwad, president of WILPF Palestine, to be the special adviser to the WILPF International Officer's group on the question of Palestine.

WILPF's program of action 2002-04 focuses on building a Culture of Peace, as a follow up of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security." The program also highlights disarmament with a particular emphasis on the planned Missile Shield (NMD); economic and social justice with particular emphasis on the World Trade Organization; sustainable environment with particular reference to the UN Conference "Rio + 10" in 2002; and racial justice.

WILPF also adopted various resolutions on Belarus, Macedonia, and on the recent street violence in Genoa. Other resolutions refer to the violence in Colombia, Nepal and in Western Sahara. The full texts of the resolutions may be obtained from the international secretariat. For fuller information on proceedings and resolutions at the congress check web-site: <http://www.wilpf.int.ch>

The Children's Corner,

by Lauralee Crain Carbone

Here is a story by Astrid Lindgren she told at a convention in Frankfurt when she won a Peace prize. (Astrid Lindgren is the author of Pipi Longstocking stories.)

"For all those who now talk of harsher methods and more control, I'd like to tell a story an old woman once told me. She was a young mother in the days when people still believed 'spare the rod and spoil the child.' That is, she didn't really believe it, but one day when her son had done something, she thought she should spank him with a switch, for the first time in his life. She told him to go out and cut a branch for her. The little boy left and was gone a long time. Finally he returned, crying and said 'I couldn't find a switch, but here is a rock you can throw at me.' Then the mother started crying too, because all of a sudden she could see it from the child's point of view.

The child must have thought "my mother wants to hurt me and then a rock will do just as well." She hugged him and they both cried awhile together. Then she put the rock on the mantelpiece as a reminder and swore to herself that she'd never use violence!

If you're a WILPF member, we encourage you to submit any information you have and want to share with other members Call or email Zay at 227-2133/zaygb@earthlink.net. And thanks to this month's contributors for the wonderful info they provided.

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5th Alliance birthday party

So many came we ran out of dishes



Fresno County Supervisor Juan Arambula: "We now know the value of ourselves, the value of our community and the value of working together. We can accomplish a great deal by remembering what we learned in the struggles to improve people's lives."



Alliance Editor Mike Rhodes: "This is such a validation of the work we are doing and shows that there really is a Labor/Community Alliance. L/CA is the kind of organization that is not in competition with any of the groups that are here. We strengthen each organization and build a more unified progressive movement. I think the highlight for most people was the video. It was just awesome! You could just feel the tingle of excitement as folks saw themselves. Everyone was deeply moved."



Alliance editorial board member Pam Whalen: "Given the positive response that we've gotten, we know we're really going to be able to have a world class magazine coming out of Fresno talking about economic and social justice."



MC: Larry Trullinger



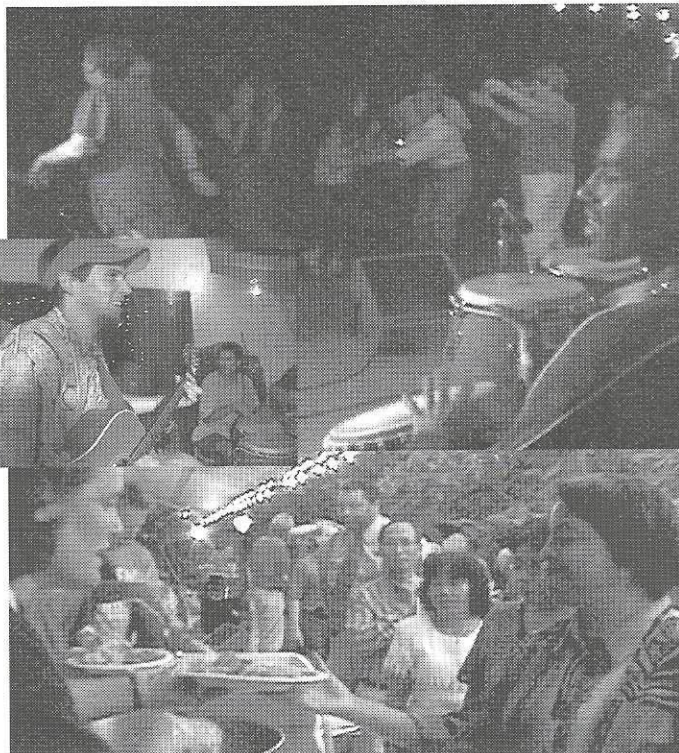
We planned for 150 but ran out of plates. Some folks were eating their dinner out of 2 paper salad dishes. It was a joyful gathering, a broad base of community support for the networking our Alliance publication has been doing for 5 years. These groups bought tables:

- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom
- Graphic Communications Local 404
- Teamster Local 431
- National Stonewall Democrats
- Central California Legal Services
- Fresno Center for Nonviolence
- Fresno County Green Party
- Fresno Metro Ministry
- Fresno Free College Foundation/ radio station KFCF
- Interfaith Alliance of Central California
- Carpenters Local 701
- Service Employees International Union Local 250
- Women's Studies Department, CSUF
- NABET Communications Workers of America



Rev. Bryan Jessup: "Let us answer **YES** to life, to truth and to love."

Dancing in
the grass to
the world
music of
Jeremy
Hofer's
Waddama.



Food provided by Food Not Bombs which feeds the hungry and homeless every Sat. in Roeding Park

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