



FREE SPEECH

VICTORY AT FASHION FAIR

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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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Recall Election

by Richard Stone

The *Community Alliance* conducted an informal poll of readers about the upcoming gubernatorial recall/election. Twenty-six respondents voted. The results were 24 against the recall, 2 in favor. Here are some germane quotes from each position.

AGAINST

"Recalls are bad for the democratic process . . . If [a] right-wing opportunist becomes the governor . . . I would not hesitate taking part in another recall effort to unseat him right away." —Mattias Thorslund

"Recall initiative and referendum were established in our state constitution during the Progressive Era so that the people could regain some power from the Robber Barons. Today recall is being used by a man who has much (money) in common with the RBs." —Alan Amend

"What a waste." —Jeffrey Booth

"Why are the Republicans recalling Davis? To divert attention from themselves. (Does anyone still remember Cheney and Bush's personal involvement in the financial scandals in the power industry?)" —Paul Thomas Jackson

" . . . the chance of getting someone weird is really great. . . . This election is a good example of one which would be greatly improved by an instant runoff." —Nancy Waidtlow

"I don't like the idea of rich Republicans trying to unseat legally elected politicians. . ." —Imy Swaney

"Davis? I've always thought his convictions were as gray as his name. Still we elected him under the same set of facts that now exists. . . . The recall is a parliamentary maneuver by those who cannot accept democracy." —Steve Malm

"A gargantuan waste of money and another clear sign that more than ever money (and politics) trump democracy." —Dan Rosenberg

"A vote for a recall is a vote for another Republican coup d'etat." —Howard Hendrix

"He has not committed a crime or an offense against the state, unless being a smarmy politician is now illegal." —Tracy Ortiz

"To blame the governor for economic problems in California when the whole country is in an economic crisis does appear to be politically motivated." —Jack & Barbara Cook

FOR

"I still take seriously the old adage that the measure of a government is the way it treats the worst of us. For years I have worked on the parole of a woman who has been "down" in prison for 17 years. . . . She's 57 years old, very ill with Hepatitis C, devout, skilled and has a family of children and siblings who love her. Davis vetoes her parole date, and she stays in prison. I can't stand Davis, and I'd rather have a half-decent Republican run this state than a cruel, bought-and-paid-for technician like Davis." —Catherine Campbell

" . . . I'll chance it . . ." —Gina Thrasher

REMEMBER: You can vote against the recall and still vote for a replacement. Here's how our respondents voted, when they did:

5 for Peter Camejo ("a real progressive") 2 for Cruz Bustamante ("most electable Democrat") 1 for Arianna Huffington ("a lot smarter than the rest . . . combined") 1 for Larry Flynt ("at least he believes in freedom of speech")

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT: VOTE!

by Diane Scott

We Californians have been put in the position of having to pay \$30–\$60 million for a special election to recall the governor, a man we only recently reelected. Why should we get rid of Governor Davis? Is he to blame for our big budget deficit? He did pay very high prices for the electricity we needed during the crisis. He had to, because former governor Pete Wilson (Republican) had deregulated the energy industry, thus allowing corporations like Duke, Enron, and Reliant to raise their prices high and higher, falsely claiming shortage of product and, in the process, making a \$71 billion profit from California. That is \$2,200 from each Californian. Governor Davis tried several times to get an appointment with Bush but never succeeded. But Kenneth Lay, the CEO of Enron, met often with Cheney. Then, last summer the Republicans held up the budget for more than a month and now they accuse the governor of causing that. Next, recall was called for by Republican Issa who personally bankrolled payment to signature gatherers to get the recall on the ballot. The recall is the Republicans' latest ploy to buy the government.

Do you want to live in a society that aims for the good of the common person? Get registered! Vote! Every person's vote is essential right now (and, for that matter, at all times). If you're not registered, now is the time. Here are the requirements to register. You must be:

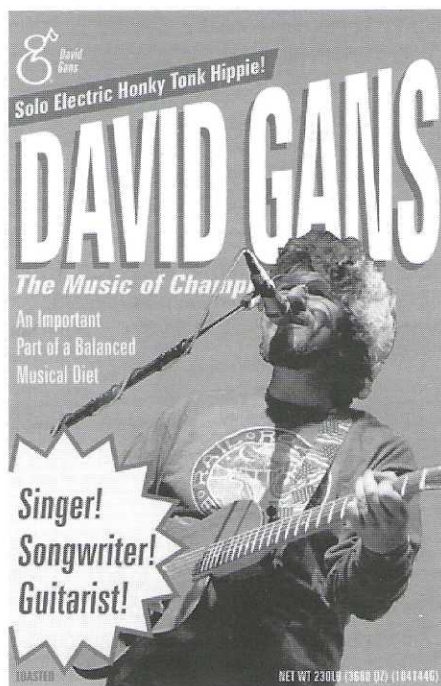
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BENEFIT CONCERT FOR KFCF 88.1 FM

