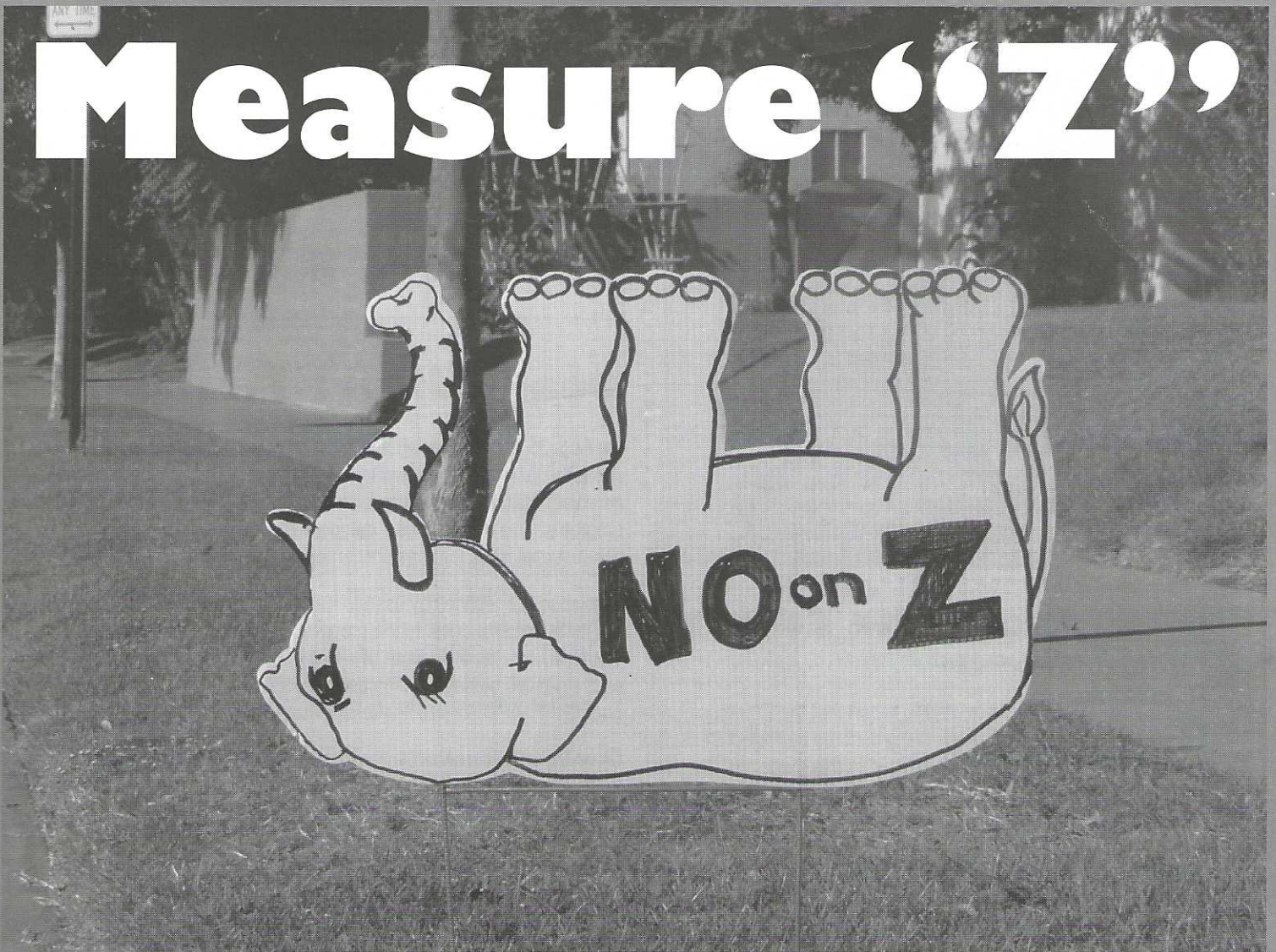


COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

OCTOBER
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The Case Against Measure “Z”



A stampede of knee-high, blue-eyed elephants has invaded Fresno. Seemingly on the verge of tears, these heart-tugging little darlin's are, of course, the Yes on “Z” campaign yard signs.

They're cute. They're everywhere, but are they also trampling the truth? Find out what the corporate media doesn't want you to know about measure Z on page 10.

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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From the Editor

By Mike Rhodes

I am really excited to report that the *Community Alliance* magazine is being honored by Project Censored for two articles published in this magazine last year. Project Censored honors publications that break stories that are largely ignored by the corporate media. This publication is being recognized for two articles about police infiltration and surveillance. The first article was written by Northern California ACLU attorney Mark Schlosberg about a meeting that was held with

the Fresno Police Department (FPD) before the Peace Fresno infiltration issue became national news. The article detailed how the FPD was establishing a local Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and how they intended to infiltrate local groups. Community activists, with the assistance of the ACLU, argued at the meeting with the FPD that constitutional rights needed to be guaranteed and respected by this new law enforcement agency.

The second article that is being recognized is the article I wrote about the infiltration of Peace Fresno by Aaron Kilner, who was a member of the Fresno Sheriff's department and the JTTF. The article detailed how Peace Fresno be-

came aware of this agent's presence in their group and what they are doing to protect all of our civil liberties. Subsequent stories about the infiltration of Peace Fresno have come from Amy Goodman, Jim Hightower, and Michael Moore in *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

Each year, articles in publications such as *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, and *In These Times* are considered for the Project Censored award. The *Community Alliance* is honored to receive the award, and representatives from the magazine will be present at the October 23 presentation ceremonies in the Bay Area. You can find out more about Project Censored at <www.projectcensored.org>.

You can also see the articles for which we are being honored:

<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/magazine/2003/2003index.htm>
Click on April 2003

<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/magazine/2003/2003index.htm>
Click on November 2003

"Project Censored is one of the organizations that we should listen to, to be assured that our newspapers and our broadcasting outlets are practicing thorough and ethical journalism."

- Walter Cronkite

"A distant early warning system for society's problems."

- American Journalism Review

"One of the most significant media research projects in the country."

- I.F. Stone

Dear Editor:

On Aug. 25, the California Legislature served up a big win to parents and students by passing a bill requiring school board approval, public disclosure, and parental notification before irradiated foods can be purchased for school lunch programs. This bill provides a democratic decision-making process for a highly controversial issue that has concerned parents across the state.

Irradiation is a technology used to kill the bacteria that causes food poisoning, but that's not all it does. In the process, nutrients are destroyed and new toxic chemicals are formed, some of which may promote cancer development and cause genetic damage to human cells. No long-term studies have been conducted on how children's health is affected by eating irradiated food.

Given the scientific uncertainty over the safety of irradiated foods, it is important to involve parents in decisions regarding food their children will be served. In California, 3 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program, most of whom are from low-income families and may be undernourished at home.

By passing this bill, lawmakers have ensured that California remains accountable to both parents and disadvantaged schoolchildren, who are among the most vulnerable of our state's residents.

Assembly member Loni Hancock is largely to thank for authoring this legislation. Now we urge the governor to sign AB 1988 to preserve parents' and students' right to know what is served in school meals.

Anna Blackshaw
Director
Public Citizen's California Office
Oakland, California
(510) 663-0888

Community Confronts Mayor Autry

special report from NewsLink columnist Dan Waterhouse



"This individual is willing to say and do almost anything to advance his own opportunistic career." State Senator Jim Costa wasn't speaking of Fresno mayor Alan Autry, but he could've.

Autry's blatantly political rally, disguised as a "re-affirmation of traditional vows" ceremony, spun slightly out of control courtesy of State Senator Roy Ashburn.

Autry wound up angry and embarrassed.

Autry, Ashburn, and approximately 1500 other Christian fundamentalists were confronted by at least 250 members of Fresno's gay and straight

communities—who were disgusted by what they described as the mayor's targeting of gays and his misuse of City Hall.

Even before Autry spoke at the rally on August 29th, the contrast between it and a similar event held earlier the same afternoon at a local church was stark.

The City Hall rally had the look and feel of a political event—American flags everywhere and music more suited to the Republican convention—such as the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" or the "Marine Corps Hymn"—than a religious gathering.

In contrast, the inclusive "renewal of vows" earlier that day at Wesley United Methodist Church featured chamber music and homemade salads.

Protesters gathered across P Street from City Hall.

Police presence was generally kept low-key. About a dozen officers, including four on horses, were visible along P Street. A reserve squad of about 40 cops were standing by about a block away in the event of any violence.

Several people connected with the City Hall event were seen taking photographs of activists.

One member of the news media was threatened with a horse by police. NewsLink columnist Dan Waterhouse was attempting to take photographs when a Fresno police sergeant on horseback ordered him onto the sidewalk. No other news media representatives were ordered off the street.



"I said to her that I was news media, trying to do my job," Waterhouse said. "She then replied, 'I'm trying to do mine. Don't make me bump you with "Tony the Pony."'" "Waterhouse said he has filed a complaint with Fresno police.

A protester carrying a sign saying "Religious Zealots Aren't Christian" was threatened with arrest when he attempted to enter City Hall grounds.

Activists were loud and on at least two occasions forced anti-gay speakers to literally shout into the microphone to be heard.

People leaving the event had to pass through the demonstrators in order to get to their cars. Many appeared to be very uncomfortable.

Ashburn used Autry's event to attack Costa, who is his opponent in the race to replace the retiring Cal Dooley in the 20th Congressional District.

Ashburn attacked Costa for his support of the domestic partner law.

Autry apologized immediately at the City Hall event for Ashburn's remarks.

Autry said the event was "not the forum" and condemned Ashburn's comments. Autry admitted he is fully accountable for whatever happened.

Costa told Channel 24 that while he supports the domestic partner laws, he opposes giving full legal rights to same-sex couples.

At least 300 people—gay and straight—joined the Wesley celebration on the church's tree-shaded patio.

The Rev. Bryan Jessup of the Unitarian Universalist Church led clergy representing all faiths in welcoming celebrants.

Continued on page 4





Mayor Autry continued from page 3

"On behalf of all the open and affirming congregations in the Fresno area, we welcome you," Jessup remarked. "We celebrate that we are all here to honor what really matters." Larry Patten of Wesley remarked that "vows are about love, not arrangement, gender or exchange of property."

At the end of the brief presentation, all who wished to joined hands in a "simple renewal of vows," and then were invited to enjoy the cake and salads.

On the preceding Friday, Marriage Equality California Fresno chapter co-heads Baltimore Gonzalez and Robert Flanagan, and Waterhouse discussed the mayor's and Wesley events on the "Street Heat" radio show.

Gonzalez pointed out that with all the problems confronting the City of Fresno—violent crime on the increase and an economy that's struggling—the mayor shouldn't be delving into the marriage issue.

Waterhouse related how Autry had, in his own mind, constructed a "reality" that the glbt community supported what he did.

"However, the majority of people (gay and straight) are appalled by what the mayor is up to, so he is characterizing their criticism as "hate rhetoric"—which is a classic tactic of the radical right," Waterhouse commented.

Waterhouse went on to describe Autry's actions as a "calculated and cynical attempt to further his agenda—which is probably political. The mayor told us on August 9th that he has no further political plans, but I find that statement utterly unbelievable."

Waterhouse's surmise was supported by Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Matier and Ross reported Autry is likely to run for statewide office.

They also reported on August 29th that Autry has a personal feud with San Fran-

cisco mayor Gavin Newsom. Newsom declined to join Autry's fight against Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plans to raid local government money to help balance this year's state budget.

Newsom decided not to get involved in the budget fight because the city is also the County of San Francisco—something Fresno's mayor was ignorant of. During the August 9th meeting with Central California Alliance and *NewsLink* representatives, Autry repeatedly said, "I want this event to bring the gay and Christian communities closer together. There's been too much concentration on 'hate the sin' and not on 'love the person' on the part of the mainstream Christian community—and that has to change."

Charlotte Jenks, the executive director of Central California Pride Network, said she received a phone call from the pastor of People's Church. She said the pastor told her she would "burn in hell."

Waterhouse pointed out during the "Street Heat" segment that incidents like that put the lie to the mayor's remarks about bringing the two communities closer.

Gonzalez said that news of the mayor's rally leaked a few days before Bill McEwen broke the story in his August 5th column in the *Fresno Bee*. Gonzalez said that both Autry and his aide denied there were plans for a rally. Gonzalez added that Autry said he would never participate in such an event.

"I just wanted to let you know that I have never been so proud of our community!! They figure that we had around 250 LGBT and allied protesters," CCPN's Jenks said on the Tuesday following Autry's rally. "I believe we made our voices heard in the only meaningful way politicians understand . . . potential votes lost. You all were great!!! Thank you for coming out in such large numbers. For those that couldn't come out, but called to express your support, thank you."

She went on, "I realize, given my job, there is little personal risk to me being identified as a lesbian, but for many of you that came out, it took a tremendous amount of courage for you to appear in the public eye and I honor and cherish your courage. Great job!"





Queer Eye: Diana Bohn — and the Gay- Straight Alliance Network (part 2 of 3)

By Dan Waterhouse

GSA Clubs Formed in the Fresno Area

Public schools are not especially safe places for youth who are glbt or are perceived to be, according to Bohn.

"In particular, students who are non-gender-conforming are constant targets on campuses," she said.

Safety for glbt youth in area schools surfaced as an issue in 2000 when George Loomis of Visalia told of being forced out of his high school, into home study, because the school district would not take any steps to stop harassment by administrators, teachers, and other students at Golden West High.

Loomis, joined by GSA Network, were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and ultimately sued the school district for failing to act.

As the lawsuit in the Loomis case was filed in January 2001, a student at Fresno's Bullard High School who was perceived to be gay killed himself. He could not cope with the taunting of fellow students who called him "fag," "queer," "freak," and much worse.

A group of students upset about the death formed the first GSA in Fresno Unified School District as a response.

