

A large, bold, black number '9' with a white outline, positioned vertically on the left side of the page.A stylized graphic of the World Trade Center towers, rendered in black and white, positioned on the right side of the page.

EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

This month marks the one year anniversary of the September 11 attacks. In this issue, we reflect on the now famous corporate media/political pundits mantra that tells us "everything has changed." The political landscape has indeed changed - but not in the way that the mainstream media would like us to think it has. The origin of these changes go back at least to the fraudulent (stolen) 2000 presidential election. We now find ourselves living in a totally different country where many of the protections of our 200+ year old Constitution no longer apply. We have a president in the White House that we did not elect, the Bill of Rights (the most sacred embodiment of our democratic freedoms) is under lethal attack, and the constitutional constraints on

waging war are no longer discussed, let alone observed. We no longer live in a Republic but in an Empire. The Bush Administration's enemies are held without charges, secret military tribunals are being set up, and torture is now being considered as a legitimate method of extracting information from prisoners. As the Bush endless war machine scans the planet for targets, none of the mainstream institutions - Congress, the media, or the Democratic Party offer any debate or analysis on the wisdom or morality of military force and whole scale slaughter as the solution to any and all problems. Targets include Third World governments located on top of large oil reserves, immigrants fleeing the effects of globalization attempting to feed their families, and Oakland dock workers

trying to negotiate a union contract. Terrorists all, according to the Bush Administration. In this issue we offer articles and information about how 9-11 has affected us locally, and what we can do as local activists to shape a renewed vision of America that includes a fair and just world order. Local groups in this area are actively involved in opposing these attacks on our civil liberties, the endless war against the world, and the Federal/Corporate attack on workers and immigrant rights. Democracy is up for grabs. It is up to us. Join us in the cause, not only to oppose the Bush/Corporate juggernaut, but also to re-build a society based on social and economic justice. To quote from "Rosie-the-Riveter" WE CAN DO IT.

- Pam Whalen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is hard to believe that America does not embrace equality and justice for all given the fact that it was founded by oppressed people coming to seek relief from their countries' unjust laws and abuses. The English Settlers had no problem since they were the founding fathers of the colonies, but after stream upon stream of immigrants from different nations like the Irish, Germans, Chinese, Italians, Armenians came, they found that they were not welcomed with open arms. What I can't understand is why some of these same people that came looking for freedom, turned around and treated the Native Americans as less than human and took possession of their lands. What I can't understand is why they introduced slavery to this country when they cherished their own freedom so much. Today, the fight for equal treatment and equal justice is still going on.

Having stated these facts, it is no wonder that some people are unhappy and resent the way our government deals with foreign and domestic policies, policies that benefit some countries and hurt others. We have paid a great price for the freedom we have enjoyed so far. It has not come cheap, and except for the Civil War, battles have been fought on foreign soil.

On September 11, 2001 the Manhattan Skyline was changed forever. This was not the first act of terrorism against us but it was the first in U.S. soil. It was a despicable act. So many lives lost lives that, in the terrorist's mind were as insignificant as his own. The greatest tribute that we can give to these innocents is to rebuild the twin towers as a monument and as a reminder to this nation that we should heed the warnings and give credence to information about probable terrorist acts. According to what is coming out in the media, the government was made aware of the probability of a terrorist attack but failed to act on that information. For this failure on their part this nation will stand in solidarity with those directly affected by this act and mourn the loss.

Matilda Rangel

CORPORATE PERSON-HOOD - do you know what that means? In 1886 the Supreme Court, with no discussion or arguments pro and Con, used the 14th Amendment to the Constitution; which had been add in 1868 to give PERSON-HOOD and Citizenship to recently freed African-American slaves, to make Corporations Persons. When I learned this during the 1960's

I was furious, for at the same time the Supreme Court was ignoring lynchings, Jim Crow Laws and decided on Separate but Equal for African-Americans Citizens. I am sure that by now all of the Freed slaves that benefited by the 14th Amendment have Passed Over ... Yet, Corporations with person hood are immortal they don't die like the rest of us.

Then in 1976 when the Supreme Court made money 'Free Speech', I realized that this not only affected myself but everyone in the U.S.A, and now the world. Do you think there will ever be reform of Election funding while many Corporations who are richer than some countries, are Person's? Most of us with out the 'Free Speech', of MONEY like the Corporations, couldn't even fund a grass poor candidate for election.

Corporations control our country and our own lives as they buy elections and the Supreme Court always supports them. In 1938 Justice Hugo Black noted that in the 50 years since 1886, "less than 1 percent (of supreme Court rulings that involved the 14th Amendment) invoked it in protection of the Negro Race, and more than 50 percent asked that its benefits be extended to Corporations."

One of the remarks I remember from Martin Luther King, Jr. Was to the effect, "If Poor blacks, Poor Whites and Poor Browns ever united they could turn this Country upside down!" So, racism, is of benefit to Corporations. Even the Industrial/Military Complex that President Eisenhower warned us about; has become The Industrial/Military/Prison Complex under Corporations. If African-Americans are only 12 Percent of the Population, then how come at least 90 percent of those in prison are African-American?

98 Percent of U. S. A. wealth belongs to 2 percent of the people. That means that the 98 percent of us are scrambling for what's left, Why? The iniquity between rich and poor keeps getting wider and wider, Why? Corporations and their Public Relations firms are responsible for Consumerism.

CONSUMERISM KEEPS THE POOR IN POVERTY - Please, think about 'Corporate Person-Hood' This is not a request for action but until everyone in U.S.A. realizes how the Person-Hood of Corporations affects their life we can not make things better.

Valta Pointer

A FORUM ON THE INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR SYSTEM Introducing Speaker

TERESA GUERRERO-DALEY

The Independent Police Auditor for the City of San Jose

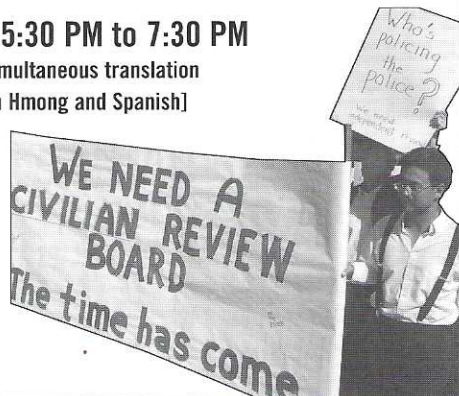
Thursday, September 19, 2002

Fresno City Hall Chamber, 2ND Floor

From 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

[Simultaneous translation
in Hmong and Spanish]

For more information, call: The City of Fresno HRC
office: 621-7799
or call 229-9807



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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By Mike Rhodes

Imagine a world in which the poor and the voiceless had as much of an opportunity to be heard as large corporations and the rich. Imagine a soapbox in Fresno large enough that free speech was more than just a quaint idea – it became a reality. The airwaves could be like that. Many years ago, radio and television were thought of as being in the public trust. The government regulated the airwaves and gave a license to owners who were operating the station in the best interest of the community. There was a Federal Communications Commission regulation called the “Fairness Doctrine” that held owners accountable to broadcast for the public good.

The fairness doctrine no longer exists. It was a victim of the Reagan administrations massive attacks that deregulated the industry, gave corporations more power, and let the marketplace decide what is best. This policy resulted in many corporate mergers that consolidated the media into a handful of huge multi-media conglomerates.

Ben Bagdikian, in his book *The Media Monopoly*, published in 1983, said that 50 corporations dominated the media in the United States. At the time, he was criticized for being hyperbolic and not having “faith” in the free enterprise system. In 1987, Bagdikian came out with the second edition. Fifty companies had become 28. A few years after that, in 1990, 28 had become 23. And then 14 in 1992. By 1997 the number was 10. And in the latest edition, which came out in 2000, the number is down to six.

The result of these corporate mergers can be seen in the blandness and homogenous nature of the media here in Fresno. There is a frightening sameness to the programming available. The media does not challenge us to question basic assumptions about how great corporations are and certainly does not give poor and minority voices an opportunity to communicate their message and share their reality with the community. The one exception is KFCF 88.1 FM but they can’t be expected to do everything. That expectation leads progressive groups in this area to fight for the crumbs while corporate interests dominate all other communications.

Out of this frustration, a group from the Fresno Center for Nonviolence started a television show called “The Right Stuff from the Left.” They were tired of being marginalized and misrepresented by the mainstream media. Tired of holding events to draw attention to an injustice and having no coverage of the event on TV or the radio. Groups in the progressive community began to feel that there was some kind of a conspiracy by local media to ignore their message. Even when a

reporter did attend an event they gave the spokesperson 10 seconds to explain a complex situation.

“The Right Stuff from the Left” went on the air May 5, 2001 and broadcast a ½ hour show every week through August 25, 2001. This effort, coordinated by Vince Lavery under the auspices of the Center for Nonviolence, was an eclectic mix of interviews with progressive activists and debates with representatives from the right wing of the political spectrum. The program, which was never boring, was different than anything else on television at the time. Out of this experience, which died an untimely death because of the high cost of buying air time, the idea of getting free air time on the cable network came to life. Looking around the state and the country local free speech activists realized that groups in other communities had their shows on television, were reaching thousands of viewers, and it cost them little or no money. The local organizers for cable access in Fresno decided to call their group the Cable Access Now (CAN).

CAN is organizing for Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) programming. PEG access is provided through a contract between the City and the company that provides cable television in your area. Why do cable companies provide PEG access programming? They do this because, in order to deliver cable channels to your home the cable company has to use public right of ways. In other words, they have to cross roads and other public property with their cable lines. The City will agree to allow them to have their lines cross public property but only if they sign a contract. The contract between the City and cable company usually includes a franchise fee and some form of PEG access.

In Fresno, the last contract between the City and Cable company was negotiated over 30 years ago. It was not a very good agreement, giving the community very little access to programming on the cable network. Of course, 30 years ago the technology was a lot different. They were not able to provide the number of channels now available through fiber optics, and multiple channels for PEG access was not in the contract. But times have changed and a new contract is being negotiated between AT&T and the City right now. The old contract will expire on December 31, 2004.

The City is already negotiating the new contract with AT&T. The good news is that the City staff is very knowledgeable about the process and all of the City Council members that we have talked to agree that we need better PEG access on the cable network. But this is going to be a long process.

AT&T does not want to provide Fresno with PEG access and will lobby hard to keep us from getting it. They have deep pockets and will bring to town highly skilled negotiators to lobby on their behalf.

The money and influence that AT&T has to keep us from having PEG access will be counterbalanced by community groups and individuals who care about free speech. We will tell our representatives on City Council that we deserve a contract that includes PEG access that is as good as those in other communities. Fresno should have at least one channel for public/community programming, at least one for the schools and education, and at least one channel for government. AT&T should provide free studio space to produce the programming, give us access to the video equipment, and provide training so that community members can learn how to produce a show. AT&T will take millions of dollars out of this community in coming years – we are just asking them to be good corporate citizens and give us something in return.

It is essential that community groups and individuals communicate with City Council on this issue. They need to know that there is interest in this issue. There are three points that Cable Access Now (CAN) would like you to tell City Council:

1. We need to hold AT&T to the terms of the 1986 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would give us immediate, but limited access to the cable network NOW.
2. The City of Fresno should hire a consultant to help negotiate the contract.
3. We want open public hearings to assess community needs for PEG access.

The applicable portion of the MOU, which is printed, in a side bar on this page directs the cable company to provide the community with access to the cable network that is comparable to the access we had in 1986. At that time, there were 20-25 locally produced shows on the cable network every week. Today, there are five. We demand that AT&T comply with the terms of this legal contract. The City of Fresno needs to hold them accountable. If this was done it would be a great step forward in gaining cable access in this community.

CAN is calling on the City of Fresno to hire a consultant to help them level the playing field in their negotiations with AT&T. Consultants who specialize in cable contract negotiations know all of the “tricks” that the cable companies try to use to get out of providing PEG access. They know how to counter the cable companies arguments
(continued on page 4)

KFCF 88.1 FM IS HOLDING ELECTIONS

The Fresno Free College Foundation will be holding an election for our Board of Directors during November 2002. Candidates for election are now being sought. The procedures for elections were adopted by the FFCF Board of Directors to increase member participation and democratize the governance of the Foundation. The following guidelines will be followed for nominations and election of the Board of Directors:

1. A candidate must be a qualified member of the Fresno Free College Foundation. A qualified member is defined by our bylaws as an individual over 16 years of age who is a current subscriber to KFCF Radio or the FFCF for \$25 per year or more, and has submitted a signed membership card.
2. The nomination period will begin on September 3, 2002. Nomination applications must be submitted to the FFCF no later than October 16, 2002.

3. Any FFCF member in good standing may nominate herself/himself or another member.

4. Slates of candidates are not permitted.

5. Candidates will provide a brief statement of qualification and vision. The candidate application form will be available from the Foundation office located at 1449 N. Wishon Avenue in Fresno, or one can be mailed upon request.

6. The official 30-day campaign and voting period will begin on November 1, 2002. Public forums and radio presentations will take place during this period. Campaigning will not begin until ballots are mailed out.

If your KFCF or Foundation membership is not current you may join with a contribution for \$25 or more. If you are a current KFCF subscriber but have not become a FFCF member, you need to contact the Foundation office for information about how you can join. The FFCF/KFCF phone number is (559) 233-2221.

KFCF ELECTIONS, WHAT IS AT STAKE?

By Mike Rhodes

The Fresno Free College Foundation, owner and operator of radio station KFCF 88.1 FM, is having an election to select its Board of Directors. This election is very important for the progressive community in this area.

KFCF provides an invaluable service by re-broadcasting KPFA (Pacifica) from Berkeley. I have heard many people describe the station as a cultural and informational oasis. The news, analysis, music, and cultural information is not available anywhere else in this area. This is FREE SPEECH RADIO. We are indeed fortunate that we have this resource and owe a debt of thanks to the visionaries who started and have maintained the station all of these years.

What is at stake in the upcoming elections? As many readers of this magazine know, this election is happening a little more than two years after a very divisive and bitter recall election. The Community Radio Coalition, an ad-hoc group of progressive community activists, attempted to expel the old Board and replace them with a new Board. The CRC, who had four members on the KFCF Board of Directors, wanted:

- More local programming.
- Implementation of a community advisory board to determine programming needs.
- Moving of the studio to a location more easily accessible to the public.

The vote in the recall election was 306-282. The recall failed. While many FFCF/KFCF members were unhappy with the situation, the majority were not ready to recall the entire Board of Directors. Following the failed recall election all four members of the CRC left the Board. New Board members were selected by the Board majority and the CRC is no longer active.

While the FFCF/KFCF membership was not ready for such a radical change, the election did send a clear signal that a large number of members were dissatisfied with the status quo. Changes were made. Numerous new local programs were put on the air and a new studio is currently under construction in the Tower District. The CRC did not get everything that they wanted, but they didn't win the election.

The Community Alliance magazine encourages FFCF/KFCF members to participate in this election. If you care about alternative/community media and have the time and desire to serve on the Board — we urge you to take up the challenge and participate in this important election. It will be the work and support of people like you that will keep KFCF going in the right direction.

(continued from page 3)

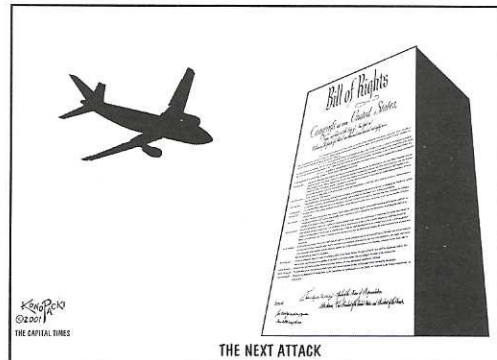
and give us the best contract possible. The City of Fresno has already requested open public hearings to determine public needs for cable access. Since the next contract will be in effect for as long as 20 years we need to be looking towards the future. We need to access not only what the community needs are now but also what they are likely to be in the year 2020. It will be critical that community groups and individuals attend these public hearings and go on record as being in support of PEG access. That way, when the City and cable company are in negotiations the City will be able to point to the testimony in these hearings as proof of community need. Otherwise the cable company will just say that the community has expressed no interest in public access. Without hearings it would be more difficult to counter that argument.

What can you do to help?

- Write and call your representative on the City Council and make the three points listed above.
- Come to the next CAN meeting which will be held on Thursday, September 26, 7 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness.
- If you are really excited about the idea of cable access programming we would like to encourage you to dream a little. Imagine what kind of a show you would like to see on the cable network.

Then — call AT&T at 455-4289 and make a proposal for them to put the show on the air. CAN figures that if AT&T starts putting shows on the cable network that is a major victory. If they refuse then we have further evidence that they are not meeting community needs. In either case we win.

If you are interested in getting a program on the cable network - contact CAN. They will help you put a pilot show together so you can submit a video to AT&T. You can contact CAN by calling (559) 226-0477 or email AllianceEditor@attbi.com



CLEARING THE AIR: Kicking the Fossil Fuel Addiction

By Kevin Hall

... while we are officially recognized as the second worst air basin in the country, know this: we're the worst.

August was air pollution hell-month for San Joaquin Valley residents. It featured the worst episode of smog since 1998 and only the third such occurrence in 15 years. We were not alone. Weather-related catastrophes around the world due to global warming were also on the rise. The year 1998 must again be mentioned. It is the warmest year on record, but the first seven months of 2002 were warmer still. This year is on track to exceed 1998's average global temperature high mark. The connection between ground-level air pollution and greenhouse gases? Fossil fuel. The immediate need is to break this fatal addiction. Here's an overview of what's happening here in the San Joaquin Valley. You'll see we all have ample opportunity to make a difference locally and globally.

Campaign Website.

If you're ready to get involved in the California Clean Air Campaign, learn why our air is so bad, who's responsible, who's being sued and

why, read the latest medical research, receive action alerts, we've got a website for you: www.calcleanair.org. The California Clean Air Campaign is a coalition of community, medical, and environmental groups that are unified by a commitment to improving the health of Californians by enforcing the Clean Air Act in the San Joaquin Valley. We are the three Sierra Club chapters of the San Joaquin Valley, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, Latino Issues Forum, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, and Earthjustice. Our site provides a wealth of educational resources about air pollution and its sources, its effect on our health, current news and legal actions, and information on what you can do to help. Check it out.

Act Locally, Act Globally.

Average global temperature rose by only 1° F during the last century, yet we are seeing catastrophic results already. Worse still, we are on track to see a 3-10° F increase in the next 100 years. In the month of August, reports from around the world have continued to sound the alarm:

- Following a heat wave that kills 1,000 people, flooding displaces more than 5 million people in India and Bangladesh.
- Widespread flooding in normally arid regions in China.

- The worst flooding in Europe in a century.
- World Health Organization warns of coming pandemic of dengue fever.
- Center for Disease Control calls West Nile Virus an "emerging infectious epidemic" as the disease spreads to 35 states in the U.S.
- More than 5 million acres burnt in the western U.S.
- Tropical forests turning from carbon dioxide sinks to sources,

As Margaret Beckett, British Secretary of State for Environment, observed, "We've known for some time that we have to worry about the impacts of climate change on our children's and grandchildren's generations. But we now have to worry about ourselves as well."