"John's death made many people finally see what hate crimes can cause," founding GSA member Melissa Warden said. "This being the most severe of cases."

As the students took steps to organize, they discovered a great deal of support for what they were about on campus.

A second GSA was established at Roosevelt High School shortly afterwards.

Bohn said all the high schools in Fresno Unified except McLane have GSAs.

"The situation at McLane is simply that the students haven't followed the process through—yet," she said.

She mentioned that administrators at both Sunnyside and DeWolf High Schools have been very supportive of the GSAs.

"The students and GSA Network have developed relationships with administrators," Bohn explained. "And, events such as the Loomis case have smoothed the path in Fresno Unified.

However, there's been much stronger resistance to forming GSAs in Clovis Unified," she said.

She said that while both Clovis and Clovis East campuses have active GSAs, neither Buchanan nor Clovis West do.

"Buchanan students have tried for two years to start a GSA," Bohn said. Stu-

dents there have met with the principal and teachers; however, to date, no teacher has stepped forward to become the advisor of the GSA.

Elizabeth Shonnard is a straight ally who tried to start the GSA at Buchanan. She told the *Los Angeles Times* that she filled out all the necessary paperwork, but every time she got faculty members interested in being the club's advisor, they would withdraw after speaking with the principal. The teachers said the principal never told them not to support the club, according to Shonnard, but they were "more concerned with what the principal did not say."

"I was beat so bad . . ."

A former Clovis High student testified before the state Senate Select Committee on School Safety in October 2002 about how unsafe Clovis schools are for glbt youth.

"I have been hospitalized because I was beat so bad for walking into the girls' bathroom," the young woman said. "In 2001, I was even beaten and raped in the bathroom, during class, by two boys from my class who thought they were doing me a favor by thinking they were turning me straight."



She described how "teachers" joined "their students in the mocking of many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and pansexual students, including me."

She said she never reported the verbal abuse or violence because she was afraid she would be kicked out of the house by her parents if they found out she was a lesbian.

Her parents found out on September 23, 2002, that she is lesbian—and threw her out.

Bohn said the Clovis Unified School District Board of Trustees stood on the Federal Equal Access Act and California law when they approved the formation of the Clovis High GSA two years ago.

"The debate at the approval meeting was heated," she said. "But the students had organized their presentation—they were concise and had carefully picked the other students and adult allies who spoke in support."

She said that student clubs are no longer required to be approved by the Clovis School Board at the time of their formation. "That's a positive change for all students, and the controversy and process surrounding the establishment of the Clovis High GSA was instrumental in bringing about the change in that policy."

She said the formation of the GSA at Clovis East occurred very quietly and calmly.

"The situation at Buchanan is very frustrating," Bohn commented. "Clovis West has an active core of students who, like at McLane, just haven't completed the process."

"It's now four years after AB 537 was passed, and school safety for glbt youth is still a big problem," Bohn said, "both locally and on a statewide basis."

The issues locally include slurs and violence, Bohn commented. PE and locker rooms are big problems. Among the least supervised areas on campuses are buses and hallways. Incidents of violence against glbt youth are often seeded in those spaces and then occur off campus later.

The statewide California Healthy Kids survey released this January confirms the continued problems. The survey affirmed that "harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation is pervasive" in schools.

The survey reported that two out of every three students who identified as glbt reported harassment. Gender-nonconforming students are constantly targeted.

She said GSA leaders at Roosevelt and Edison Highs recently did surveys of their school climate. At Edison, 75% of the students related they had never received any education on glbt issues or they did not know if they had.

"Boys who are not 'masculine enough,' whether gay or straight, are consistently targeted with harassing remarks," former Edison student Amy Caes said. "At Edison we found that only 23% of the student population surveyed 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that it is okay for boys to be feminine."

Caes was one of a group of Edison students who established that school's GSA in 2003. "Little opposition was felt in the process, and the GSA appeared to be as accepted as any other club on campus," she said. "While this could be seen as an indication that Edison is a safe place for LGBT students, this is far from the case."

Caes described Edison as being "like other Central Valley high schools. Right-wing religious attitudes are pervasive. The most visible clubs on campus cater to conservative evangelical Christians. And while many GSA posters were torn down and indirect comments made about the GSA, our club was primarily regarded with silence."

She added, "At Edison, the silence surrounding LGBT issues often feels like an unwillingness on the part of students and staff to listen, learn about, and understand LGBT students. While issues of religion and politics are addressed in classrooms and debated on their merits, discussions about LGBT issues are skirted."

Bohn said other school issues include dress codes, which can be a big problem for gender- nonconforming students, and team travel.

"In terms of team and band travel out of town," Bohn said, "biological sex for assigning roommates is no longer an uncomplicated and unambiguous dividing line. Administrators are now struggling with respecting students' sexual orientations and gender identities as well when they make room assignments."

(story continues in next month's issue of the Community Alliance Magazine)

Dan Waterhouse is a columnist for NewsLink, Central California's only print glbt news source. Waterhouse also writes for QueerFresno, a local webzine. Dan's main focus is the Waterhouse Report, which is far-ranging, and occasionally provocative and highly opinionated. He served as the public relations coordinator and photographer for this year's Pride Parade and Festival.



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October Take-Action Report

By Vickie Fouts

Vote for Racial Justice Week, October 18-24: During the week of October 18-24, 2004, we call for groups and coalitions around the country to organize local actions and campaigns in support of racial justice. Once again, just as in other elections, we're hearing almost nothing about these issues from the major presidential candidates and many other candidates seeking office, so we need to make our presence felt! As Frederick Douglass said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will." For more info see www.racismwatch.org.

American Democracy: The Ultimate Reality TV: Tell network executives, newsroom managers, and news anchors that our democracy matters. It's time Americans send the networks a clear message: By ignoring our democratic process—at a time of the most divisive presidential election of our generation, when Americans are dying in our name overseas and the threat of terrorism at home looms large—ABC, NBC, and CBS are doing a shameful disservice to the viewers they're legally obligated to serve. Take action at <http://causenet.commoncause.org/afr/issues/>.

Health Care Action Week, October 3-10, 2004: The current system is failing working families. It's time for action to make health care an issue that all candidates feel compelled to address prior to the November 2 election. Learn more at www.jwj.org/community/healthcare/HCAW/calltoaction.htm.

Send Our Kids Back to School on Clean Buses: As our nation's children head back for another school year, many of them will still be riding on aging, dirty, diesel school buses. Diesel exhaust from school buses is especially dangerous to developing lungs and can cause significant respiratory ailments, including bronchitis and asthma. The EPA's program to clean up buses is currently underfunded, providing insufficient investment for schools across the nation that seek cleaner buses. Please tell your senators to send our kids back to school on better buses by supporting a comprehensive federal grant program and fully funding the administration's \$65 million request for 2005 clean-school-bus grants. Take action at www.ucsusa.org.

Save Our Ocean Legacy: Tell Governor Schwarzenegger to follow up on his promise to protect our ocean by supporting this legislation to protect and restore fragile ocean ecosystems. Take action at www.environmentalcalifornia.org.

COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS WANTED

Are you tired of corporate media moguls ignoring stories that are important to you? Don't hate the media: Become the media! Join others in the Central Valley and help create an independent media and news organization.

Indymedia is a collective of independent media organizations, ordinary citizens, and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, noncorporate coverage. Indymedia is a democratic media outlet for the news that corporate media neglects.

Post your article, pictures, video, or audio to:
<www.indybay.org/centralvalley/>

LUNAFEST Comes to Fresno

By Carla Jo Dakin

View seven fine short films you won't find elsewhere in the Central Valley while supporting two worthwhile causes. Traveling to over 60 locations nationwide, LUNAFEST arrives at Fresno State's Satellite Student Union with all-new films. Here's a quick look at the films of LUNAFEST 2004:

A Good Uplift (13 minutes). A lighthearted documentary, looking at a famous lingerie shop on the Lower East Side of New York City.

Shui Hen (23 Minutes). A coming-of-age story—a young Chinese woman travels to Cuba to reunite with her parents after 15 years apart.

Little Black Boot (16 Minutes). A contemporary Cinderella tale: an awkward high school girl goes to the prom alone dressed as a boy and finds her true love.

Wet Dreams and False Images (11 Minutes). This self-proclaimed "booty expert" covers his barbershop with images of women. He has a lot to say after an introduction to the art of media manipulation.

Velvet Tigress (11 Minutes). Animated documentary of the 1931 Winnie Ruth Judd "Trunk Murders" trial; presents Winnie's story through the eyes of the sensational press of the time.

La Milpa / The Cornfield (27 Minutes). Angela reminisces about her life during the Mexican Revolution, when myths, sensuality, war, and pain were everyday events.

Dysenchanted (8 Minutes). Can you picture Cinderella, Snow White, Goldilocks, Alice, and four more storybook heroines in a group therapy session—just imagine!

In addition to providing national exposure for emerging women filmmakers, LUNAFEST supports one of the most important causes today by donating proceeds from the festival to The Breast Cancer Fund (TBCF). LUNAFEST also encourages local organizations, such as the Fresno State Women's Resource Center (WRC), to raise funds to support their own nonprofit group in addition to TBCF.

LUNAFEST is the WRC's major fundraiser. The Fresno State WRC has a unique role in college life. The WRC is open to everyone on campus, providing a much-needed environment devoted to maximizing the university experience through peer counseling, student activism, and support groups. Visit their website at <studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/wrc/index.html>.

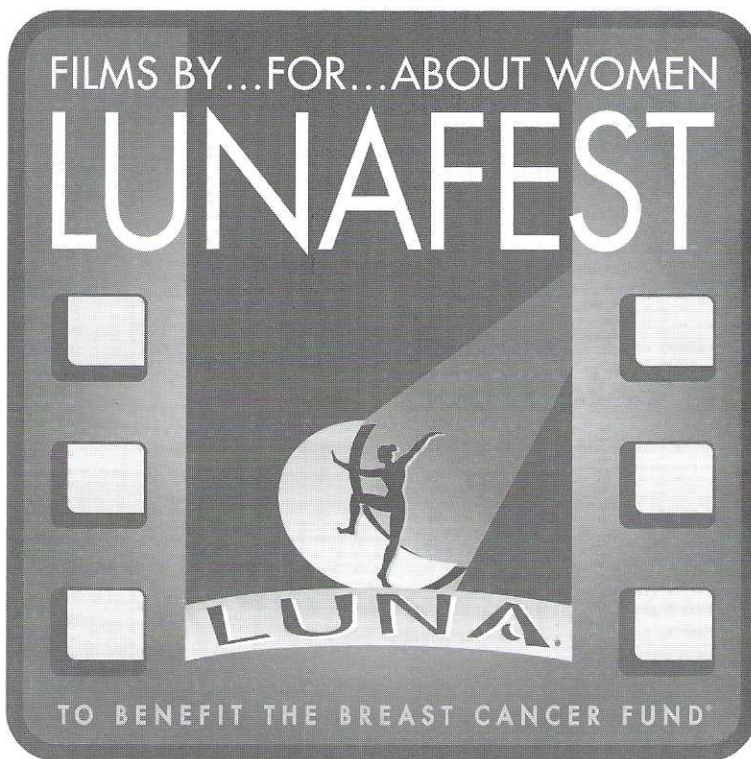
LUNAFEST supports The Breast Cancer Fund, which plays a unique role among cancer advocacy groups in that it identifies and advocates for the elimination of the environmental and other preventable causes of cancer. See <www.breastcancerfund.org>.

LUNAFEST accepts films in a variety of genres and has featured works as diverse as documentaries, animated shorts, and dance narratives. After Fresno's first LUNAFEST last year, the overflow turnout showed clearly that there is an audience for films that will *not* be coming soon to your favorite cineplex.

LUNAFEST is a creation of the ClifBar people, who make LUNA bars, a whole nutrition bar for women.

LUNAFEST is part of LUNA's commitment to giving back to the community.

For more information, call The Women's Resource Center, (559) 278-4435, and visit <www.lunabar.com/lunafest>.



LUNAFEST 2004

Films by ... for ... about women

Friday, October 29 at 7:00 PM
California State University, Fresno
Satellite Student Union

BACK AGAIN FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Tickets: \$8 students & \$10 community pre-event, or \$10/
\$12 at the door. Tickets at Student Union Box Office,
(559) 278-2078

Free Parking on Campus

LUNAFEST is a Benefit for
THE BREAST CANCER FUND and
THE FRESNO STATE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno

Rev. Bryan D. Jessup

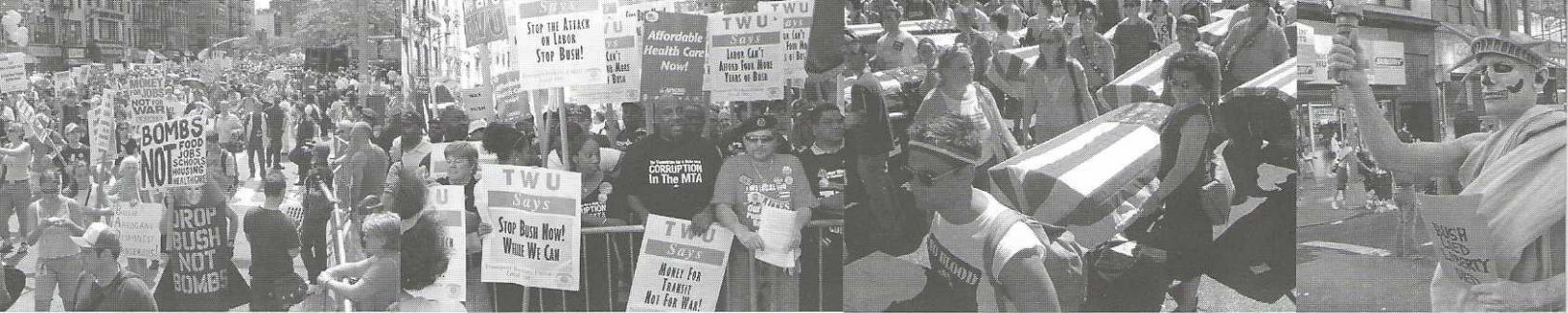


Welcomes you, whoever you are
and whomever you call family, our doors are open.