Meanwhile, attendees of the recent Global Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa, may not have been able to focus on climate change due to the Bush Administration's "learn to live with it" position, but they did see a six-minute film on air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley produced by German television. The piece highlighted our Valley's plight as a microcosm of the world's. By acting locally, we are acting globally. The most important actions for Valley residents to take this year

are to sign up for action alerts at www.calcleanair.org and for Fresno County residents to campaign against Measure C, the sprawl-inducing, auto-dependent transportation sales tax.

Worst Air..... Anywhere.

Finally, while we are officially recognized as the second worst air basin in the country, know this: we're the worst. The official designation is tied to the federal one-hour standard, which reflects ozone levels during the peak hour. An exceedance day occurs when 124 parts per billion are present. The more accurate measurement is the eight-hour standard. This averages ozone levels over the peak eight hours, and an exceedance occurs at 80 parts per billion. The San Joaquin Valley has held the No. 1 position for violations of that standard since 1999, and 2002 is shaping up no differently. From 1999 to 2001, we had a total of 323 violations for the three-year period, vs. 287 for L.A.-Riverside. The eight-hour ozone average will become the new legal standard in the near future, and that point we will officially vault into the top spot.

GO TO: WWW.CALCLEANAIR.ORG

WHY THE GREEN PARTY OPPOSES MEASURE "C"

By Richard Gomez

The Fresno Co. Green Party officially announces its opposition to the Measure C Extension as it's currently written. We also, encourage and support like-minded people and organizations who see this Extension as an air polluting, health endangering, tax robbing, freeway building scam portrayed as a measure for clean air. For this and the reasons below, we ask that on November 5th people VOTE "NO" on the Measure "C" Extension. The Fresno Co. Green Party believe a 30 year transportation tax plan should care about the people today, as well as those who will be living here in the future. A dream that should flower into reality and not collapse into a deadly nightmare. The Measure C Extension is an impending long term toxic disaster. We of the Green Party prefer to support a viable plan that has a Vision:

- that encourages open discussions and debates with full participation beyond governmental and business interest,
- that works to clean our air and protect our citizens, especially, our youngest and eldest,
- that provides a clean mass transportation,
- that begins to redesign and strengthen our economy to allow a civilized society to properly function.

A real Vision that can create a cleaner, greener and happier home in the County of Fresno. The Green Party believes that democracy is served best when issues are allowed to be openly discussed and allow for the broadest points of view to be heard. So we ask that the voters of Fresno Co. support our efforts to make Fresno a cleaner, greener and happier place to live in. **Please VOTE "NO" on the Measure "C" Extension.**

THORNE COMMONS

The first annual APF Chautauqua is scheduled for Sat. Sept. 14th. Art, Politics and Food come together at a gathering to be held at "Thorne Commons", at the back of Margaret Hudson's homestead, 4247 N. Thorne, just north of Ashlan. The evening's entertainment will include political satire, music and poetry, all with a political bent. An optional potluck will precede the show. For eating/hanging out/swimming come around 6:30; for just the show, come by 8:00. A \$5 donation will be requested in support of the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Picknickers may want to bring blankets. The show is being produced by BrYaN mEdlnA, host of the monthly poetry gatherings at Kern St. Cafe and the Starline. For information, Contact Richard at 266-2559

Fresno Multifaith Exchange

By Vickie M. Fouts

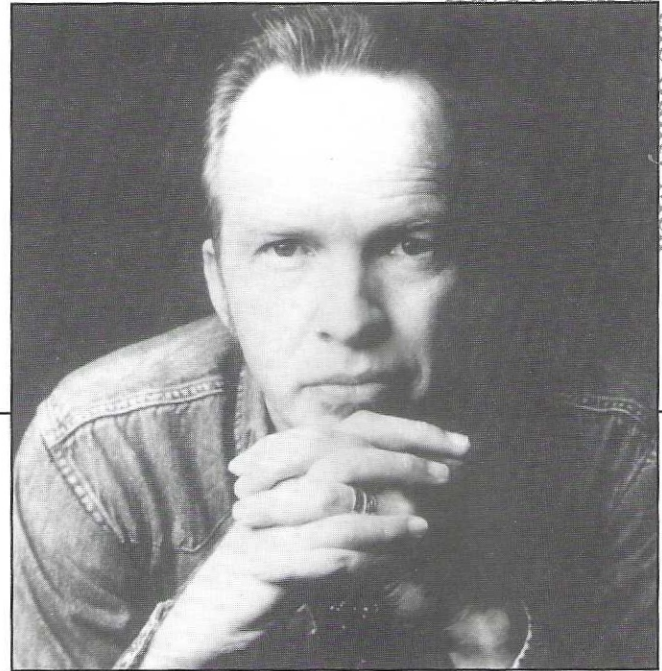
The Fresno Multifaith Exchange will have an orientation meeting Sunday, September 22, 2002, 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno - 4144 N. Millbrook Ave. Fresno, CA.

To sign up or for more information call Linda Mack 224-0146 or Anidelle Flint 429-5844. Study sessions from October through May are held on the third Sunday of the month.

Each session focuses on a different religious faith and includes sharing of information (without proselytizing) through teaching, dialogue in small groups, and social exchange. There is also a visit to each faith's place of worship in the same month as their study session. The Multifaith Exchange mission statement reads "Rejoicing in the rich diversity of our religious and spiritual traditions, we join together to increase mutual understanding and trust in order to foster a community in which the energetic engagement with that diversity is encouraged." Faiths that will be included are: Islam, Unitarian Universalism, Christianity, Judaism, Baha'i Faith, Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism. Last year I attended most of the sessions and found them to be the most rewarding experience I have had. I was able to learn how much the different faiths have in common and many misconceptions were dispelled. I highly recommend the Multifaith Exchange to all. It is a wonderful way to build community, dispel misconceptions, and to learn about the different cultures that make up Fresno.

"THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A POSITIVE MULTIRELIGIOUS SOCIETY OUT OF THE FABRIC OF DEMOCRACY, WITHOUT THE CHAUVINISM AND RELIGIOUS TRIUMPHALISM THAT HAVE MARRED HUMAN HISTORY IS NOW OURS,"

-Diana L. Eck, Directory, the Pluralism Project, Harvard Univ.



Forestiery Underground Gardens Concert

A benefit concert for the Poverello House of Fresno is slated for the Forestiere Underground Gardens Saturday, September 21, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Performing that evening are Dave Alvin and the Guilty Men, and Glen Delpit and the Subterraneans.

The Underground Gardens, located at 5021 W. Shaw Ave. in Fresno, were designed and hand-sculpted by Baldasare Forestiere, a Sicilian immigrant. In the early 1900s, Forestiere began to carve a thoroughly unique underground retreat to escape the San Joaquin Valley's excessive heat. After nearly 40 years with hand tools and persistent effort he succeeded in creating a cool subterranean complex fashioned after the "visions stored in my mind." In the midst of the man made caverns, is a large banquet room Forestiere intended as an entertainment venue.

Dave Alvin is a Grammy award winning artist. He is regarded as "one of America's most gifted roots music songwriters." He has recorded eight albums on the Hightone records label. In 2001 his album "Public Domain" was awarded with a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album. His latest album "Out In California" captures the essence of his live performances.

"Playing live," he enthuses, "is that hour, hour and a half, two hours on stage when you're immortal, time stops. To me, when my band is on, which is a lot with the Guilty Men, my mom and dad are alive, I'm 22, I'm 87, Your legs do things they don't when you're walking to the store. You get runners high. How do you capture that on a record? You've got to do it live."

Glen Delpit and the Subterraneans are a Fresno based band and a local favorite. Glen writes original material for the band and his message often concerns the plight, struggles, and sometimes the redemption of the disadvantaged in our society.

The Poverello House is a non-profit operation that serves Fresno's most needy. 700 to 1,000 meals are served each day. Services for the poor and homeless include free medical and dental care, day shelter, laundry and shower services, clothing and residential drug rehabilitation. 80% of the Poverello's annual budget is provided by donations from the public.

Tickets to benefit the Poverello House are \$25 and are available by calling (559) 485-8755 or by purchasing them at The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness in Fresno. Food and drink will be available. Seating is limited.

What were we doing on the morning of September 11?

And what have we done since?

by Kenley Neufeld

SEPTEMBER 11

People always remember what they were doing when JFK was shot. People always remember what they were doing when the space shuttle Challenger blew up. September 11 will be the same. I was in the front yard watering the lawn before work and my neighbor came over and said, "a plane crashed into the World Trade Center." I thought to myself, "What? Why are you talking to me so early in the morning?" She said it again and wandered off. How strange. I went inside and woke my partner to tell her while I connect the antenna to our television which we rarely watch. We sat and stared at the TV, awestruck, as the first tower collapsed. A few months later we visited New York City and felt an urgent need to go to Ground Zero right away to try to recognize what had happened to this city of 9 million.

Later on the night of September 11, or perhaps the next night, a group of us met at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. The group was small but the feelings were powerful. Fear. Anger. Compassion. Frustration. Sympathy. Shock. Horror. How should we respond? By this time the leadership of our nation was bent on revenge and destruction. I read a poem by Thich Nhat Hahn that he wrote after the bombing of Ben Tre and the comment made by an American military man, "We had to destroy the town in order to save it."

**For Warmth I hold my face in my two hands.
No, I am not crying.
I hold my face in my two hands.
To keep the loneliness warm -
two hands protecting,
two hands nourishing,
two hands preventing,
my soul from leaving me
in anger.**

-Thich Nhat Hahn

OUR RESPONSE

Fresno's progressive community had an immediate response to September 11 and to all victims of terror. On September 15 a march was organized to support our Muslim brothers and sisters who experienced an immediate backlash as a result of the terrorist acts. We marched from the Wesley Methodist Church of Fresno to Masjid Fresno and heard speakers at both locations. The hundreds of people and organizations that showed up for this march astonished me. Having just moved to Fresno a few months before, the commitment of the Fresno community comforted and reassured me. Children and parents; grandparents and teenagers; gay and straight; black, brown, and white; punks and clergy; all marched in solidarity waving signs and flags. By the following Monday (September 17), we had our first meeting to STOP THE WAR! at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Groups at Fresno City College and Fresno State were formed to educate and inform the community about terrorism, peace, and the Arab/Muslim community. On Wednesday September 19, the Unitarian Universalist Church held a talk on "Terrorism: Roots and Responses." Everyone in the peace community was working in different ways to address the crisis.

Many groups stepped forward in the initial months to respond to September 11. Church organizations, school and college organizations, and other progressive organizations, such as WILPF made their opposition to the continued violence known. Some groups acted within the framework of their existing organization, others sponsored talks and public statements. Of particular interest has been the **Women in Black** group that has sponsored a silent vigil every Wednesday from 12-1 at the County Courthouse. This group has helped draw attention to peace and for negotiated settlements of US military action.

PEACE FRESNO

One of the most significant changes to the Fresno peace movement was the formation of Peace Fresno. This group started as the STOP THE WAR! committee, formed the week after September 11. This group has gathered weekly at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence since September 11 in an effort to "seek effective nonviolent responses to terrorism" and to "explore and identify peaceful options in our search for justice." The meetings have ranged in size from 5 to 40 people. Commitment and passion are two words that come to mind when thinking about active members in Peace Fresno.

3 specific responses to September 11 have been sponsored by Peace Fresno:

Shaw and Blackstone a.k.a. "Peace Corner"

This has become the central meeting place for voicing opposition to the "war on terrorism." Since September 14, members of the community have met at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday evening to publicly voice their opposition to the invasion of Afghanistan, the treatment of Arabs and Muslims, the USA PATRIOT Act, and the potential invasion of Iraq. The very fact that people in Fresno have shown up on a street corner week after week for a year illustrates the commitment and the seriousness of these times. The hons of support have grown as the months of Bush's terror war have continued unabated.

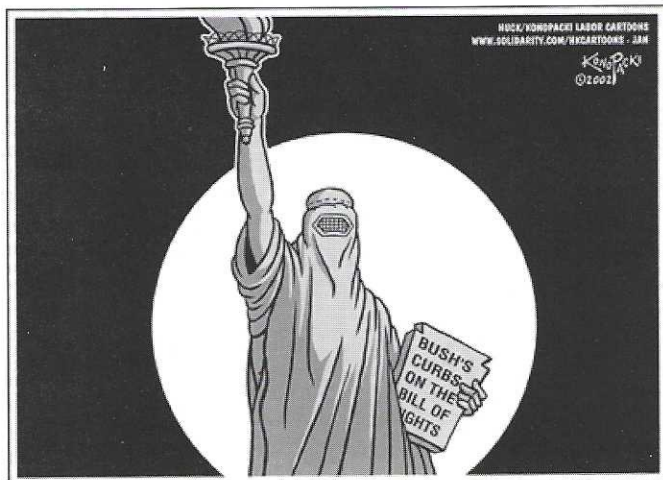
Rally in the Valley

On March 22, 2002, Rally in the Valley took over Courthouse Park for a day. Over 800 people in the Fresno community showed up for a day of music, speakers, and informational booths relating to peace and social justice. Making this event a success was the hard work of Peace Fresno.

Vigil Honoring Victims of Terrorism

This event will take place on Friday September 6 from 6:00-7:30 PM at the Courthouse Park. To honor all victims of terrorism, participants will wear black and symbolically paint one hand blue to symbolize unity with all people and one hand red to symbolize the blood of the victims. We will stand silently to bear witness to the suffering of victims of terrorism around the world and light candles for peace. A brief message from Peace Fresno will conclude the event. This event has the potential to be the ceremony in Fresno to attend on the anniversary of September 11. Please plan on attending with your friends and family and spread the word.

Peace Fresno meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. For more information go to www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno.



"Vigil Honoring Victims of Terrorism" on Friday, September 6. Contact Jim Bartram at 978-2154 or Camille Russell at 276-2592 for more information.

"Don't Bomb Iraq Peace March" on Saturday, September 14. Contact Vincent Lavery at 439-0821 for more information.

Women in Black meet every Wednesday from 12:00-1:00 at the County Courthouse.

Shaw and Blackstone demonstration every Friday from 4:00-6:00..

Join Peace Fresno electronic mailing list at www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno/.

STUDENT ACTION FRONT

Another group was formed in response to September 11 called the Student Action Front (SAF). In their own words:

"SAF felt that many leftist, progressive, and activist youth were afraid to speak what they felt about the war, as well as feeling alone in their beliefs. SAF was formed first as a forum for youth to be able to speak their feelings on this war with others as well as being educated about aspects of this war that have been kept out of the spotlight by mainstream media. Education will be our primary weapon against this war. SAF was also formed as a tool for networking students from different colleges and universities, junior high, and high schools, in order for students to learn new information and disseminate it to their student bodies as well as giving them information on how to organize anti-war groups within their individual schools. We also setup protests, workshops, send speakers into schools etc., and are willing to use any necessary means to seek social justice in the world."

This group has worked to empower the youth of Fresno and has sponsored workshops at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence during the past year.

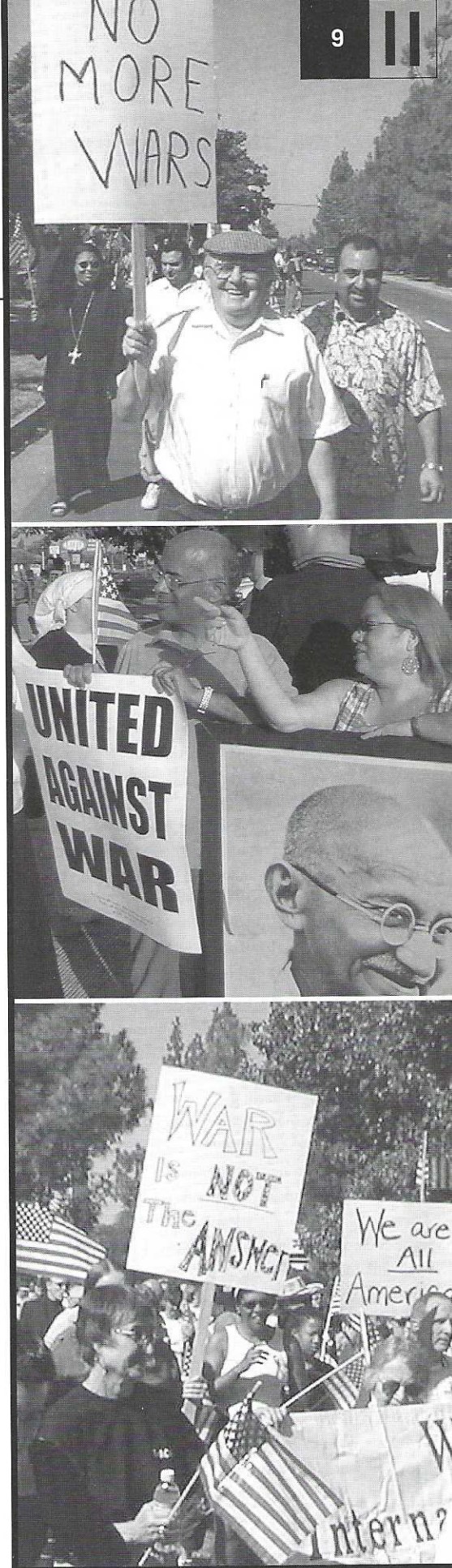
Student Action Front meets every Thursday at 5:30pm at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. For more information go to www.geocities.com/nocellat/studentactionfront.

REFLECTIONS

It is nearly impossible to include all of the positive actions that individuals and organizations have taken since September 11 in the name of peace (see "Success Stories" box), as it is impossible to sum up the spectrum of emotions, feelings, and thoughts that surfaced in all of us over the past year. Unlike the words of Thich Nhat Hanh, on that day back in September, I did spend time crying for the loss of life in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. But his words also helped temper my anger as I heard the words of the President and his commitment to revenge and further loss of life. September 11 is not all negative. Because of the events of the past year, I have discovered that Fresno is a good place with good people working to heal communities here and abroad. The new relationships formed have helped me recognize the possibilities for many years to come. September 11 has opened the door for new coalitions and new groups that can help mold Fresno into a strong, progressive community. Take the time to get involved with one of the dozens of organizations active in Fresno and start by going to Courthouse Park on Friday, September 6th to Honor Victims of Terrorism. The families who have lost loved ones throughout the world need you to be present in recognition of peaceful and nonviolent solutions.