Sermon Topics:

- 10-3 "The Criminal Justice System" - Sal Sciandra, speaking
- 10-10 "Let it Be a Dance We Do!" - Rev. Bryan Jessup
- 10-17 "Gimme a Break!" - Rev. Bryan Jessup
- 10-24 "Thoughts from Utah" (working title) U. Utah Phillips.
- 10-31 "Poems from Mas" (working title) Mas Masumoto.

Services 9:15 & 11:00 am • Church School 9:15 & 11:00 am
Nursery care Available
4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno • Phone: 227-6146



The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

By members of the RaNCor collective

Seven members of Fresno RaNCor (Radical anti Neo-Conservative organized resistance) have returned home safely from the recent RNC protests. Two of our members are staying on in New York to continue work in a south Bronx squat. We wish them well.

What a trip! Marching, singing, chanting, and dancing with 700,000 people in the United for Peace and Justice March on Sunday. With whom? With the grandmother in a wheelchair holding a boldly hand-painted sign proclaiming: "97 years old and outraged." With the decorated Gulf War and Vietnam War vets, many in uniform, alternately praying and raging that the illness, dismemberment, and death that results from misguided overseas adventures be visited on no more brothers and sisters. With the families and their children holding signs, one little boy hoping that the whole world could see his little sign saying "Bush Lies, Thousands Die." With the marching bands like the Infernal Noise Brigade who kept up incredible beats through days of heat and humidity. With the anarchist collective who staged a massive fire by torching a giant green dragon puppet right in front of Madison Square Garden, a warning of the revolutionary potential spurred by the Bush junta's policies. With the Billionaires for Bush, the Texas Chicks with Dicks and with the Republicans Gone Wild troupe who kept us all in stitches. With coalitions representing the homeless, people living with AIDS, poor people, with union locals, with priests, ministers, rabbis, nuns, with practitioners of Falun Gong. With the thousands of marchers who carried a thousand flag-draped coffins through the corporate canyon lands of Manhattan. In short, with the masses of people across the left political spectrum who would not be cowed by fear and intimidation and who completely covered the two-and-a-half-mile parade route, four lanes wide, for five solid hours. RaNCor's message to progressives in the Fresno/Clovis area is that THIS IS A MOVEMENT.

Emma Goldman once said that "if voting ever really changed anything, they'd make it illegal." If your conscience guides you to vote one way or another, then by all means vote. But history and especially American history teaches that real, lasting, and significant change happens in the streets. These are historic times. Not since the sixties has America witnessed sustained marches and protests that draw hundreds of thousands into the streets. Seattle, Sacramento, Miami, New York just before the war, and San Francisco the day the war started, the women's rights march in Washington—these are all giant steps toward radical change in America.

Inside the warehouse on Pier 57, three RaNCor activists were detained along with hundreds of others who had been mass arrested on Tuesday. Who issued the orders to clear the streets? Was it Bloomberg? Police Commissioner Kelly? Was it Karl Rove or the Secret Service? Or was it the RNC who, apparently, signed and paid for the lease of the warehouse? Activists were penned up, a dozen per chain link cage, each cage topped by razor wire. The floors were filthy with oil residue and dirt. There were no chairs, benches or cots. We were forced to stand or sit or lie down in the filth. But especially here, in the jails, is the threat felt by the corporate elite: as more protesters were booked into the facility an anarchist in the cage next to ours began to chant. "Power" and people began to respond "Power!" The anarchist again "Power!" And in greater numbers "Power!" The anarchist: "Power to the People!" and the whole warehouse full of protesters: "Power to the People!" The anarchist "People Power," the protesters all in raucous unity "People Power!" Over and over and over until the cops had to cover their ears, the volume deafening.

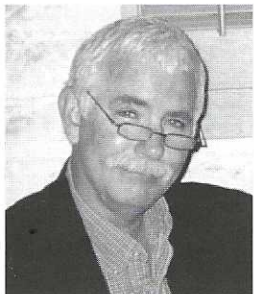
It is this din of the people's voices ringing in the ears of the elite that unnerves them; it is the nightmares of the elite as they hear in their fitful sleep the Zapatistas shouting "Ya Basta!" ("Enough!") and the echoing cry from across the globe: "Todos Somos Marcos!" ("We are all Marcos!") It is the stomping feet of the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil and the people in Cochabamba running Bechtel Corporation out of their town that fills the ears of the elites and makes them tremble with rage and fear. The elite is coming to know that the image of Carlo Giuliani lying dead in a Genoa street with a death angel storm trooper floating over him—that this image does not deter; it inflames. From marching to direct action, from letter writing and lobbying to civil disobedience from radical humor to radical action—the New York RNC protests are one part of a vast, historic movement. In these times one must decide, not stand aside, for even to stand aside is to take the side of the retrograde.

If you are anxious to get beyond superficial corporate media coverage and learn more about the historic RNC protests we invite you to attend the airing of "RNC Not Welcome," RaNCor's video documentary of the protests. It will be aired Thursday, September 30, at 7 PM in USU 200 on the Fresno State campus.



Marxism: Its Relevance in Today's World

By John Crockford



The price of a commodity is determined by the competition between buyers and sellers, by the relation of the demand to the supply, of the call to the offer. The competition by which the price of a commodity is determined is, therefore, threefold.

If offered for sale by various sellers, whoever sells commodities of the same quality most cheaply is sure to drive the other sellers from the field and to secure the greatest market for himself or herself (dependent, of course, on the absence of artificial, external influences). The sellers therefore fight among themselves for the sales, for the market. Each one of them wishes to sell, and to sell as much as possible, and if possible to sell alone, to the exclusion of all other sellers. Each one sells cheaper than the other. Thus there takes place a competition among the sellers, which forces down the price of the commodities offered by them.

But there is also a competition among the buyers; this causes the price of the proffered commodities to rise.

Finally, there is competition between the buyers and the sellers: the buyer to purchase as cheaply as possible, the seller to sell as profitably as possible. The result of this competition between buyers and sellers will depend upon the relations between the two above-mentioned camps of competitors—that is, upon whether the competition within the army of sellers is stronger. Industry leads two great armies into the field against each other, and each of these again is engaged in a battle among its own troops in its own ranks. Sellers engaged in fierce competition with other sellers are less likely to engage in a concerted or protracted battle with buyers and vice versa.

The army, among whose troops there is less fighting, will inevitably be victorious in any battle in which it chooses to engage.

Let us suppose that there are 100 bales of cotton in the market and at the same time purchasers for 1,000 bales of cotton. In this case, the demand is 10 times greater than the supply. Competition among the buyers, then, will be very strong; each of them tries to get one bale, if possible, of the 100.

This example is no arbitrary supposition. In the history of commerce we have experienced periods of scarcity of cotton, when some entrepreneurs united together and sought to buy up not 100 bales, but the whole cotton supply in a given region, a market or the world. In the given case, then, one buyer seeks to drive the others from the field by offering a relatively higher price for the bales of cotton. The cotton sellers, who perceive the troops of buyers in the most violent contention among themselves (and who therefore are fully assured of the sale of their whole 100 bales), will not fight amongst themselves in order to force down the price of cotton at the very moment in which buyers race with one another to screw it up high. So, all of a sudden, peace reigns in the army of sellers. They stand opposed to the buyers like one man and fold their arms in philosophic contentment, fully aware that the buyers have a very definite limit as to what they can offer for the cotton.

If, then, the supply of a commodity is less than the demand for it, competition among the sellers is very slight, or there may be none at all among them. In the same proportion in which this competition decreases, the competition among the buyers increases. Result: a more or less considerable rise in the prices of commodities.

It is well known that the opposite case, with the opposite result, happens more

frequently. A great excess of supply over demand, desperate competition among the sellers, and a lack of buyers all serve to force sales of commodities at ridiculously low prices.

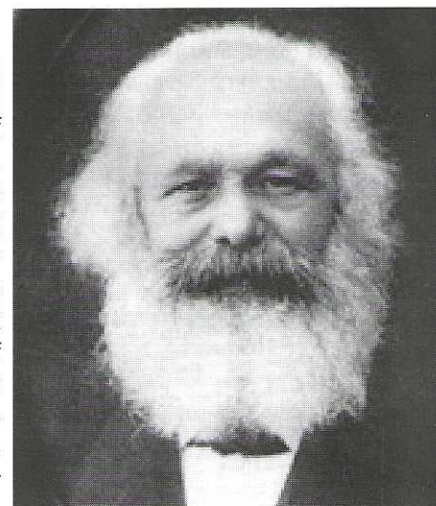
But what is a rise in prices, and what is a fall in prices? What is a high price and what is a low price? A grain of sand looms high when examined through a microscope, and a tower is low when compared with a mountain. And if the price is determined by the relation of supply and demand, by what is the relation of supply and demand determined?

For answers, let's ask any reasonable person. She or he might say to us:

"If the production of the commodities which I sell has cost me 100 dollars, and out of the sale of these goods I make 110 dollars—within the year, you understand—that's an honest, sound, reasonable profit. But if in the exchange I receive 120 or 130 dollars, that's a higher profit; and if I should get as much as 200 dollars, that would be an extraordinary, and enormous profit."

What is it, then, that this person uses as the standard for determining his or her profit? It is, quite simply, the cost of production. In the most basic of forms of exchange and trade (involving barter and the absence of money), if in exchange for these goods he receives a quantity of other goods whose production has cost less, he has lost. If he receives in exchange for his goods a quantity of other goods whose production has cost more, he has gained. And he determines the falling or rising of the profit according to the degree at which the exchange value of his goods stands, whether above or below his break-even point, the cost of production.

We have seen how the changing relation of supply and demand causes now a rise, now a fall of prices; now high, now low prices. If the price of a commodity rises considerably owing to a failing supply or a disproportionately growing demand, then the price of some other commodity must have fallen in proportion; for of course the price of a commodity only expresses in money the proportion in which other commodities will be given in exchange for it.



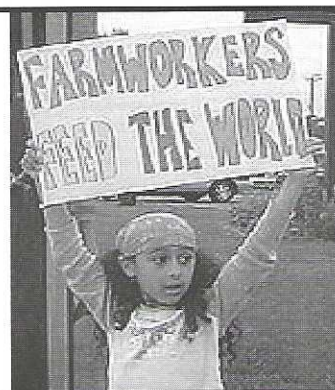
Next month: Part 3 – The relationship of the price of commodities.

Wage Labour and Capital was originally published in 1891 as a pamphlet. Written by Karl Marx and later translated/edited by Frederick Engels, it is offered here in a form that attempts to bring this work forward into twenty-first-century America while remaining true to the original ideas put forth by the author.

- John Crockford

Boycott Taco Bell

<http://www.ciw-online.org/>



Save Roeding Park

Tax Measure's Zoo Expansion Will Destroy Inner City Treasure

By Kevin Hall

You won't read it in the *Fresno Bee*. You won't see it on the TV news. And you most certainly won't hear it from the corporate-funded campaign.

Measure Z will destroy Roeding Park.

The Chaffee Zoo Master Plan shows it all. The shocking map was removed this summer from the Fresno Zoological Society's website for "revisions," but it was good enough for Fresno County Supervisors in July when they voted to place the \$80 million sales tax and zoo expansion plan on the ballot.

The map is a critical element of the Chaffee Zoo Committee Report commissioned by the Fresno City Council earlier this year. The report is the guiding document for the future of Roeding Park and Chaffee Zoo. The committee's recommendations were specifically cited and unanimously endorsed on July 27 in official resolutions from both the Fresno City Council and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Grow That Zoo!

According to the report, the official goal is to "grow the Chaffee zoo into a regional expanded zoo" governed by a private nonprofit corporation. For the next 30 years at a cost of \$1 per year the corporation will lease from the city all of the park except for the far western areas of the tennis courts, Storyland, Playland, and Lake Washington.

"The goal of the lease will be to insure the zoo has all the land it needs for future growth into a regional zoo and that it is not at the mercy of future office holders," states the Strategic Planning section of the April 27 report. "The lease will include two options to renew, each of which will be for 30 years."

The document lays out specific threats to the park for the next 90 years, such as:

* "The construction of new exhibits should be started in a location that will not interfere with the operation of the present zoo site. Construction of new sites with exhibits of some significance should be timed to open a new exhibit every three years;

* "The Redevelopment Agency should make Roeding Park and the adjacent area a number one priority. As the Zoo Complex site develops, we believe that private management will explore all the exciting potential this site offers such as inclusion of an aquarium, the Discovery Center, an interactive restaurant, a hotel, expansion and interaction with Storyland and Playland, etc. We also believe private management will fully explore all opportunities of tax increments and related issues which

may be available because of the redevelopment designations that pertain to and around this site."

Eventually, Roeding Park as people know it today would be reduced to a few picnic areas near the tennis courts and Lake Washington.