SUCCESS STORIES

- Rally in the Valley
- Central Valley Grassroots Unity Statement
- Bridges to Peace: Jew, Christian, Muslim in Conversation
- Forum "Talk Radio and Hate Crimes: Is There a Connection?"
- Forum "U.S. Policies in the Aftermath of 9/11:
- Effects on the Central Valley, the Nation, and the World "
- "International Day of Protest Against War & Racism" rally in Fresno and many cities around the world
- "Not In My Name" Campaign
- "Challenging Corporate Power" lecture
- Informational tabling at Fashion Fair
- Teach In on "The War on Terrorism"
- National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab, and South Asian immigrants
- Fresno State lecture series
- Fresno City College discussion series
- Lecture on "Star Wars and Beyond: The Fallacy of Space Missile Defense"
- Full-page Fresno Bee ads encouraging a nonviolent response to the events of 9/11
- Women in Black vigils
- "Successful Social Movement" seminar
- Student Action Front workshops
- Letter writing campaigns
- Postcard distribution on thousands of Fresno doorknobs



HOW 9-11 HAS IMPACTED IMMIGRANTS

By Mark Silverman, Director of Immigration Policy, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC).

The ILRC works with a number of organizations in the Valley, including the San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights. Both the Bush administration, through its Department of Justice and to a lesser extent Congress, have taken very dangerous actions against immigrants since September 11th in the name of enhancing national security. It is important to have a balanced view of these attacks on our basic civil liberties. On the one hand, they are serious, and we need to unite to oppose them. On the other hand, immigrants and their supporters should not panic. There have not, and in my opinion, will not be massive round-ups or deportation of undocumented immigrants. Finally, the September 11th attack has undoubtedly resulted in a delay, but has not eliminated, the effort to obtain a legalization (amnesty) law to benefit undocumented workers and their families. Immigrants and others should not lose heart. Our response needs to be two-fold. First, we should concentrate on organizing a response to selected new policies, where our response will help build the organizational strength of the immigrant and workers' rights movements. Second, we need to continue to aggressively continue our campaigns to obtain positive changes in immigration law and policy. It should be remembered; for example, that AB 540, which gives most undocumented immigrant students the same in-state tuition paid by others, was signed by Governor Davis in October, 2001 --- after September 11th. If we continue to build our unity and strength, we can win other victories as well. The government has taken these measures in the name of enhancing our security against future terrorist attacks. It is understandable that the American public and some well-intentioned policy makers feel so vulnerable after September 11th that they are support-

ing measures that do not improve our security but do result in significant deprivations of civil liberties and other basic rights of immigrants as well as others. At the same time, it is this writer's opinion that many in the administration and in Congress, such as General Ashcroft (oops...that's Attorney General Ashcroft) are playing on the justifiable fears of the public to pursue their own anti-immigrant and anti-civil liberties agendas. As one immigration attorney joked, "This year the leading anti-immigrant organization, the Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR) should give its annual award to the person most contributing to its cause to Osama Bin Laden." Actions by Congress: In October 2001, anti-terror legislation known as the USA PATRIOT Act went into effect. Among other things, this law gives the U.S. Attorney General the

power to certify certain individuals as terrorists, based on "reasonable information" that he or she is linked to terrorist activities. Once someone has been certified as a terrorist, they are subject to mandatory detention and will remain in custody even if they have a defense to deportation. This represents a very dangerous infringement on our basic constitutional due process rights. In November 2001, the Transportation Security Act became law. Among other things, this law requires that security screeners in airports be U.S. citizens. Under this law, thousands of workers who are lawful permanent residents but not U.S. citizens must be laid off from their jobs by November 19, 2002, unless they naturalize by the November 19, 2002 deadline. It is impossible for a person to even apply for citizenship until she has been a legal resident for five years in most

cases. Ironically, in airports such as San Francisco, the net result of this law will be to weaken our security because well-trained, experienced screeners will lose their jobs. Immigrant rights groups and others are engaged in efforts to support legislation to eliminate this silly and harmful requirement, which results in permitting the guys in uniform at the airport with machine guns (soldiers) to be non-citizens but mandates that the people right next to them who ask us to remove our shoes be citizens. Actions by the Department of Justice: The Following are just some of the actions initiated by the Department of Justice. In December 2001, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) established a new policy for identifying persons who have been ordered deported but have not complied with their deportation orders. Under this new policy, the



More Events >



INS will enter the names of persons ordered deported into the National Criminal Background Check System. This database, which is used to identify fugitives with outstanding arrest warrants, will now allow the FBI and local police and sheriff's departments to identify persons with deportation orders so they can be transferred to INS custody. This system is initially being implemented for those from Arab or Muslim countries. In a related measure, the Department of Justice has proposed to have local police and other law enforcement agencies assist in enforcing federal immigration laws. This proposal, as well as others by the Department of Justice, at the same time poses a threat and yet also provides an organizing opportunity to immigrant communities and their allies. In a number of cities, not only including "PC" centers such as San Francisco, but also Seattle, Portland and Santa Ana, either police or municipal authorities have stated that their local police will not be part of an effort to enforce immigration laws. To do so, reason these police and other local officials, would result in destroying the confidence and trust that the police must maintain and develop with immigrant communities in order to have crime reports, witnesses and other necessary cooperation to effectively fight crime. Residents in towns and cities throughout the Valley, as well as elsewhere, should consider whether it is a good opportunity now to raise with local authorities the importance of taking a similar stand on this issue. Different government agencies have recently put into practice a system that allows them to share the information in their respective databases. This allows INS agents at points of entry to have access to information stored in State Department databases about who has received immigrant or non-immigrant visas from consulates. Conversely, consular officers abroad now have access to information in

INS and FBI databases at the moment visa applications are approved. This new practice of information sharing is designed to reduce the incidence of visa fraud. In December 2001, the Attorney General announced a new Justice Department policy requiring certain immigration court proceedings related to terrorism to take place behind closed doors. Another example of a Department of Justice proposal against which resistance can strengthen our long-term power is the proposed policy to implement requirements that legal permanent residents (e.g. those with green cards) submit information as to their change of address. This

Justice, but rather from the Social Security Administration (SSA). The SSA has been sending hundreds of thousands of letters to employers, noting that the Social Security Number for a specific employee does not match their records. Thousands of workers have already been fired. The first line of defense, where applicable, is the worker's union if he has one. If not, we have been circulating a ten page "Tips to Employer". We would be glad to make this part of a future newspaper article. Finally, it is important that undocumented immigrants continue to press for federal legalization legislation. The hope for a legaliza-



measure has upset thousands of legal residents. Community groups have a unique opportunity to hold parish and community forums, which not only explain the proposed new requirements, but invite these legal residents to participate in community based efforts to change immigration policy and law. This proposal is more evidence that whoever came up with it at the Department of Justice is "a few loafs short of a sandwich". These attacks are serious, but have not, and we believe will not result in massive deportations or repression. In fact, probably the most serious attack on immigrants in practice since September 11th has not come from the Department of

tion program got a push from the promising meetings between Presidents Fox and Bush. Despite September 11th, both political parties have been discussing the need for some type of legalization law. The Democrats said that soon they will announce a concrete proposal. The underlying political factors (changes in voter demographics) and economic dependence on immigrant labor in many sectors of the economy will keep legalization on the legislative burner for some time into the future. It is critical that individuals as well as organizations in unions, churches and schools continue.

DON'T BOMB IRAQ!

Negotiate our differences. Send ONE message to Washington on Saturday, September 14, 2002. Where: George Radanovich's office, 2350 W. Shaw to Calvin Dooley's office 1060 Fulton Mall Begin: 9:00 AM Arrive: Approx. 12:00 noon Return transportation will be organized by Peace Fresno, requesting individuals to leave cars downtown for return to West Shaw. Plans will be made shortly for a shorter alternate route for those unable to participate in the "long march." A short rally on the mall will follow. Bring water. We need volunteers to help organize the march - Intersection guards, Transportation coordinator, Signs & banners, etc. - call Vincent Lavery at 439-0821. Organizational meeting: Tuesday, September 3, 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. All organizations are welcome to display their organizational banners along with signs displaying the theme of the march.

Vigil to Honor the Victims of Terrorism

A year ago we watched as thousands of innocent people perished on a single day in New York City - the seat of America's wealth and power. We were shocked and horrified. We asked, "Why? How? What next?" Surely, any event to mark these events must be reverent, reflective, and must make a statement. Peace Fresno invites the community to join in a Vigil to Honor the Victims of Terrorism on Friday, September 6, from 6:00 - 7:30 in the Fresno County Courthouse Park in downtown Fresno. On September 6, as we honor victims of terrorism, we honor, not just victims of 9/11, but victims of our war on Afghanistan, indigenous peoples facing modern weapons, Israeli and Palestinian civilians, innocents referred to as collateral damage. We will wear black, paint one hand with the blue of the United Nations flag to symbolize unity with all people, and paint one hand red to symbolize the blood of the victims. We will stand silently for an hour, followed by a brief message and the lighting of candles for peace. We will bear witness to the suffering of people around the world. There will be much flag waving and blind patriotism as we near 9/11. Let our vigil show the community-at-large a bigger picture and a more thoughtful response. Call Jim Bartram 978-2154, Camille Russell 276-2592 or 289-5868 camillerussellhi@yahoo.com Vincent Lavery, Fresno Center for Nonviolence 237-3223 www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Saturday, August 31 & Sunday, September 1

The United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO will mark its 40th anniversary with their 16th Constitutional Convention over the Labor Day weekend in Fresno, California.

Tuesday, September 3, to 7 PM

Important organizing meeting for September 14 DON'T BOMB IRAQ march at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Call Vincent Lavery at 439-0821 for more information.