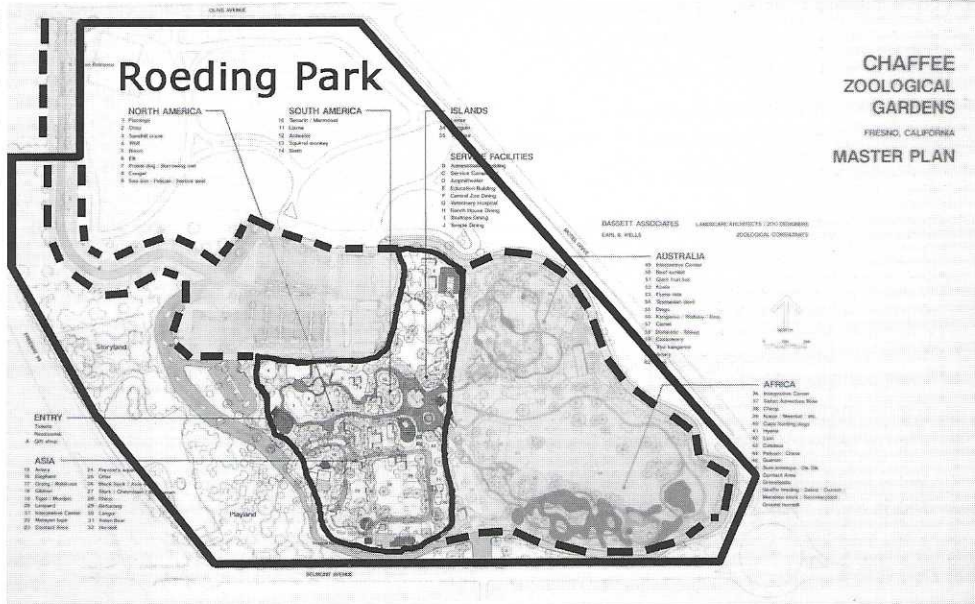
This plan was crafted by the backers of Measure Z and is clearly understood by, among others, Fresno mayor Alan Autry and the *Fresno Bee*. Yet until Roeding family members publicly objected in August, and handed out flyers the following month in Roeding Park showing the map, the expansion plans were not publicized.

Now the campaigners regularly understate the threat to the park.

An August 18 *Fresno Bee* article quotes campaign chairman David McDonald as saying, "The intent of Measure Z is not to grow the zoo, but rather revitalize and restore the zoo." An editorial opinion piece in that same issue of the *Bee* stated,

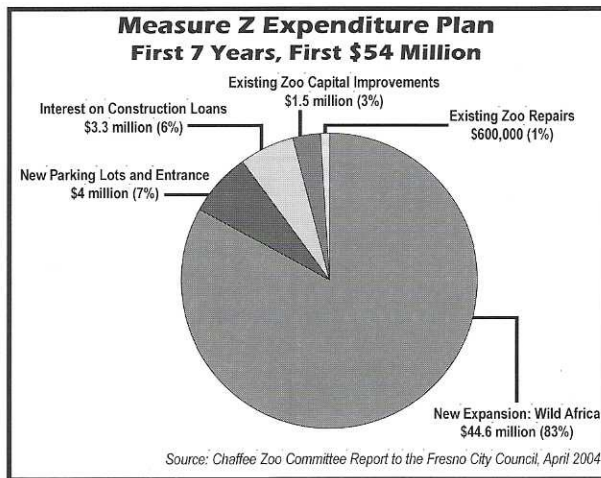
"The zoo could increase slightly under some plans—10 to 20 acres—but significant encroachment on Roeding Park is not being proposed by Measure Z." And in a September 1 letter to Roeding family members, Mayor Autry wrote, "The intent of Measure Z is to restore the zoo, not to substantially grow the zoo. One current estimate is that the zoo would only grow by about 10 acres to a total of approximately 28 acres."

However, the Zoo Committee report notes, "The Master Plan for the zoo would quadruple the size of the zoo, not double it."



Follow the Buck

The Zoo Committee's expenditure plan reveals a set of priorities at odds with the campaign cries of "Save the zoo!"



If passed, in its first seven years Measure Z will raise an estimated \$54 million. The existing 18-acre zoo is slated to receive only one percent of that money—\$600,000—toward the \$3 million to \$5 million backlog in maintenance work that supporters claim is needed to "save" the zoo.

Instead, the corporation board, unburdened by any government or citizen controls, will award \$50 million in new construction contracts to expand the zoo. Some well-connected lender will be paid another \$3.3 million in interest on the construction loans.

Nearly \$45 million would be used to transfigure the southeast quadrant of what is now Roeding

Park into a "Wild Africa" safari-style exhibit. Another \$4 million would be spent to carve a new, exclusive zoo entrance through the park's northwest corner and pave over another 10–15 acres destined to go from park lands to parking lots.

Moreover, it's a legal mandate. The zoo authority ordinance passed by the county supervisors stipulates that at least two-thirds of all Measure Z money go to new construction projects. No more than one-third can go to operations and maintenance.

Measure Z would last for 10 years and another \$30 million would be raised. Older sections of the existing zoo would be razed and replaced, and another chunk of southeast Roeding Park would be taken for an Australian Outback exhibit.

Roedings Object

Besides a handful of letters and one guest column in the *Bee*, the only significant objections thus far to the loss of Roeding Park have come

from descendants of Frederick and Marianna Roeding. At the urging of their son, George C. Roeding, a horticulturist and the city's first park commissioner, the Roedings donated 70 acres for the park in 1903. Five years later they gave another 47 acres and sold the city the remaining 40 acres of today's 157 acres. The younger Roeding oversaw the park's design, and he donated and propagated all of the plant material used in the beautifully landscaped, historic park.

"We do not feel our family's donation, Roeding Park, is the proper location for a large, safari-style zoo," says Bruce Roeding, a soft-spoken 75-year-old nurseryman from Fremont, California. Roeding is visibly stunned and heartsick at the thought of seeing his family's creation destroyed and their desire to benefit Fresno residents cast aside.

"We believe the loss of such a substantial portion of Roeding Park's total land area, as has now been proposed, would be extremely detrimental to the many families who enjoy the park to its capacity on a regular basis without necessarily having the means or the desire to visit the zoo," says Roeding.

Fresno resident John Holland strongly agrees. He and more than 100 other members of his family recently gathered for their annual reunion in the park on a hot Saturday afternoon in September.

The reunion is an old family tradition and it's always at Roeding Park, he pointed out. Like other Fresno residents in the park that afternoon, Holland and his relatives were shocked when shown a copy of the Chaffee Zoo Master Plan. They were angry to learn that they were in the middle of a future animal exhibit space.

"The park was made for the people, not the animals," says Holland. "People come to see each other. I don't come here to see animals; I come to see people."

Privatized Government

Fresno has the lowest ratio of parks-to-people of any medium-to-large city in California. The statewide average is four acres of park for every 1,000 residents. Fresno has only one acre per thousand, and the problem is even more pronounced in the inner city. By contrast, Sacramento has 10 acres of park for every 1,000 residents (and a fully accredited 14-acre zoo).

"Roeding," as most people call it, is the only large-scale park within a reasonable distance of nearly half the urban population of Fresno. The demographics of this large swath of Fresno—mostly poor and working-class people—is evident every weekend. The park fills to capacity with families seeking a beautiful, public place to relax and play.

The loss of such a gathering place would be an environmental injustice of immense magnitude. And who better to commit the crime than a privatized government two

Take Action

Go to <www.saveroedingpark.com> to:

- get an electronic version of this story to share with family, friends, and other voters.
- print your own paper sign suitable for car windows, bikes, and backpacks.
- sign up to receive information updates.
- join the "elephant poachers" to distribute flyers at campaign events.
- get a Save Roeding Park/No on Z yard sign delivered to your door.

Ask businesses you frequent to remove Yes on Z signs.

Write letters to the *Fresno Bee* and all other Fresno County newspapers.

Make your own yard sign.



Cousins Bruce Roeding, left, and Peter Roeding Butler stand proudly by their bust of their great-grandfather Frederick Roeding. The memorial and surrounding area stand directly in the path of zoo expansion plans.

steps removed from the accountability of voters or any appeals process.

One of the proudest claims made by Measure Z's backers is that they will "privatize" the zoo and that taxpayer dollars will "not go to government!" But this is not privatization of the zoo. Privatization means a corporation bids to provide a government service and pays the government agency a share of the profits. Instead, this is taxpayer-funded

private government. As described in the Chaffee Zoo Committee report, it's a "public/private partnership" of "public funding and private management."

The \$80 million would pass through a Fresno County Zoo Authority and into the hands of the corporation which would control the fate of Roeding Park. The Authority would have seven members: the Fresno mayor and six people appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The corporate board would be privately selected by its members, removed from public oversight.

Among the first actions that can be safely anticipated will be the elimination of union jobs. City workers at the zoo, such as animal keepers, are members of Stationary Engineers Local No. 39. Union representative Marina Magdelano says the union would be opposed to any privatization effort that would cost union jobs. All of the people in non-union positions would lose their health and retirement benefits as city employees, too. All told more than 40 jobs are at risk.

Big Animals, Big Lie

Supporters further threaten that without Measure Z, the Chaffee Zoo will lose its accreditation by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and that the zoo's large animals will have to go. They ignore the fact that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the agency responsible for issuing animal exhibition permits, not the AZA.

The most recent USDA inspection of the zoo in September 2003 resulted in only one citation: an outdoor guinea pig exhibit. As of press-time, repeated requests to review the most recent AZA accreditation report went unanswered by the City of Fresno, which has labeled the report "confidential."

But local veterinarian Ron Gentzler, who worked at the Chaffee Zoo for 13 years before retiring in 1999, points out that AZA accreditation is not necessary to house large animals. In an August 23 letter to the *Bee* he writes, "There are 213 zoos in the United States that belong to the AZA, but there are more than 2,000 animal-exhibiting facilities that do not."

Truth Campaign

The proposed sales tax needs a two-thirds majority approval to become law. Local political observers maintain that 25 to 30 percent of local voters always oppose a new tax or bond measure. That means only an additional 3 to 8 percent is needed to block Measure Z and stop this injustice.

People who love Roeding Park are determined to save it. A truth campaign is on to inform voters of Measure Z's real intent and impact. To join the effort, or to sign up to receive e-mail updates and future articles, please visit <www.saveroedingpark.com>.

The Long Walk to Freedom

By Catherine Garoupa

So often the media in America focuses on the negative. Just before I left for South Africa this summer, Bill Cosby's criticism of the stereotypical lazy, thuglike, black American was a hot headline. Many people heralded his words and spoke of the need for black people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, as so many disadvantaged people purportedly have. But I am left wondering: How far gone are the days of oppression? How empowering are words of criticism without words of support and provision of equal opportunity?

While in South Africa, I saw the undeniable legacy of white oppression, exploitation, and economic domination juxtaposed with my experiences of a warm, happy, friendly, positive, hardworking people. In the dictionary, *apartheid* is defined as "an official policy of racial segregation formerly practiced in the Republic of South Africa, involving political, legal, and economic discrimination against nonwhites." It was born out of economic hardship, and white minority fear of the "black masses" (whites are about 10% of the population, blacks 85%). While experiencing economic downturn and increased competition for jobs in South Africa, there was also a gold and diamond rush, which created a need for cheap labor. The National Party came to power because of its conservative, pro-white, segregationist stance.

The oppressive laws of apartheid are grounded in the Population Registration Act of 1950, which labeled and separated people into white, black (African), or colored (of mixed decent) and the Bantu Authorities Act of 1951, which created separate "homelands" for each group. Blacks were kept or involuntarily moved far from affluent white areas, into packed slums, their movements limited by strict pass laws and brutal police force. It was only through decades of civil disobedience, guerilla warfare, countless murders, beatings, and imprisonment that the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, won equal representation through "one person, one vote" for all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender, social status, or otherwise.

In his 1994 inauguration speech, Nelson Mandela characterized apartheid as "an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long." Unfortunately, the scourge of racism is not as uncommon as we would like to believe: Apartheid is akin to some of Nazi Germany's policies (Nazi Germany in fact was supported by the South African National Party, creators of apartheid), and to the murder, enslavement, and oppression of Native Americans, African Americans, and other minorities in the United States.

This summer, I saw firsthand life and the historical legacy of apartheid in South Africa. I met many different people (from farm workers to university students to social workers) who openly and honestly shared their stories with me, and answered my questions. I read Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, which provides a powerful historical recounting of the past 70 years. So how does a country integrate this history into its present? Can a country once divided on racial lines become an integrated, equal, peaceful society?

There is an ever-present struggle in the aftermath of apartheid to create a new, balanced reality where once there was greed, fear, and misunderstanding. It is a struggle with many participants and positions. At Robben Island in particular, where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were held, there was much discussion centered on reconciliation and forgiveness. This message is particularly powerful in light of the oppressive conditions prisoners on the Island lived under. It shows the willingness of the oppressed to forgive and move forward without resentment, in an attempt to create true equality.

In the rural town of Philippolis, an elderly white woman offered her perspective that the situation has reversed: while apartheid was wrong, now white people are oppressed. She posited that those in government are greedy and unqualified, and whites are discriminated against when applying for jobs. While her statements are open for debate, I find it remarkable how quickly she took on the role of victim. Roles are not even reversed; whites still have the right to vote, still enjoy freedom of speech; but oh, how unfair equal representation is to the white people!

Separation is an easy pattern to fall into, and integration seems to be a long time coming. At the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, students remain mostly racially segregated. An attempt to integrate the dorms caused a great deal of discomfort. The main reasons cited were different culture and living habits. The dorms have voluntarily become segregated, as students of the same ethnic background have chosen to live together.

Some whites feel blamed for a historical legacy that they chalk up to their ancestors and assert that they took no part in and can do nothing to change. In reality, blacks, colored people, and Indians still suffer economically and socially from that legacy. (Talks of reparations in America fall roughly along these same lines.)

For the time being, thankfully, forgiveness and reconciliation seem to be winning out in South Africa. But only time will allow people to adjust to the ending of apartheid. As I come home to America and try to apply what I experienced in South Africa, all I hear is the echo about the African American who needs to work harder, stop being so lazy, get off of welfare. I wonder how far we have come in reconciling to our own past. As a country that is admired in South Africa, whose people gain hope and inspiration from the likes of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, Mohammed Ali, what kind of example are we setting? Are we building on the strengths of our people, celebrating commonalities and diversity, or are we continuing to oppress the weak and blame the victim?

Nelson Mandela is a powerful example of peace and forgiveness that I draw inspiration from. He was imprisoned for almost three decades, yet emerged a champion of reconciliation. Mandela's patience and wisdom helped unify his formerly segregated country nonviolently. I leave you with his words, once again from his 1994 inauguration speech:

"Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud. Our daily deeds as ordinary South Africans must produce an actual South African reality that will rein-

force humanity's belief in justice, strengthen its confidence in the nobility of the human soul, and sustain all our hopes for a glorious life for all. . .

We understand it still that there is no easy road to freedom.

We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation building, for the birth of a new world.

Let there be justice for all.

Let there be peace for all."



The Experience South Africa program is offered through Fresno State and is open to both students and non-students. For more information, contact Dr. Richard Berrett at richardb@csufresno.edu.

Catherine Garoupa is a social work graduate student at California State University, Fresno.

Celebrate and Educate: Cultures Come Together at

Tamejavi

By Anthony Cody

To begin the month of October, the Pan Valley Institute of the American Friends Service Committee will host an event in Fresno's Tower District and Theatre, unlike anything else the Central Valley has recently seen. These first three days of October will celebrate the diverse communities that weave the cultural fabric of the Central Valley, through dance, comedy, music, theater, photography, exhibits, videos, and food. These forms of artistic and cultural expression converge to create the 2004 Tamejavi Festival.

Tamejavi began three years ago and culminated with the first Tamejavi Festival in April of 2002. The word *Tamejavi* is derived from the word *marketplace*, being combined from three different languages: Hmong (*taj laj tshav puam*), Spanish (*mercado*) and Mixteco (*nunjavi*), although the celebration highlights many more groups than just these three. The marketplace is important, as it is where people come together across regional boundaries to share their experiences and learn from others. Thus it is the hope that all Valley cultures will come together to celebrate their own cultural identity, as well as learn from other cultures to help unite and strengthen the community at large.

To help bring these communities together, the Pan Valley Institute has been on a two-year journey with many people around the Valley. Trainings and cultural exchanges have been held to allow participants the chance to share and learn from each other, as well as build members' capacity to improve their own communities. This process will be celebrated through the festival. However, it cannot be said that this is simply an event that will come and go, ending the journey,

for the goal is to continue to share and learn from one another both during and after the festival. There will be discussions after performances, forums held on a variety of issues, and a sitting area in the marketplace to simply sit and reflect on the happenings. It is this post-event dialogue—which most people have after attending any event—which hopefully will spark further celebrations like the Tamejavi Festival.

What better way to celebrate a diverse community of cultures than through an equally diverse spectrum of art? Four theater performances will be held on wide ranging topics: from the struggles of youth, to immigrant stories of coming to America, to reflections on Cambodia, to the biography of a field worker turned organizer. A film series that will range from locally produced films to an Academy Award-nominated documentary chronicling the experience of the 1994 Cuban rafters. A well-known Hmong comedian, whose comedy ranges from Elvis impersonations to reflections on cultural identity. This lists only a few of the vast number of performances that will be held, and each are rich in cultural tradition, history, and meaning, and should be witnessed, heard, felt, tasted, and touched to gain a full appreciation of their significance.

Most important, these three days look a lot like the dream that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once had—cultures celebrating with one another despite differences and realizing commonalities—but which we so often forget. We pass eyes that have stories, but we neglect to ask them to be shared. Yet they will be told, as voices will connect, a journey will be shared, and the Valley's cultures will celebrate on October 1–3 at the 2004 Tamejavi Festival.

A Sign of CHANGE, Part II!

By Gevorg Cholakyan

CHAANGE's program director, Gary Dennis, reported to you with great enthusiasm in last month's article the great progress CHAANGE and other community members were making with Councilmember Sterling in regard to our billboard campaign. CHAANGE collaborated with concerned community members willing to aid us in the development of 10 billboards to be displayed in the 93706 zip code. We were all very excited and grateful that not only the county but also the city expressed interest in funding this project. Both the county and the city were scheduled to report to us their positions and possible contributions at our August 27 meeting.

To our great dismay, however, Sterling's staffer Marlin Ezell failed to appear at our meeting to present Sterling's response to CHAANGE's proposal. CHAANGE's office received a phone message from Sterling's people indicating that the city will be unable to fund the billboard campaign. The city reported that its budget has been cut because of the "No Neighborhood Left Behind" project. This clearly illustrates that we have a long road ahead of us when it comes not only to educating our community on HIV/AIDS prevention but also to making it apparent to our city leaders that such an epidemic does exist. Public health is taking a back seat to infrastructure, and this raises major concerns for CHAANGE and community residents.

According to Jean Kennedy, a professor of Women's Studies at Fresno City College and also our regional consultant, HIV/AIDS is not only a health issue

but also an economic development issue. We need to make that fact known to our city leaders. The health of a city's residents reflects the status of the city's employment level. It's our greatest fear and concern here at CHAANGE that an increase in a debilitating disease such as AIDS may increase our city's unemployment rate. Our leaders must acknowledge this link between health and economics in order to help combat the epidemic. CHAANGE is determined not to give up the fight! The city's reluctance to help fund our projects does not mean an end: it's only the beginning in spreading awareness.

This issue and others will be discussed at our state convention. CHAANGE is pleased to announce that our state convention will be hosted by the San Joaquin Valley chapter November 5 and 6. Hardworking volunteers are making preparations for this exciting event. CHAANGE is expected to host more than 150 guests, who will come together from across the state to discuss state priorities for next year's Advocacy Day. Other local community organizations are encouraged to join our convention. HIV/AIDS issues are very important to us here in the Valley, and we need the community's help to send that message to Sacramento. Please contact CHAANGE at (559) 268-1969 or Gary.Dennis@CHAANGE.org if you are interested in attending our event.

CHAANGE doesn't make *change* on its own: We have outstanding volunteers who give their time to the community. If you would like to get involved and work with this fabulous staff, please contact us soon. Community members are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be held October 1, at 1-3 PM, at 1584 N Van Ness, (the southeast corner of McKinley and Van Ness just south of Fresno City College). If you are unable to attend our fun-filled meetings, you can make it up to us with dollars. Please make your checks payable to CHAANGE/ San Joaquin Valley, 1584 N Van Ness Ave, Fresno, CA 93728.

Smiling Seriously: Creative Genius at Work

By Mike Rhodes

If you are a progressive political activist in Fresno, you have seen him with his video camera at your event. You may have watched his video docu-poems edited by him and his wife, Maia, at SunMt film festival; caught a glimpse of their work on channel 49, Free Speech TV, or IndyMedia; or even visited SunMt's 1200+ page Web site <www.sunmt.org>. George (Elfie) Ballis and Maia Ballis are recognizable figures in the community, their work and reputation traveling way beyond the Central Valley. In 1991, Maia was named by WILPF as one of "20 Fresno Women committed to Change." In 1997, the *Fresno Bee* in its 75th year anniversary edition picked Elfie as one of "75 who made a difference." His quintessential farm worker march photo was the article header.

His father named him George; but the "Elfie" name he now prefers came from Chris Welch of KPFA. She called his playful style of talking and dealing with heavy issues "elfin" during several interviews with him on her KPFA morning show. Ballis says, "Early on I was a George, a warrior. Now I'm an Elfie, a dancer."

Elfie has a long history in photojournalism beginning on the streets of Chicago in 1951. In 1953 Ballis escaped his wire editor job at the *Wall Street Journal* in San Francisco to become editor of the *Valley Labor Citizen* (VLC), the publication of the Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare county Central Labor Council. He was the editor until 1966 when a dispute arose over the paper's support of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Worker movement. The local liberal union leaders supported Elfie through his editorial unkindnesses to Jimmy Hoffa, George Meany, and the then-racist building trades unions; but they balked when their paper printed big-time support for La Huelga. Elfie resigned just before he would have been fired. The publication folded soon after and remained dormant for more than 20 years. (In an interesting twist of fate, the CLC publication was resurrected in 2000 when John Veen, then the editor of the *Community Alliance*, left this publication and became the editor of the new *Valley Labor Citizen*. But that is another story.)

Rather than get a pay raise at VLC, Ballis was able to reduce his hours so he could focus some of his seemingly boundless energies on civil rights in the South, and on social change and environmental issues, from local to national. He was mentored in photography by Dorothea Lange, and on western water issues by Paul Taylor. He became a freelance photographer, joining the American Society of Magazine Photographers (ASMP).

In the mid-1950s Ballis started chronicling the lives of farm workers and the United Farm Worker union in the Central Valley. His pictures are unique because he was a part of the lives of farm workers and the movement to build the union. He was not seen, and did not see himself, as an outsider trying to get a few pictures of these hard workers who put food on the nation's table. His relationship to the farm worker movement was one of mutual respect and admiration. Elfie views himself as an advocate—not a documentarian or a "news" person. Today, you will see Elfie's pictures of farm workers enshrined in monuments, posters, and most books and films honoring Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Worker movement. Elfie views the farm worker movement "as a natural for me. My photographic passions are focused on people, organizing and Big Mama (the Earth), issues all wrapped up in the farm worker movement. At 15, I began my work career in the fields pollinating corn for new hybrids for a Minnesota seed company. In the late 60's I was a part-time organizer for a farm worker union that preceded the United Farm Workers Union."

In 1962–63, as president of the Fresno Democratic Association, Elfie organized the club into the second largest Democratic club in California: a broad coalition of liberals, seniors, veterans, unionists, and professors. He used one-on-one organizing and lively, entertaining meetings on current issues to generate interest.

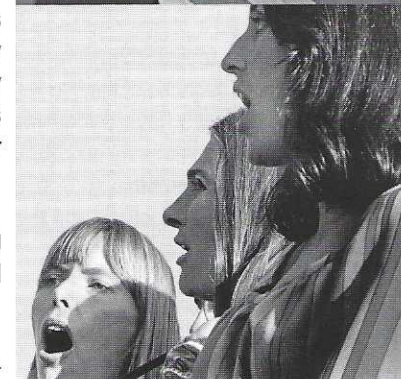
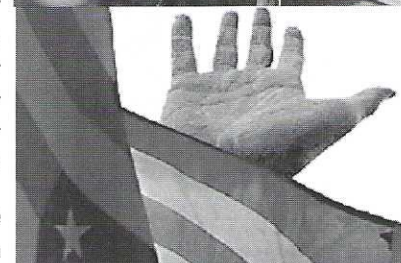
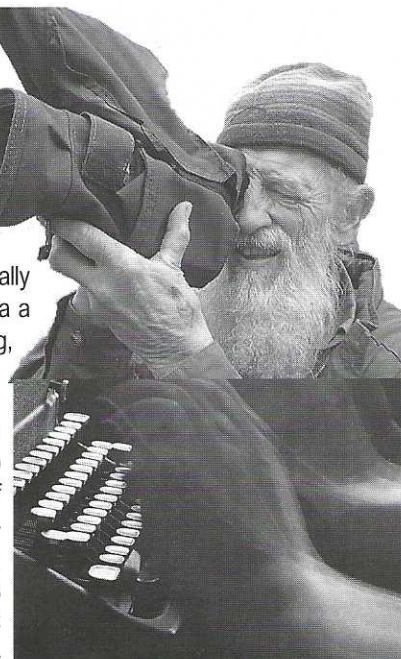
In 1963–64, Elfie photographed and researched with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the Mississippi civil rights movement. In the summer of 1964 he traveled from Mississippi to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegates. He photographed these democratically elected delegates who were not seated via a sell out by Walter Reuther, Martin Luther King, and Hubert Humphrey.

In 1968, Ballis and Ed Dutton did a class on the power structure of the Valley at Fresno State with Elfie's one "obscene picture" of the corporate ag land domination of the Central Valley. In the late 1960s into the 1970s, Elfie led community organizing workshops throughout the Southwest, including UC Davis and Fresno State, always emphasizing grassroots people-power. When folks tried to pin down his favorite political -ism, he would counter, "I'm a disjointed incrementalist—seeing any opening in any situation to expand people power."

In 1967 Elfie was photographing the building of a self-help housing project in Kingsburg when he first saw Maia. At the time she was a multimedia specialist working for a migrant education program, and had volunteered to use her interior design background to advise the new homeowners on paint colors. At the end of the day Maia in a green Sprite and Elfie in a red Sprite found themselves side by side. Elfie smiled, "Lady, do you want to drag?" She didn't. She thought he was a wild man. "She was right," Elfie brags. "But that is my essential charm." "Charm?" Maia retorts. "His wildness is the price of admission. Of course, it's worth it." This opening flirt flowered into an ongoing 36-year partnership in passionate social activism. In a seven-day-a-week, eighteen-hour-a-day collaboration, they blend their skills in multimedia (film/photography, fine art, design, computer graphics, writing, and editing) with continuing research and experiments in a green lifestyle.

Their first significant joint project was the 1969 production of a 16mm color film with El Teatro Campesino: *I Am Joaquin*. This 20-minute film-poem of Chicano history was an instant prizewinner and is still widely used in college ethnic study classes across the country. They went on to produce other films:

- *The Oakland Five*: Blacks struggling with an oppressive Oakland school board.
- *The Dispossessed*: Pit River Indians try-





ing to reclaim their tribal lands from PG&E, the *Los Angeles Times*, Southern Pacific Railroad and the *San Francisco Examiner*. Ballis helped the tribal elders do the ownership research and organizing, then filmed the action. He knew he was accepted by the tribe when a woman elder starting calling him "Chief Golden Hair."

- *Toughest Game in Town*: Poor Chicanos in Santa Fe, New Mexico, organizing for political and economic power.
- *The Richest Land*: The glory and shame of California agriculture.

In 1970, for Jim Hightower's Corporate Responsibility Project, Maia and Elfie charted all the boards that the Del Monte corporation's board of directors also sat on. It was a graphic illustration of the broad, intertwined jungle of corporate interests and it was used to support regulating legislation.

Maia and Elfie also produced several important photo books on community organizing, most notably, *Visit Oakland the Friendly City: The Politics of Poverty in Oakland*.

In 1980-81 Elfie was national president of Rural America, a Washington, DC-based advocacy group for rural community groups across the country.