Friday, September 6, 9 PM

WADDAMA CD Release Party at The Starline, 831 E Fern. Mykal Powell on the turntables Music starts at 9pm, 18+ www.waddama.com \$5

Saturday, September 7, 9:30 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meeting. The mayor's public information officer Randy Reed is the guest speaker on the subject of the state of the city. There will be a time for questions. The public is invited. Details: (559) 439-8140. Breakfast begins at 9 AM with a business meeting at 9:30 AM and the speaker at 10 AM. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

Saturday, September 7, 3 - 6 PM

Memorial for Gene Bluestein at the Satellite Student Union on the CSUF campus. For more information: <http://zimmer.csufresno.edu/~geneb/>

Friday, September 6, 6 - 7:30 PM

A Vigil Honoring Victims of Terrorism, sponsored by Peace Fresno will be held at the Fresno County Courthouse Park, Van Ness Blvd and Tulare Street. See page ?????? for details about this vigil. See page 11 for more information.

Sunday, September 8, 5-10 PM

JAMAICA MY - From Jamaica, the Legendary DON CARLOS, (original Black Uhuru and very famous on his own for many years) plus WADI GAD, (Trinidad /Ethiopia) plus ELIJAH EMANUEL and the REVELATIONS. (from Panama & San Diego) and Fresno's own WADDAMA with special guest RAS HORACE. For more information (559) 226 9280 or ReggaeW@aol.com

Monday, September 9, 7 PM

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom monthly meeting. NEW LOCATION: Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. Call Vickie at 658-8260 or email vmfoul@sti.net for more information. Wednesday, September 11 Noon -1 pm Special Women-In-Black honoring the victims of terrorism and standing against war everywhere. Meet at the Fresno County Courthouse under the arch. Contact Jan at 278-7140 or email janet_slagter@csufresno.edu

Wednesday, September 11, 2 PM

Special one hour show of Stir it Up on KFCF 88.1 FM about September 11 and how it has affected residents in this area.

Wednesday, September 11, 7 PM

An Interfaith Service of Consolation, Compassion and World Peace. The Interfaith Alliance, the Fresno Ministerial Association, along with many individual faith communities from the Fresno area will gather for a community worship service at St. Paul Armenian Church, 3767 North First in Fresno. For additional information, please contact Larry Patten (pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church) at 559.224.1947 or larrypatten@wesleyfresno.org

Thursday, September 12, 6:00-8:00 PM

A discussion concerning the community development credit union project will take place at the Hinton center. Call 485-1119 for more information.

Friday, September 13, 5 & 8 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents 13 CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ONETHING. Clear talk but cloudy destinies among working class New Yorkers. Stars Matthew McConaughey, John Turturro, Clea Du Vall, Amy Irving, and Alan Arkin. This film, and all Fresno Filmworks films through November 2002, will be shown at the Tower Theater (Wishon and Olive Avenue). For more information call 227-8183 or email kp21@csufresno.edu

Saturday, September 14, 9 AM - approximately Noon

DON'T BOMB IRAQ! March from Representative George Radanovich's office, 2350 W.

Shaw to Calvin Dooley's office 1060 Fulton Mall.

Saturday, September 14, 6:30 PM

The first annual APF Chautauqua. Art, Politics and Food come together at a gathering to be held at "Thorne Commons", at the back of Margaret Hudson's homestead, 4247 N. Thorne, just north of Ashlan.

Sat. Sept. 14th

Art, Politics and Food come together at a gathering to be held at "Thorne Commons" at the back of Margaret Hudson's homestead, 4247 N. Thorne, just north of Ashlan. For information contact Richard at 266-2559.

Monday, September 16, 7 - 9 PM

The National Organization for Women will have their Monthly Meeting at the Center for Non-Violence, 985 N Van Ness (just south of Olive -Tower District). Both women and men are welcome! For more info call 559-252-7569.

September 19, 5:30 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee will hold a forum with Teresa Guerrero Daley, Independent Police Auditor from San Jose at the Fresno City Council Chambers. Sponsored by Central California Criminal Justice Committee, Fresno Human Relations Commission, League of Women Voters, United Black Men, Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, and Fresno Metro Ministry.

Saturday, September 21, 7:30 PM

A benefit concert for the Poverello House of Fresno is slated for the Forestiere Underground Gardens with Dave Alvin and the Guilty Men, and Glen Delpit and the Subterraneans.

Sunday, September 22, 3 - 5 PM

The Fresno Multifaith Exchange will have an orientation meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno - 4144 N. Millbrook Ave. Fresno, CA. To sign up or for more information call: Linda Mack 224-0146 or Anidelle Flint 429-5844. Study sessions from October through May are held on the third Sunday of the month. Each session focuses on a different religious faith and includes sharing of information (without proselytizing) through teaching, dialogue in small groups and social exchange. There is also a visit to each faith's place of worship in the same month as their study session.

Wednesday, September 25, 3:30-4:00 pm:

Stir It Up! on KFCF 88.1 FM. WILPF's Gabrielle Kirkland interviews Joan Poss, who attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Joan was sponsored to attend the WSSD this past month by WILPF Fresno and the Center For Nonviolence. Be sure to listen.

Thursday, September 26, 7:00 PM

Cable Access Now will hold a meeting to attain Public, Education, and Government access to cable TV. The franchise agreement between the City of Fresno and AT&T is now being negotiated and community groups are organizing for access. Join them by attending this meeting which will be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact AllianceEditor@attbi.com or call (559) 226-0477.

September 26 - 29

Fresno Reel Pride 2002 at the Tower Theater. The 13th International gay and lesbian film festival moves to September this year. Building on last year's success, this year's festival promises to offer audiences even more films, star appearances, events, and receptions as they gather to celebrate the very best in gay and lesbian cinema. For more information call 488-6562 or email reelpride@aol.com Their web site is www.reelpride.com

September 27

National Mobilization on Colombia. Help end U.S. military aid to Colombia and transform U.S. policy toward Colombia and the Andean region through nonviolent means. Contact Kenley Neufeld at peace@neuhouse.com for local activities or visit <http://www.colombiamobilization.org/>

Wednesday, October 2

The Fresno Free College Foundation/KFCF 88.1 FM and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) are bringing the San Francisco Mime Troupe to Fresno with its latest performance, Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan, a political musical

satire driven by the events of September 11th and their aftermath. The performance will be at The Tower Theater. Call (559) 233-2221 for more information.

Wednesday, October 2 - October 13

The Democratic Party in Fresno is looking for volunteers to help out at their booth during the Big Fresno Fair. They need volunteers for the fair booth from 11:00 AM until 11:00 PM every day and evening. Must be Democrats. Call Yvonne Brown 456-2879 for more information.

Thursday, October 3, 5 - 8 PM

6th Annual Awards Reception for Central California Legal Services. Music, Entertainment, Refreshments and more. For more information contact Luisa Medina at (559) 570-1242 or luisa@centralcallegal.org

Saturday, October 26

The second annual book/cd/video sale will benefit the Center for Nonviolence. Start looking through your collections to see what you can donate. Location to be announced.

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday - Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. They meet (every Sunday, rain or shine) at the First Congregational Church Of Fresno, 2131 North Van Ness Blvd at 1:30 PM. They have a great kitchen with stainless steel counters and everything. At about 2:45 they drive the meal downtown to the Courthouse on Van Ness Avenue. The meal is served in recycled plastic bowls on the right side of the main entrance to the Courthouse, at the Statue of Martin Luther King Jr. Our meal lasts from 3:00 to 4:00pm. For more information see their web site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/fnb/>

Every Tuesday 7 PM - Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 985 N Van Ness. If you want to help stop Bush's endless war against the world - come to this meeting! For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223). For more information about Peace Fresno visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>

Every Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 PM - The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets) each Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. Call Liza Apper at 559-229-6410 for additional information.

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

Every Thursday 5:30 PM - STUDENT ACTION FRONT (the peace activist coalition of youth and students in Fresno, CA) meets at the Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information call 215-1423 or visit their web site at <http://www.geocities.com/nocellat/studentactionfront.html>

Every Friday 4:30 PM - Weekly Vigils to Stop the War are held at Shaw and Blackstone every Friday. For an up to the minute listing of all Peace actions in the Fresno area call the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223) and press *3. For more information about Peace Fresno email them at peacefresno@neuhouse.com or visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/peacefresno>

Every Friday 4:30 - 5:30 PM - A demonstration for peace gathers at the NW corner of Walnut and Mooney in Visalia every Friday. Bring signs for peace and smiles. For more information contact Denise at 636-0514.

Every Saturday 1-2 PM - Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. The location for cooking on Saturday is at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 1343 East Barstow Ave., between First and Cedar starting at 9AM. They are always in need of servers at the park. For more information call 266-5305 or 452-0277 (ask for Dallas). Visit their web site at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/FNB/>

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

1st Monday of every month - 7:30 PM Monthly meeting of the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (FresCAMP). For more information email FresCAMP@yahoo.com or call (559) 439-0280 or (559) 227-6134.

Last Monday of every month - 6:30 PM Community Alliance for a Fair Economy

(C.A.F.E.) meeting at 985 N Van Ness. For more information call (559) 445-0876 or email vmfoul1@sti.net

1st Tuesday of every month - 6 PM The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights at 328 N. Fresno Street. For more information call (559) 498-6033 or email SJVCoalition@aol.com 3rd Tuesday of every month 7:00 PM Stonewall Democrats will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Express Lounge, 3075 N. Maroa (just south of Shields). Contact Jay Hubbell at (559) 292-4905 e-mail hubbell@online.no or visit the website <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall>

1st Wednesday of every month 7 PM - The Fresno County Democratic Central Committee meeting's are held in the Sate Building Assembly Room. Call Sam Pack Chair phone 495-0606 for more information or agenda item. Yvonne Brown Co-Chair 456-2879.