In 1974 they began full-time organizing on land-water issues.

It was during the struggle against the large landowners on the West side that I first meet Elfie and Maia. At the time, in addition to working on National Land for People, they were instrumental in establishing Our Store (1975), a food coop in Fresno. We had no by-laws, no officers, no paid employees. Simple, direct, people-controlled democracy. Our Store, which was located at Echo and Weldon (across from Fresno High School) not only sold organic food in bulk, but created a sense of community. It was a meeting place and somewhere that people could learn more about peace and social and economic justice. One of National Land for People's

education tools was to take people on a "reality tour" of the Central Valley. People would come from all over the state to learn about the political and social reality of the Central Valley. Elfie would be the tour guide as the bus would take people out to the West side where they would see huge tracts of land that were made valuable at the taxpayers' expense. The bus would then visit an organic farm run as a cooperative to show what the alternative to corporate welfare and large agribusiness operations would look like. After that, the tour would visit Our Store to illustrate what an alternative food distribution network looks like. It was visceral education in eating as a political act, as Elfie called it.

From 1956 through 1982, Ballis with Berge Bulbulian and a band of small farmers carried forth an epic struggle for small farmers' water rights in Fresno's Westlands Water District and throughout all the federally irrigated Western States. The 1902 law had never been enforced anywhere. In 1975 National Land for People (NLP) was formally incorporated as a community-based political group for lobbying with a separate nonprofit corporation (501C3) to raise funds for public education and court cases to hold large farmers accountable for the water they received in the Westlands Water District through the publicly financed California Aqueduct.

In 1977 NLP moved their offices to their six-acre organic farm, the Magical Pear Tree, west of Fresno after their downtown offices were burglarized twice by the Biggies' agents. The Biggies also tapped NLP's phones, did a make on Elfie's life back to 2 days before conception and even pressured Wells-Fargo to get copies of NLP's monthly bank statements.

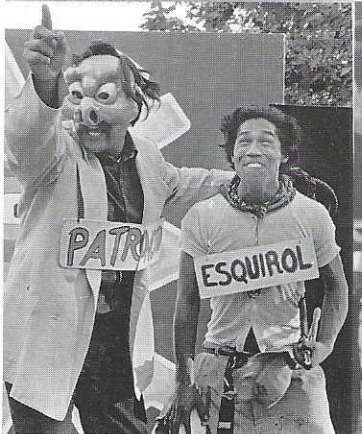
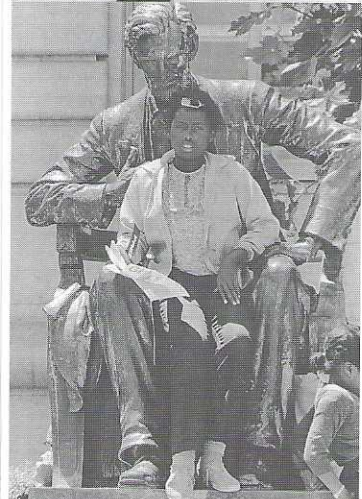
Farmers paid only 5% of the water's actual cost, which enriched large land owners like Southern Pacific Railroad and Standard Oil. The federal law required that large (Biggie) landowners had to sign contracts agreeing that after 10 years of subsidized use, they would have to sell all land in excess of 160 acres at dry land prices (cheap) to new farmers. The Ballises with a small staff and board did research, educated the public, and took litigation to the Supreme Court level to try to enforce the law.

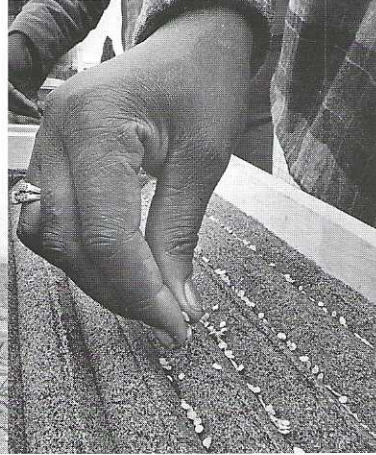
The Biggies avoided honoring their contracts any way they could. One way they avoided the intent of the law—but complied with the letter of the law—was to break up large holdings into 160-acre lots by giving relatives, friends, and employees (on paper only) 160 acres that they never saw or farmed. Some did not even know they "owned" land when contacted by NLP.

When NLP won support in the courts to force large owners to live up to the spirit of the law, the large growers screamed violation of private property rights and threw enough money to lobbyists and contributions to the right congressional campaigns to rewrite the Reclamation Law. In the end, NLP won the battle in the courts but lost the war in the media and Congress. When big business interests want something badly enough, they simply change the rules of the game.

The spiral strategy of NLP was: "We must grow a social structure which will actively support many people owning subsidized agricultural land." At their small farm, in addition to the water fight, NLP staff did organic-farming demonstra-

Continued on page 16





Smiling continued from page 15

tions with the federal Office for Alternative Energy directed by John Ballis. In addition, Marc Lasher organized a farmers' marketing co-op, direct marketing maps, and farmers' markets; and George, Marc and Maia helped organize and sustain Our Store.

Administrative-organizing staff included at various times Gloria Hernandez, Lupe Ortiz, Jessie de la Cruz, Barbara Perzigian, Chuck Gardiner, Ann Williamson, Jim Ekland, Dave Heavyside, David Nesmith, Donna Martin, Ray Hemenes, Geneva Gillard, Vicki Sorter, and Lang Russell.

NLP got foundation grants for several years. When they had money, everyone—including Elfie as coordinator—was paid the same salary: \$800 monthly.

In 1980, as the farm was taken into the City of Fresno, NLP lobbied city and county officials to support their organic farm in the city. They were told to pack, so NLP sold to subdivider John Bonadelle and moved to 40 acres near Tollhouse. They converted it to a land trust called SunMt, a 501C3 corporation supported entirely by memberships, donations, and sales of products and services.

They designed and built a green building run primarily with solar energy, with the trial composting toilet for Fresno County, a gray-water system, and many energy-conservation devices to demonstrate how people can live more simply and in harmony with "Big Mama." A virtual SunHouse tour is available on the web at <www.sunmt.org/embracing.html>. SunMt has been working on the design of the first straw-bale building in Fresno County for several years now. This green building system could reduce air pollution from the burning of ag-waste straw, which is a superior insulating material.

SunMt focuses on both community and individual responsibility. "We must walk our talk," Maia and Elfie say. "We must not only demand good work from the Bushes and the Clintons. We must look in our mirrors and demand of ourselves lives of peace, justice, and ecological sensibility in matters over which we have control—like our food, transportation, and clothes. Example: If we all used solar ovens in this land of the sun, energy use in this area would plummet. Besides, living this way is all great fun. On sunny summer days our PG&E meter runs backwards because our solar electric system is generating so much power.

Wow! We encourage ourselves and others to become the joyful peace and justice we seek. Living as best we can our personal and community lives the way we want the world to be."

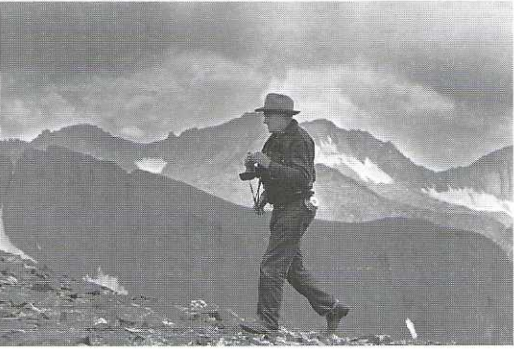
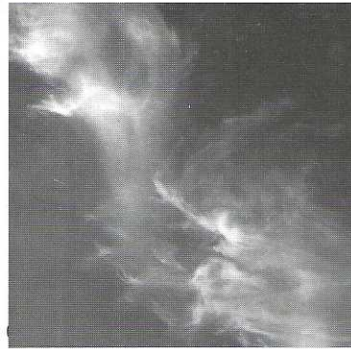
SunMt has just published a CD of Maia & Elfie's 30+ years of plant explorations: *SunMt Herbal Cookery*, an in-depth guide on how to harvest and use native and domestic plants for taste, health, and fun. See it at <sunmt.org/cookery.html>.

The spiritual core of SunMt revolves around "Monday morning shamanic medicine," a homegrown update of the ancient ways. Elfie explains, "Every being, everything, is sacred. Connected. We can communicate with and learn from each other. The doorway is sacred ceremony using a world medicine drum in group, tribal gatherings. The beat of the drum, the heartbeat of the earth, awakens our cellular, tribal memories. For many more generations than we have been civilized, we were tribalized. Not just American Indians but all of us worldwide. SunMt restored that ancient way in us and in the many others who have come to share in and amplify this essential magic for greater peace, justice, and harmony." From their medicine adventures, Elfie wrote and Maia illustrated a book called *Rainbow Elf, Shamanic Visions for our Monday Mornings*.

Their return to motion pictures was a video that started out as a love letter from Elfie to Maia. The piece ended up as *Elfie's Eye, The Second Coming*. A cinematic caress of SunMt. It won a 1999 Telly award, which Elfie says resembles an Academy Award statuette, "but it was delivered by UPS guy, not an actress."

While SunMt is the focus of much of Elfie and Maia's attention, most readers know them for their video docu-poems at local events. Elfie's shot of Peace Fresno cop infiltrator Aaron Kilner made it into Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." Many people are on the SunMt e-mail list and see almost instant coverage of local events in the progressive community. The video is almost like an alternative media. View Elfie-Maia video at <sunmt.org/archives.html>. Links from there will take you to many more details about the work at SunMt, as well as some interesting information about Elfie's earlier life as a marine in the Pacific Islands during World War II. He joined up at 18 in 1943. Elfie recalls: "The marines kept their promise. They made a man out of me. Only it was not the man they had in mind" <www.sunmt.org/WWII.html>.

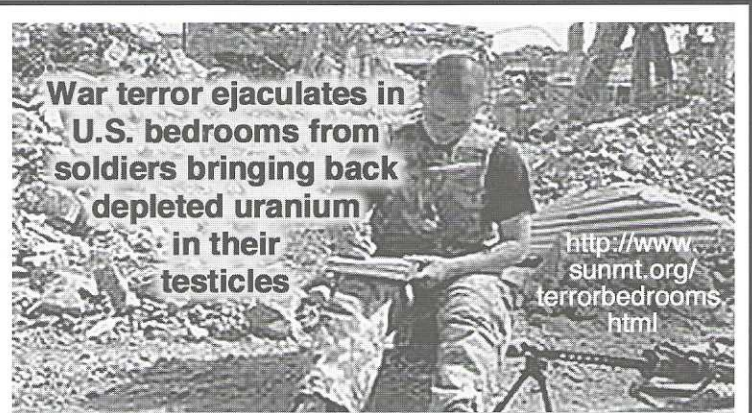
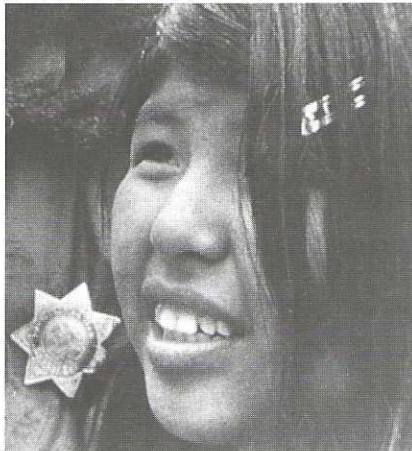
Elfie and Maia dance their media and organizing skills in a multitude of "differ-





ent" issues across the ethnic face of America. They use the word *we* in all their work. "Seems quite natural for us," Elfie says. "We all are one people whose lives affect each other. There is no *them*. Only *us*. All the seemingly different issues boil down to one word: *respect*. Respect for life. For each other. For all our relations—all beings animate and inanimate."

Through the SunMt Campus Outreach Program, Elfie takes video docu-poems and his many decades' worth of organizing stories to college campuses for class and evening presentations. Details at www.sunmt.org/campus.html. To receive updates directly from SunMt, send an e-mail saying you would like to be on the e-mail network to mail@sunmt.org.



War terror ejaculates in U.S. bedrooms from soldiers bringing back depleted uranium in their testicles

<http://www.sunmt.org/terrorbedrooms.html>

We mark 9-11 by picketing armed forces with a horn symphony of support

<http://www.sunmt.org/sep11chron04.html>

Rising Up Filmfest

Visions of hope & inspiration

second annual

Sun. Oct. 17, 2004
Starline Theater - 833 E Fern - Fresno



SunMt Docu-poems by George Elfie Ballis with Footage used in Fahrenheit 9/11

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- See us: dance our soulful street theater
- sow seeds of peace at Camp Harmony
 - give Pinochio Bush the nose
 - honor all victims of terror
 - mourn our killed sons
 - expose cop spy
 - and more

Teachers: send students to see extra/ordinary folks creatively, joyfully, effectively engaged in public actions for a better world.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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

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

WILPF DATES:

Wednesday, October 6, Noon: Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway

Thursday, October 7, 7 PM: NEW WILPF General Membership Meeting. 1584 N Van Ness Ave. Candidates running for 29th Assembly District will provide us with a forum along with a discussion from Anita Barron of FACT (Families to Amend California's Three Strikes) about Proposition 66.

Monday, October 11, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting. 1584 N Van Ness Ave

Wednesday, October 27, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir It Up. Hosted by Vickie Fouts

Saturday, December 4, 10 AM-4 PM: WILPF Peace Community Crafts Faire

New Interns: This year we have two new social work graduate students interns to help us in our work, Rick Petinak and Lupe Orosco. We hope to have a reception to introduce them to the movers and shakers in the progressive community some time in October. Stay tuned for details.