2nd Thursday of every month - 7:00 PM Fresno County Green Party Council Meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness Ave (S. of Olive). The Fresno County Green Party invites you to its regular monthly County Council meeting. The four pillars of the international Green movement are Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, and Ecological Wisdom. Call 265-3647 for details or go to <http://www.greens.org/cal/fresno>

3rd Thursday of every month - 6 - 8 PM Fresno County Bicycle Coalition - monthly meetings to provide a forum for bicyclists to organize, discuss common concerns, and influence public policy. They have committees on Political Action, Promotion & Education, and Facilities Planning. If you are interested in helping Fresno County become more bike friendly, you are invited to join this group. Cafe Mia, corner Weldon and Van Ness, across from Fresno High School.

3rd Thursday of every month - 7:30 PM Death Penalty Focus regular meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact Maria Telesco at: (559) 255-9492 maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net

4th Thursday of every month - 7:00 PM The Alliance for Community Media in Fresno will hold a meeting to attain Public, Education, and Government access to cable TV. The franchise agreement between the City of Fresno and AT&T is now being negotiated and community groups are organizing for access. Join them by attending this meeting which will be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N Van Ness. For more information contact AllianceEditor@attbi.com or call (559) 226-0477.

3rd Friday of every month - 7:30 PM Baha'i lecture series: "Essential Prerequisites For Peace: Promoting Justice, Unity, Equality Of Women & Men, And Preventing Racism". LOCATION: the Baha'i Center, 2240 N. Angus Street, Fresno, (1st. block south of Clinton, between Fresno and First streets). FOR MORE INFORMATION, call John Cook at (559) 434-6500 or 824-2030, or call the Baha'i Center at 237-4862. www.fresnobaha'i.org

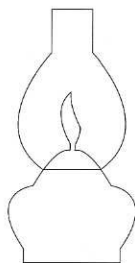
1st Saturday of every month - 9:30 AM Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley are held each 1st Saturday of the month at Denny's Restaurant at Abby and Divisadero Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

1st Saturday of every month - 2 - 4 PM Women of Spirit - a gathering of women rediscovering their own spirituality and enabling others to do the same. You are invited to join the circle of women the first Saturday of each month, at 7319 N. Fourth St., Fresno. Beginning and closing meditation, discussion and activity, light refreshments after closing. The event is free. Both men and women are welcome. Questions, call Veena Kapoor (559) 435-2212.

2nd Saturday of every month - 9:30 AM Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting at 985 N. Van Ness. For more information about the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, see their web page at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence/> or call 559-23PEACE (559-237-3223).

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@attbi.com and saying you would like to subscribe to this service.

THE FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE



The Center is co-sponsoring Joan Poss's trip to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. We plan to co-host a "report back" from Joan and possibly other participants in October; and we are looking for other venues for her to speak at (classes, clubs, etc.). Please use your contacts to help disseminate the information she will bring back--little of it is likely to make the 11:00 o'clock news. You can contact Joan directly (in Oct.) at 227-6134.

HELP: As of this writing, we are still in need of a Treasurer to replace Thulie Fletcher. (She had the nerve to move to Sacramento with husband Greg rather than keep her position with us!) We need someone able to use the Quicken program, and who is familiar with standard bookkeeping practices. We pay a \$50/month stipend for about 5 hours/month of work.

DIALOGUE: The Israel-Palestine conflict continues to be a hot-button issue that often separates natural progressive allies. Center members have begun one-to-one dialogue with individuals within the Jewish and Muslim communities which we hope will result in a more inclusive future discussion. As always the Center's position is that peacemaking is the only activity that brings peace--we condemn violence on all sides, whether in the form of suicide bombings or forcible re-location; deprivation of access to basic needs or sniper attacks. Meanwhile we support the work of BRIDGES FOR PEACE, which had a second TV show on ch. 49's Grapevine News Magazine and a public meeting in August. BRIDGES brings together people from different faith groups who profess peacemaking as their

highest spiritual priority. For current information, contact Richard at 266-2559.

COFFEE CLUB: Attention coffee drinkers who like good, organic and fair trade coffee. Angela is looking for about 6 more "addicts" to get the club going and, as a great side benefit, create a small profit for the Center on a regular basis. Members commit to buying two 12 oz. packages of French Roast beans each month at \$8 a pack. This coffee will be purchased from ERqual Exchange which was founded in 1986 as a worker owned co-op. They offer consumers fairly traded gourmet coffee direct from small-scale farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia. As club membership increases, other coffee beans and teas could be made available. Call Angela at 435-6383 after Oct. 9, till then you can leave your name and number at the Center's number, 237-3223.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

Sept. 14th: APF Chautauqua at Thorne Commons (see article and calendar listing) Oct. 18/19 We have arranged for Michael Nagler--well-known author and lecturer on the practice of nonviolence--to be in Fresno for Friday presentations and a Saturday morning workshop. Times/places TBA.
Oct. 26 :The Center's 2nd annual book/CD/tape sale. Donations requested--bring to the Center during open hours (TWTW 10a.m.-2p.m.) or by arrangement. Volunteers will also be needed the 27th and the days preceding for pricing, hauling, etc. Contact Angela after Oct. 9th at 435-6383.

THE WELCH REPORT

August 12, 2002

Jack H. Welch. M.D.

ON ATTACKING IRAQ.

I am deeply troubled by President Bush's stated intention of "going after" terrorists in a number of different countries in an unending war.

Although there is no evidence to my knowledge that Iraq participated in the crimes of 9/11, it is that country which the Bush administration plans to attack, with the goal of removing its "bad guy" leader, Saddam Hussein. His weapons of mass destruction, undoubtedly, are a legitimate concern. (The invasion of Iraq reportedly has been postponed until 2003, delayed by events in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.) I believe, however, that we have no moral or legal right to remove the elected leader of another country, even though he may be "evil".

The Iraqi people may well not revolt if we attack Saddam, as it is hoped they will do, given our history following the Gulf War.

It is anticipated that a ground attack against Saddam will require 200,000 or more troops. Casualties probably will be heavy, especially civilian, which will provoke more Arab and Muslim outrage.

Afterward we will be faced with the difficult task of establishing a new government for Iraq, requiring a substantial commitment of US resources and expertise. This Bush war against Iraq very probably will bring the world, including the US, more terrorism.

(Source: Sonoma County Peace Press July 2002)

ACTION: We can inform our elected leaders in Washington of our strong objections to this expansion of the war into Iraq.

DECEPTIVE NUCLEAR TREATY.

A nuclear arms reduction treaty, the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), was signed in May 2002 by Presidents Bush and Putin, calling for a reduction in strategic warheads to 1700-2200 on each side. The treaty does not require the destruction of any of the weapons, only their storage. Each country can take up to 10 years (until Dec. 31, 2012) before doing any actual weapons elimination.

Either country can withdraw from the treaty for any reason on three months notice. Remaining weapons are not taken off hair-trigger alert. The treaty still allows each country a massive overkill capacity (only a few hundred weapons are considered sufficient to protect either nation). (Source: Because People Matter July/August 2002)

Physicians for Social Responsibility recommends the following for strengthening the SORT Treaty:

1. dismantle (destroy), not simply store, nuclear warheads (explosive part of weapon) --stored warheads, especially in Russia, are vulnerable to terrorist theft or purchase;
2. improve verification and transparency measures (remember "Trust but verify"!);
3. accelerate and increase reductions in warheads (a timetable is needed); and
4. expand cooperative threat reduction programs (long-term action): e.g., the US Senate should work more diligently to expand financial and technical support to Russia for securing their nuclear weapons and nuclear material stockpiles.

Our Senate is expected to ratify SORT this fall, but it still is possible to add conditions to the Treaty (as the above, and others) that would greatly improve it.



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

WILPF Fresno September through October 5th Events:

Friday, Sep. 6, 6-7:30 pm: Honoring the Victims of Terrorism Vigil at Courthouse Park with Peace Fresno. Contact Camille at 559-237-3223 and press #3 or email camillerussell@softcom.net.

Monday, Sep. 9, 7-9 pm: WILPF Fresno Board Meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (FCNV), 985 N. Van Ness. All are invited to attend these meetings. Contact Vickie at 658-8260 or email vmfou1@sierratel.com.

Wednesday, Sep. 11, Noon -1 pm: Special Women-In-Black honoring the victims of terrorism and standing against war everywhere. Meet at the Fresno County Courthouse under the arch. Contact Jan at 278-7140 or email janet_slagter@csufresno.edu

Thursday, Sep. 19, 5:30 pm: Fill City Hall - Central California Criminal Justice Coalition (CCCJC) meets at City Hall and we need to show our support for justice in Fresno. Think about it, seven dead in thirteen months. Contact Ellie at 229-9807 or email geneb@csufresno.edu.

Wednesday, Sep. 25, 3:30-4:00 pm: Stir It Up! WILPF's Gabrielle Kirkland hosts Joan Poss to discuss the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Joan was sponsored to attend the WSSD this past month by WILPF Fresno and the Center For Nonviolence. Be sure to listen.

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7:30 pm: San Francisco Mime Troupe performs *Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan* at the Tower Theater. Advance tickets: \$20.00-general admission, \$17.50-children, students, and seniors. Door: \$22.50 and \$20.00 respectively. Contact: Carol Bequette at 229-9661 or email cbequette@aol.com regarding tickets, volunteering and housing.

Friday, Oct. 4, 4:30-5:30: Keep Space for Peace Demonstration with Peace Fresno at the intersection of Shaw and Blackstone. Contact Camille at 559-237-3223 and press #3 or email camillerussell@softcom.net.

Every Wednesday, Noon-1 pm: Women-In-Black. Stand in silence for peace in the Fresno County Courthouse archway. Bring your poster saying how you support peace and not war. Contact Jan at 278-7140 or email janet_slagter@csufresno.edu.