This year we are limiting the focus of our interns' work, instead of having them work all over the place. At this time both of them will be working on the Metro Ministry Fresh Food Access Assessment, possible renewal of peace education in the schools, and outreach to women of color and youth. Lupe will work on outreach to the Spanish-speaking community and Rick will be working on the possibility of a future military draft and Conscientious Objectors' documentation. Below is a message from both of them. They will also help at times with putting on different programs.

Rick: Hello . . . my name is Rick Petinak. I am a second-year part-time MSW grad student at CSUF. I am excited to have been placed for my internship duties with WILPF as well as the FCNV. Social justice and community activism have always been close to my heart, but I have had little hands-on experience or exposure to the daily struggle shared by so many of the dedicated women and men in the progressive movement. I am looking forward to the challenge ahead.

To let you know a little more about me . . . I am a 33-year-old married male of Serbian ancestry with two children. I am originally from San Diego but lived in the Fresno area most of my life. I moved away to the Bay Area and Sacramento for about six years but recently returned, after having finished my undergraduate work at CSU Hayward in 2001 (Liberal Studies/Sociology). I worked as a program coordinator with developmentally disabled adults for five years and as a teacher for DD and SED kids for two years.

Again, I want to thank everyone who has shown me such kindness and encouragement and I hope to meet the rest of you in the local movement soon.

Lupe: My name is Guadalupe Orosco. I am a second-year part-time MSW student at Fresno State. I was born in Fresno and raised in Cutler, a small community within Tulare County. I come from a farm-working family. I have six brothers and three sisters. I saw the struggles that my parents faced and that encouraged me to further my education. I choose social work as my career because I felt that I could connect with others because of the challenges that my family and I faced growing



Our new intern, Lupe Orosco, at UFW march in Reedley on September 10 to draw attention to problems they are having with the California Highway Patrol.

up. I am really looking forward to being part of WILPF. I feel that this opportunity will make me grow and I will learn more about social justice.

Culture of Peace: Stop the Hate Week: Our Women's Spirituality Panel was asked to be part of the events at CSUF September 28 to October 8. The theme was "How I use my spirituality to stop hate and build a culture of peace in my life." What an honor.

Jane Addams Peace Monument: We are up to \$1300 in donations from WILPF members. The interns will be working on a public event to turn the donations over to the fundraising committee. Stay tuned for details.

9/11 Memorial: At the CSUF 9/11 Memorial on September 9, three of the four children passing out candles were former WILPF Camp Harmony Campers. What a nice way to keep in touch and put their peace education into practice. WILPF also did tabling at the event and many students stopped by to pick up literature and to sign up to receive our newsletter inside the *Community Alliance* on a trial basis.

By-Laws: At our September 13 meeting we voted to accept the revised by-laws. There are several important changes, so please contact me if you wish a copy. We also did a first reading of five items for Policy and Procedures. They include: Collaboration with other peace groups/organizations, Consensus Building, Membership Directory, Policies and Procedures, Priority Setting. We will do a second reading at the October meeting, and if there are no concerns we will vote to accept them. We still have several items for the committee to work on before bringing to the board meetings. Thanks to Marilyn Shelton for chairing the by-laws committee and the committee members, Ingrid Carmean, Vickie Fouts, Jan Slagter, and Ruth Obel-Jorgensen for all their hard work. If you want a copy of the draft of Policies and Procedures, please let me know.

Quote of the Month: "If a man hasn't found something he will die for, he isn't fit to live. Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." —Martin Luther King, Jr.

This page is paid for by WILPF, who has complete editorial control of the content.

MOVIE NIGHTS—AND DAYS? The success of showing *Outfoxed* has led us to plan a series of current videos on the second Wednesday of each month. The October showing is *Hijacking Catastrophe*, on how the Bush administration used 9/11 as the screen for implementing its agenda for national and global domination. *Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear and the Selling of American Empire* is narrated by Julian Bond. It features interviews with more than twenty of the most important political observers of our time, including Scott Ritter, Noam Chomsky, Medea Benjamin, and William Hartung. The date is October 13; the time is 7:30 PM.

We will also be experimenting with noon-hour video screenings geared toward FCC students. Stay tuned for details.

PAIR UP: Now is the time to join the Pairs Project—this is your chance to be matched with an “opposite” (political, religious, ethnic, etc.) for enlightening acquaintance-ship. *This is important work*: please help it to succeed. Applications are available at the Center, by phone, or at the Center’s website. You can also help by inviting us to recruit at any group you can get us entree to. (I am inviting Mayor Autry to be my pair—I’ll report on his reply next month.)

BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT: We have openings on our Board for people who believe in our mission and have the time to work on fulfilling it. Our constant challenges are to maintain the fiscal and physical integrity of our facility; to find ways to educate about the centrality of nonviolence to a better, safer world; and to create activities that build understanding between groups. If you are interested, let us know and we will talk with you.

GANDHI VIA MARKS: Another quote from Gandhi, selected by Diane Marks: “Civil Disobedience, mass or individual, is an aid to Constructive effort and is a full substitute for armed revolt. Training is necessary as well for Civil Disobedience as for armed revolt. Only the ways are different.” Constructive Program, 1945

CELEBRATE GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY AND COME TO OUR CENTER'S ANNUAL BOOK SALE (CDS AND VIDEOS TOO!) IN THE PARKING LOT @ SOUTHWEST CORNER OF OLIVE AND N VAN NESS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 8 AM - 2 PM THE CENTER IS SEEKING DONATIONS OF BOOKS, CDS, AND VIDEOS (ALSO VOLUNTEERS). PLEASE CALL US AT 237-3223 OR ANGELA AT 435-6383.

**Fresno Center for Nonviolence
1584 N Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 237-3223 • fcnv@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence>**

THE WELCH REPORT

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

STILL ON CATASTROPHE'S EDGE



The most serious danger still confronting the United States lies in the thousands of Russian nuclear warheads that are targeted here. The targeting strategy of Russia and the United States has changed little despite the profound change in relations between the two nations since the end of the Cold War 15 years ago. A January 2002 document from the US Foreign Military Studies Office states that New York City is the single most important target in the Atlantic region after major military installations.

A US Office of Technology Assessment report from the 1980s (still relevant) estimated that Soviet nuclear war plans had two one-megaton (million ton) bombs aimed at each of three airports serving New York, one aimed at each of the major bridges, two at Wall Street and two at each of four oil refineries. Major rail centers, power stations, and port facilities also were targeted. Millions of people would die instantly from such an attack, and survivors would perish shortly thereafter from burns and exposure to radiation.

Russia aims most of its 8,200 nuclear warheads at the United States. The United States maintains 7,000 offensive strategic warheads in its arsenal, most of which are targeted on Russian missile silos and command centers. Each of these warheads has roughly 20 times the destructive power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Of the 7,000 US nuclear warheads, 2,500 are maintained on hair-trigger alert, ready for launching. In order to retaliate effectively, the commander of the Strategic Air Command has only three minutes to decide if a nuclear attack warning is valid. He has 10 minutes to find the president for a 30-second briefing on attack options, and the president has three minutes to decide whether to launch the warheads and at which targets, according to the Center for Defense Information (the upcoming presidential election is, indeed, important!). Launched

missiles would reach Russian targets in 15 to 30 minutes.

A nearly identical situation prevails in Russia, except there the early-warning system is decaying rapidly. The early-warning systems of both countries register alarms daily, triggered by wildfires, satellite launchings, and solar reflections off clouds or oceans. Of immediate concern is the difficulty of guaranteeing protection of computerized early-warning systems and command centers against terrorists or hackers.

The two nuclear superpowers still own 96% of the global nuclear arsenal of 30,000 nuclear weapons; their nuclear planning and ongoing targeting are the major threats to national security. The Senate and House armed services committees and foreign relations committees must address these ongoing threats to the people of the United States and, indeed, the world.

Russia and the United States are now self-described allies in their fight against global terrorism, and their first duty in this effort should be immediate and rapid bilateral nuclear disarmament, accompanied by the other six nuclear nations (France, Britain, China, India, Pakistan, and Israel), along with UN Security Council action to ensure that no other nations, particularly Iran and North Korea, acquire nuclear weapons.

According to the director of International Atomic Energy Agency, a clear road map for nuclear disarmament needs to be established. “Time is not on our side.”

(Source: Commentary by Robert McNamara, former secretary of Defense for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and Dr. Helen Caldicott, president of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute [and early head of Physicians for Social Responsibility] in *Los Angeles Times* April 26, 2004.)

This page is paid for by the FCNV, who has complete editorial control of the content.

Grassroots Profiles of Local Activists: Anita Barron

By Richard Stone

Anita Barron is the Fresno lead organizer for Families Against California Three Strikes (FACTS), an organization dedicated to amending that Mike Reynolds-inspired legislation.

Anita is surprised to find herself considered a leader, a term she never before used to describe herself. Yet now, as efforts to pass Proposition 66—to change “Three Strikes” to impact only violent criminals—are reaching a crescendo before the November election, Anita is the key figure in mounting the “yes” drive in Fresno.

She finds herself doing TV interviews (channels, 30, 24, 21) and speaking on the KFCF airwaves. She sells (and models) “Fix 3-Strikes, Yes on 66” T-shirts. She organizes tabling at grocery stores and organizes fundraising car washes, where patrons get campaign literature and an earful of information. She’s spent countless hours on the phone reminding people of meetings and commitments, and letting them know how important their contributions are to the task at hand. She orders campaign materials and distributes them. She networks, networks, networks. She has become “an organizer.”

How did this happen to a family-oriented mother of two? She recalls it began with a conversation with a family member, someone with two strikes who had already been wrenched from his family for years because of “possession.” He told her that three strikes meant that any encounter with the police could leave him vulnerable to a life sentence. She didn’t believe it. He told her to check out the FACTS website. She couldn’t believe what she read.

She told herself, “This isn’t right,” and decided to volunteer. When she called State headquarters, she found that the Fresno chapter had disbanded. If she wanted to do the work here, she’d have to re-establish it . . . and apparently if she didn’t, no one else was going to.

The moment of decision came. She’d heard the axiom, “One person can make a difference”—she hadn’t realized she could be a “one.” But she knew the law impacted the poor and people of color disproportionately, that jails did not rehabilitate but were typically sentences to a life of dysfunction not only for the incarcerated but for their families as well. She said, “I have to at least try.” So her leadership role began.

Anita soon learned that being “the one” does not mean working alone. She has received wonderful organizational support from the Fresno County Democratic Committee, the Stonewall Democratic Club, the Kennedy Club, the Latino Caucus—and she has special appreciation for Ray Ensher, Maria Telesco, Jay Hubbell, Barbara Pyle, and Paulina Mirandez. And Anita has her “posse” too: Maxine, Jim, Doris, Anna, Yolanda, Roseanna, Carolina, Alicia were the first who came to mind.

On the other hand, the work has had its inevitable disappointments. She is still taken aback when what she calls “hardcore Republican types” say—and seem to believe—that people are lining up to get into prison for the free perks. She has learned not to argue with such people but rather to kill them with kindness: to appeal to their goodness and their desire to keep families intact. She has also had to accept that even allies often say, “Sure I’ll vote for Prop 66, but it’s just not a priority for my time or money.”

Anita says she is sustained in the work largely by the encouragement of family and friends, and by the thought that she may be changing a few lives—both

Poetry Corner

A submission from Herbert Scott, son of fellow editorial board member Diane, a previously featured poet. Must be in the genes.

UNDRAPED COFFIN

I loved my country—loved all countries.
I soldiered, but that was not me.
I claim my body now.

My quick flesh was used, and I was aware,
but today I serve no flag.
I claim my body now.

Smoke from my body takes to the air,
in time, rains down on Sunnis.
They’ll have my body now.

My body melts into the earth,
and waters take it toward the sea
which waits my body now.
I am my body now.

those she convinces to vote Yes (“I try for one, and then one more”) and those whose lives will be changed if Prop 66 passes. She says also that it helps to have a deadline: “After November 2, I’m not in charge anymore!”

Of course the bigger job will be far from over then, and Anita plans to continue working with folks like Debbie Reyes and Maria Telesco in the ongoing effort to stop more prisons from being built, to improve conditions for inmates, and to revive notions of rehabilitation instead of punishment. Meanwhile she says, “Yes on 66—tell the world.”

Anita’s contact info: 325-0443, or anitab@lakos.com

Website: yes66.org

FACTS meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 6 PM at the Center for Nonviolence.



Birthplace—Fresno

Primary identities—Hispanic professional woman

Religious affiliations—non-denominational

Political affiliation—Democrat

Neighborhoods frequented—Clovis (home), southeast Fresno

Inspiring role models—Cesar Chavez, Ray Ensher, Maria Telesco

Nonpolitical interests—arts & crafts, gardening, time with kids

Unexpected pleasure—salsa dancing: “I don’t live on Music Ave. for nothing”

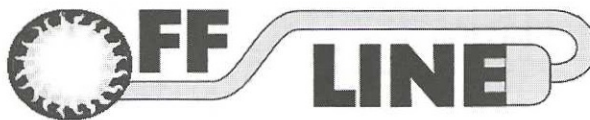
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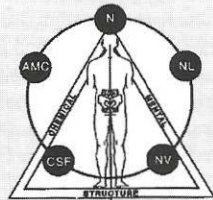
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October 1-3

The Tamejavi festival will be held in the Tower District. For more information, see the article on page 13 or go to: <http://www.tamejavi.org/>

Friday, October 1 • 6:30 - 8 PM

The Reedley Peace Center will view the documentary *Color of Fear*. The *Color of Fear* is a film about the state of race relations in America as seen through the eyes of eight North American men of Asian, European, Latino and African descent. In a series of confrontations the men reveal the pain and scars that racism has caused them. What emerges is a deeper sense of understanding and trust. This is the dialogue most of us fear, but hope will happen sometime in our lifetime.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen@telis.org

Saturday, October 2 • 8 AM - 2 PM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence book sale will be held on the south west corner of Olive and N. Van Ness.