WILPF Retreat

Twenty members attended our busy retreat on August 3rd and we still have much unfinished business. The minutes of the meeting are more than six pages long so only highlights of the meeting will be touched on here. For the complete minutes go to <http://lennon.csufresno.edu/~dc025>. Some of the items decided on are evident in the calendar of events also.

1. Board meetings will be on the second Mondays of each month at the FCNV from 7-9 pm.
2. Members approved giving \$1,000 to send a member to WSSD. This sum is being matched by the FCNV. Also approved a \$100 donation to WSSD Peace Train.
3. Julie Young is sending letters of notification to every overdue Fresno branch member on the WILPF National list.
4. Brainstormed strategies to increase member participation. These ideas included, have focused meetings, make personal invitations to meetings, have workshops concerning outreach to people from all walks of life and many more.
5. Improve communication within the branch and the community at large concerning International WILPF's four campaigns (Racial Justice, Challenging Corporate Power, Disarmament and Normalization of Relations with Cuba) by selecting a single point of contact for each campaign. Volunteers are needed to do this.
6. 2002-2003 Programs/Actions: Women-In-Black, HIV/AIDS Teach-In, WILPF Stir It Up Radio Program, Buy Local Guide, Corporate Power Workshops, JAPA book donations, Gap demonstrations and many others.
7. Fundraising: San Francisco Mime Troupe-10/2, WILPF Fresno Cookbook-due for release 12/2003 and Peace Community Craft Faire-12/7/2002.

Legislative Action:

Our congressmen are home this month. A good opportunity to contact them at their local offices and lobby for your priorities either by arranging a meeting with them, attending meetings where they will be speaking, or leaving messages for them. There is

the issue of health care and prescription drugs that congress has yet to act on--the situation in Israel/Palestine with the U.S. Refusing to deal with Arafat while supporting Sharon's hard line positions, our huge investment in national missile defense program, dangers to our civil liberties as a result of our ongoing war on terrorism both at home and abroad.

But most urgent at this time is a need to speak out against going to war in Iraq. Please contact congressmen and senators about this even if you have already done so. Here is a statement by Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies. Although she was not called to testify before the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Wellstone had her remarks read into the record. "Nelson Mandela was right when he said that attacking Iraq would be "a disaster." A U.S. invasion of Iraq would risk the lives of U.S. Military personnel and inevitably kill thousands of Iraqi civilians; it is not surprising that many U.S. military officers, including some within the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are publicly opposed to a new war against Iraq. Such an attack would violate international law and the UN Charter, and isolate us from our friends and allies around the world. An invasion would prevent the future return of UN arms inspectors, and will cost billions of dollars urgently needed at home. And at the end of the day, an invasion will not insure stability, let alone democracy, in Iraq or the rest of the volatile Middle East region, and will put American civilians at greater risk of hatred and perhaps terrorist attacks than they are today."

CONTACT DESI CORTEZ AT desicortez@cvip.net to submit items to this page. Please have complete information to me by 9/10/02.

DELEGATE GOES TO THE WORLD SUMMIT

Joan Poss of Fresno will be a delegate to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), sponsored by the United Nations, to be held August 26th to September 4th, 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Poss's trip is sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (FCNV) and the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club. "I have always been an environmentalist and a pacifist," says Ms. Poss, a 37-year charter member of the local WILPF organization. "I really understand the world," Poss says. She has lived in Cairo, Barcelona, Co. Wicklow Republic of Ireland, and England, and visits Italy yearly. She also visited China in 1998 as part of a WILPF delegation to an environmental forum. She is active in the Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Women in Black, and participates in "Peace Corner" demonstrations. She received the 2001 Free Speech Award from the Fresno Free College Foundation; the 2002 Way of Peace Award from the FCNV; and a 2002 Certificate of Appreciation from Sen. Barbara Boxer.

The WSSD conference will focus on two global conditions that affect the Central Valley: the growing devastation of the earth's resources and the poverty of earth's people. "Sustainable" refers to preserving the earth's limited resources; "development" refers to all nations that are combating poverty. The conference will have two sections. In one, representatives of governments will attempt to form agreements to further the Summit's goals of preserving resources and eliminating poverty. In the other, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) delegates will interact and educate one another about issues of mutual concern. Ms. Poss will deliver a talk about peace efforts and the military/missile activities in California. On her return to Fresno, Ms. Poss will be available to speak to schools, organizations and other groups about world needs and international efforts to face environmental and social issues. For information call: Joan Poss 227-6134 or Polly Victor 255-3422.

MR. SMITH GOES TO OBSCURISTAN

S.F. Mime Troupe: Uniting Theatre and Revolution!



The world-renowned San Francisco Mime Troup is coming to Fresno with its latest performance, Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan, a political/musical satire driven by the events of September 11th and their aftermath. The performance will be held on Wednesday,

October 2nd at the Tower Theater and is sponsored by the Fresno Free College Foundation, KFCF Radio and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Tickets are available at the Tower Theater box office at 815 E. Olive Avenue (next to the Tower Theater) open 10 am to 6 pm, Monday Through Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays, or by phone at (559) 485-9050. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$17.50 for students, seniors and children. In Mr. Smith Goes to Obscuristan, the President of the United States has a problem: his well-earned reputation of using the War on Terrorism to advance corporate interests is getting in the way of his actual foreign policy - advancing corporate interests! The Administration needs to convince the world that it puts democracy before profits, and it needs an unimportant place to use as an example. So, when the President-For-Life of the tiny country of Obscuristan announces first time ever elections, the US sends 9-11 fireman hero Jeff Smith as its official advisor. Smith, a true believer in America as a beacon of freedom in a dark world, vows to help Obscuristan achieve American-style democracy. But when oil is discovered and an Obscuristani presidential candidate promises to keep the oil wealth at home, priorities change. Will

the President-For-Life keep his pledge to have elections? Or will the War on Terrorism be used to enforce the status quo? Will the oilmen in Washington cynically endorse democracy over profit for public relations? Or has their hero Mr. Smith become an obstacle to an even greater plan? And what, exactly, is "American Style" democracy? The San Francisco Mime Troup

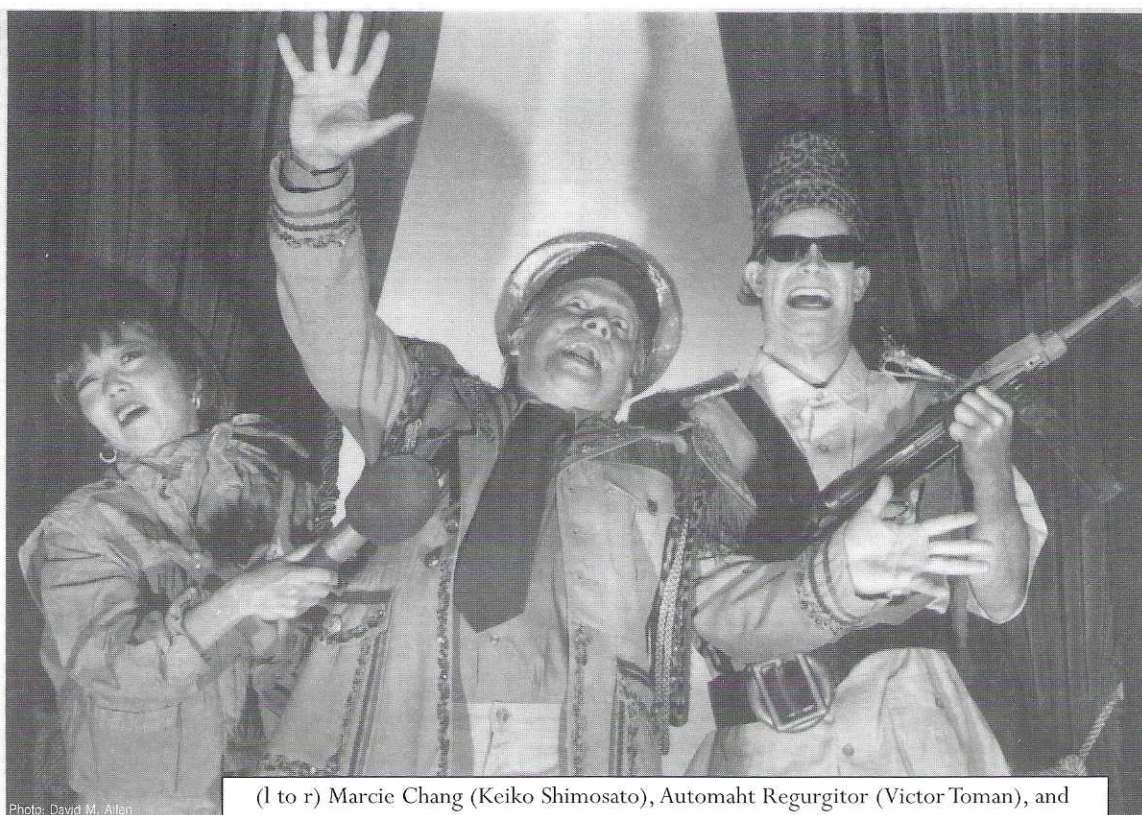


Photo: David M. Allen

(l to r) Marcie Chang (Keiko Shimosato), Automah Regurgitor (Victor Toman), and Goon (Michael Carrerio), SNN reporter interviewing the President-For-Life.

has been producing socially relevant musical theatre since 1959, a testament to the Troup's ability to speak their thoughts. The Troup's emphasis has remained on the ensemble, not the ego, on multiculturalism, equal wages, mentoring and theater of the highest quality. The SFMT has won numerous literary awards including its first OBIE award in 1968 for "uniting theater and revolution and grooving in parks".