Saturday, October 2 • 7 PM

Faith Petric and Jon Adams at the Wolk Garden, 6661 N Forkner. Jon Adams, that interstate minstrel who sings "anything you can get away with at a campfire" performs with Faith Petric, Queen of the SF folk music scene. Hon describes faith as performing "social open heart surgery"; she opens your heart to social injustices and dives right in. Jon describes his music as "connect the dots between O Brother! and Oh my God!" Friends and fellow performers since the mid 60's, together their repertoire can fill a Fort Knox of music with songs ranging from the outrageous to sweet lullabies. Celebrate Faith's 89th Birthday at this event. For more information call (559) 431-3653.

Tuesday, October 5 • 6 PM

The Central Valley Progressive PAC general meeting. For the location of the meeting, go to: <http://www.cvppac.org/>, call (559) 978-4502, or email info@cvppac.org.

Wednesday, October 6 • 12 Noon

Fresno Metro Ministry presents: Hunger and Nutrition Forum #48 at Trinity Lutheran Church 3973 N. Cedar, Fresno (between Ashlan and Dakota on the West Side of Cedar). This will be a Vision for healthy Fresno schools with candidates for the Fresno Unified School District.

Wednesday, October 6 • 7 PM

The next "Great Fresno Oxford Debate" will be held at the Fresno Newman Center with representatives of various political parties debating why their candidate should be elected president of the US. Contact Vincent Lavery for more information: 455-0821

Friday, October 8 • 5 PM and 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents *The Story of the Weeping Camel* at the Tower Theatre. An enchanting mixture of drama, documentary and fable, the film follows the adventures of a nomadic Mongolian family who reunite a rejected baby camel with its mother. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, and at the door. Tickets are \$9.00; \$7.00, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to www.fresnofilmworks.org.

Friday, October 8 • 6:30 - 8 PM

The Reedley Peace Center will present Joe Manickam of the Center for Anabaptist Leadership will speak about finding new frameworks for understanding race. This will begin his weekend of talks at First Mennonite Church where his general topic is "Understanding Race for Mission."

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen@telis.org

Friday, October 8 • 6 - 8 PM

Proposition 72 event at Sierra Lanes Bowling Alley (Blackstone and Sierra) sponsored by Save Our Healthcare Coalition. Union members, doctors and nurses will get together to share information and music.

Saturday, October 9 • 1 - 3 PM

Award-winning author David Mas Masumoto, a third generation organic farmer who grows and peaches and grapes in the San Joaquin Valley, will sign copies of his book, "Letters to the Valley: A Harvest of Memories," at the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, 5094 N. Palm Ave., Fresno. [Heydey Books, \$19.95] The book is written in the form of casual letters from a farmer to members of his family. They capture the rhythms of life and work in an orchard. Alice Waters, owner of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, says, "Mas Masumoto's honest and poetic voice informs the reader gently but emphatically about the values we need to create a sustainable society." Information: 226-1845.

Saturday, October 9 • 3 PM

Fund raiser for local Green Party candidates Larry Mullen and John Crockford at 4773 N Arthur in Fresno. Call (559) 226-0477 for more information.

Sunday, October 10

Deadline for articles and calendar items to the November, 2004 Community Alliance magazine. Send information to AllianceEditor@Comcast.net

Sunday, October 10 • 2 - 5 PM

Peace and Dignity journey enchilada fund raiser. The Journey is Ending - "Let's Bring Hector home. Dine in or Take Out. Boys and Girls Club, 540 N. Augusta. Adults \$5.00 Child 7-12 yrs. \$3.00. Under 7 free. Entertainment - Raffles - Auction. For information or tickets call (559) 940-2350. <http://www.peaceanddignityjourneys.com/>

Monday, October 11 • 6 PM

Daniel Osuna speaks on the Positive Revolution- A way of life. This speaker offers alternatives to the traditional problem solving approach people take. Rather than looking at what we're against, The Positive Revolution looks at what we're for. It seeks to build rather than destroy. This is presented by Fresno County Democratic Chicano/Latino Caucus. Meet at Toledo's in Mission Village at Fresno and Shaw Streets. Dinner at 5:30. Speaker at 6 p.m. Call Jose Luis Barraza for more information (248-9088)

Tuesday, October 12 • 7:30 PM

Fresno Audubon Society monthly meeting. Spectacular Journeys: An Introduction to Bird Migration Fresno Audubon member Jeff Davis will present an overview of the amazing phenomenon of bird migration. Meeting will be held at the University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Avenue (just east of Highway 41).

Wednesday, October 13 • 6:00-8:00 PM

The League of Women Voters, Fresno, CSUF Political Science Association, and the American Association of University Women will host a forum on American foreign policy on Wednesday, October 13, 2004 from 6-8pm at the CSU Fresno Satellite Student Union. This event will feature Dr. Kevin Ayotte, CSUF professor; Carl Faller, Assistant U.S. Attorney; Dorothy Ehrlich, Executive Director of ACLU of Northern California; and Jacob Weisberg, Immigration Attorney. The moderator for this event will be Dr. Russell Mardon, Political Science Department Chair at CSU Fresno. The speakers will address the topic of American Power and Global Security and will take questions from the audience. This event is part of The People Speak: America's Role In the World a nationwide discussion series taking place in hundreds of locations around the country. The People Speak: America's Role in the World is backed by a nonpartisan coalition of national sponsors including the United Nations.

This event is free to the public. For More Information, Contact: peoplespeak@yahoo.com

Wednesday, October 13 • 7:30 PM

The film: "Hijacking Catastrophe," as featured on "Democracy Now," will be shown Wednesday, at the Fresno Center For Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. Discussion will follow. The event is free, and the public is invited. For information, call Janet at 226-1960 or Gerry at 227-2133.

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: <AllianceEditor@comcast.net> and say you would like to subscribe to this service.

Friday, October 15

Close of the nominating period for the Fresno Free College Foundation board of directors. There will be four Fresno Free College Foundation board terms that expire December 31, 2004. Those are currently held by Gerry Bill, Mark Hernandez, Sue Kern, and Leni Reeves.

September 15 (Wednesday): Opening date to accept nominating papers at FFCF office.

October 15 (Friday): Close of nominating period.

October 16 — 22: Verification of nomination requirements and printing of ballot materials.

October 27 (Wednesday) — Ballots to be mailed.

November 1 (Monday): Campaigning and balloting begin.

November 30 (Tuesday): Campaigning and balloting ends. No late postmarks will be accepted.

December 10 (Friday): Ballots counted by CPA Sharmayne Shikora.

December 21 (Tuesday): Challenges must be made to Board of Directors before or at this meeting or certify election, with present seats not to expire until next board is seated.

Second Tuesday in January: New board members may be seated.

Friday, October 15 • 6:30-8:30 PM

The Reedley Peace Center will view the video Monty Roberts. Monty Roberts grew up under a violent horse trainer father. Monty believed there had to be a more humane way to tame horses. He found that way while observing the behavior of wild mustangs in the high desert of Nevada. In this video Monty demonstrates the non-verbal language that can tame a wild horse without fear or force. These same principles apply to human relationships as Monty has demonstrated with over 40 foster children.

Light potluck at 6:30. Program begins at 7 pm. This event is sponsored by the Reedley Peace Center and will be held at the Fellowship Hall of First Mennonite Church, on 'L' street between 12th and 13th streets in Reedley. Admission is free. Contact Don Friesen by email at dfriesen@telis.org

Saturday, October 16 • 6:00 PM

Fresno Audubon Society's annual potluck, which will be held at the Martin home in Academy. RSVP to Kevin Enns-Rempel (453-2225) for driving directions and instructions on what to bring.

Sunday, October 17 • 2 - 4 PM

Rising Up film festival at the Starline, 833 E Fern in Fresno. This is the SunMt 2nd annual filmfest - Visions of hope and inspiration. For more information call 855-3710.

Tuesday, October 19 • 6 PM

The Central Valley Progressive PAC general meeting. For the location of the meeting, go to: <http://www.cvppac.org/>, call (559) 978-4502, or email info@cvppac.org.

Wednesday, October 20 • 10:30 AM

Eric Schlosser, author of Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal will be in Fresno on October 20, 2004 at the San Joaquin Valley Town Hall. His lecture will begin at 10:30 AM at Saroyan Theatre. Tickets may be reserved by calling 444-2180. Tickets are \$20.

For more information: <http://valleytownhall.com/>

This is a great Fresno and Valley opportunity to hear his report on the epidemic of obesity, marketing to children, food safety, and corporate globalization.

Wednesday, October 20 • 7 PM

Discussion: "Whites Looking at White Privilege", 12th in a series of discussions in which whites will be challenged to examine the benefits received from centuries of racism. This discussion will be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (Southeast corner of Van Ness and McKinley parking in back of building). Third Wednesday of every month. Contact Richard Stone to enroll: 266-2559

Thursday, October 21 • 7 PM.

"Uprising in Iraq: report from the front". A slide show presentation by Peter Lumsdaine and Rev. Meg Lumsdaine who have recently returned from two fact-finding and peacemaking missions to Iraq during the past eleven months, including the conflict zones of Baghdad, the "Sunni triangle", Sadr City, Karbala, Najaf and Kufa. Peter, a former staff member of Global Exchange and Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz, organized the Najaf Emergency Peace Team during the initial phases of the Shiite uprising there.

The slide show will be about 40 minutes, to be followed by questions and answers and

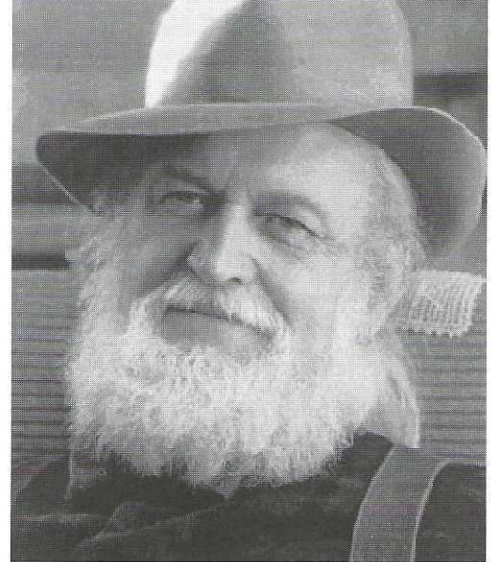
discussion, focusing on the roots of the crisis, what lies ahead, and what people in the U.S. can do. Location: Woodward Park Regional Library, 844 E. Perrin Avenue, Fresno. For more information contact the Center at 237-3223 or Angela Price at 435-6383. Sponsored by Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Peace Fresno, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Friday, October 22 • 5:30 PM

Demonstration against police brutality will be held at Mariposa and N Street in Fresno. Participants are asked to wear black, bring candles and the name of the 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

Friday, October 22 • 7:30 PM

Utah Phillips is a first class rapsallion and rabble-rouser, as well a folksinger, humorist, archivist, storyteller and tramp (he is still a Grand Duke of Hobos). He educates and illuminates softening his punches with humor and a certain unexpected gentleness. Most recently, he was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by North America's largest traditional music organization, the Folk Alliance. And he (along with cohort Rosalie Sorrells) won top independent music industry honors (NAIRD) for their traditional folk recording, "The Long Memory." Pete Seeger says: "If you have never heard Utah Phillips live, you're in for a treat. He's fantastic. Unique. You'll feel better ever after, as you recall him. There's no one like him.



The performance will be held at the First Congregational Church, 2131 Van Ness Blvd in Fresno. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and are available at The Movies Video Store in Van Ness Village, Patrick's Music at 769 E Barstow, and National Hardware in Pinedale. Call (559) 431-3653 for more information.

Sunday, October 24 • 5 - 9 PM

The Fresno Free College Foundation 2004 Annual Banquet Featuring special guest speaker Larry Bensky, Pacifica Radio National Affairs Correspondent, and the annual Fresno Free College Foundation Free Speech Award. An Omnivorous Buffet Dinner at Love & Garlic 5351 N. Diana Court in Fresno.

No-Host Bar at 5:30 ! Dinner at 6 ! \$35 Per Person

For information and reservations call (559) 233-2221

Wednesday, October 27 • 6 PM

Take Back The Night is a gathering and march that will be held at the Fresno State Peace Garden. 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. 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.

Friday, October 29 • 6 PM

The Central California Alliance is sponsoring a Screening and Discussion of Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11. Cost is \$9 for CCA Members, and \$11 for Non-Members. It will be held at 846 E. Fairmont (SW corner of Maroa & Fairmont).

Send payment to P.O. Box 16422, Fresno, CA 93755 or Online by PayPal: www.FresnoCCA.org



Progressive community groups active in the Fresno area:

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Central California Criminal Justice Committee

For more information, call 559-229-9807

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fcnv@sbcglobal.net
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Fresnocobike@aol.com

Fresno County Green Party

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fresno@greens.org
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Fresno Folklore Society

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ckj12@csufresno.edu

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Studio, Call-in Line: (559) 266-8888
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http://www.kfcf.org

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Email: claudia@lif.org
http://www.lif.org

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Fresno Chapter
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National Action Network

2422 N. Marks, #383 • Fresno, Ca 93722
Ph. (559) 265-3652 • Fax: (559) 266-5828
xyfloyd@aol.com

Pan-Valley Institute

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Ph. (559) 455-5777
mariax@radiobilingue.org
http://www.radiobilingue.org/

RANCOR

(Radicals Against Neo-Cons Organized Resistance)

P.O. Box 4438 • Fresno Ca 93744
email@rancor.info
www.rancor.info

The Sleeping Bag Project

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St. Benedict Catholic Worker

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Ph. (559) 229-6410
PaxOSB@aol.com

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http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/

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sunmt@psnw.com
http://www.sunmt.org/chronicles.html

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http://www.sierraclub.org/

The Wheelchair Project

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Ph. (559) 251-3814
wheelchairbusproject@yahoo.com

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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socialjustice@stl.net
http://www.fresnoalliance.com/wilpf/