To anyone even mildly interested in the music and stories of the Grateful Dead, David Gans is already a familiar name. And anyone who saw his show last year in Fresno knows you don't have to be a Deadhead to enjoy David's wildly original tunes and creative guitar playing.

If you missed him last year, he's coming back to Club Fred in Fresno's Tower District on Friday, Sept. 12, for an encore performance to benefit KFCF 88.1 FM and the Fresno Free College Foundation, starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door (available at The Movies). The show will open with a set from Fresno's own Bradley Rogers. Brad recently has been seen and heard on the PBS program "California Heartland" playing his own original brand of "Cosmic Americana" music.

In addition to being the host of the nationally syndicated Grateful Dead Hour radio show for fifteen years, as well as KPFA's live broadcast, Dead to the World (8-10 p.m. Wednesdays on KFCF 88.1 FM), David is the co-author of "Playing in the Band: An Oral and Visual Portrait of the Grateful Dead," the author of "Conversations with the Dead" and the editor of "Not Fade Away: The Online World Remembers Jerry Garcia." His musical credits include producing "Stolen Roses: Songs of the Grateful Dead" and co-producing the Dead's Gold Record-winning boxed set, "So Many Roads (1965-1995)" and "Might as Well: The Persuasions Sing Grateful Dead." But those activities are only a small part of the David Gans story. For it has been performing music that has always been the most important part of his incredibly creative life. "I was a musician and songwriter before I'd ever heard of the Grateful Dead," he explains. "My sensibility was already formed when I first encountered that weird and wonderful music. Of course, the Dead's music is detectable in mine, but there's so much more to music, and so much more to me, than just that."



As for other influences, David cites an eclectic list that includes The Beatles, Western swing, traditional country, and a host of singer/songwriters including Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello, Neil Young, Jackson Browne, John Prine and Steve Goodman. Gans' reputation as an artist has enabled him to sit in with many highly regarded national acts, including moe., The String Cheese Incident, Peter Rowan, Vassar Clements, Merl Saunders, Vince Welnick, the Mickey Hart Band, Blueground Undergrass, Donna the Buffalo, Dark Star Orchestra, Keller Williams, The Persuasions, and many others. In addition to great music and storytelling, progressive groups are encouraged to bring their tables so the evening is educational as well as fun.

A non-partisan voter registration table will also be available just in time for the deadline prior to the important California recall and so-called "Racial Privacy Initiative" votes. Please contact Debbie Speer at 559-225-8156 or the KFCF office at 559-233-2221 if your group is interested in tabling the concert.

The San Joaquin Valley Peoples Day Festival 2003 October 11th & 12th **SAVE THE DATE!**

By: Ricardo G. Huerta Niño

All the communities of the San Joaquin Valley are invited to join in a weekend of music, art, dance, theater, film, photography, and environmental education. Over 30 organizations, including the coordinating executive committee (Adopt-A-Watershed, Barrios Unidos, Fresno Metro Ministries, Latino Issues Forum and Verbalution) have come together to host a multicultural, multilingual, multimedia, multi-venue, event to take place at indoor and outdoors spaces in the Uptown Cultural Arts District — the African American Museum, Arte Americas and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum. Students, families, artists, performers, professionals and many more people are designing an event celebrating the vast diversity of the peoples of the San Joaquin Valley, to bring greater understanding and build relationship across cultures. Specifically, the event focuses on health, arts, education, environment, youth, community and economic development and Indigenous People. Participants and attendees will come from all over the Valley to showcase their projects and talents.

The event is a free-to-the-public arts & entertainment festival but which also offers shows, presentations, workshops, exhibits and services booths such as health screenings, job development, bi-national banking, homeownership, literacy, community-building and other similar topics. The event is family-friendly, clean & sober, tobacco-free.

There is still room to participate as an organization, artist, performer, volunteer or vendor. For more information, please send an email to Ricardo G. Huerta Niño at <Ricardo@adopt-a-watershed.org>. Our meetings will be held every other Monday evening at a location in the uptown cultural arts district. The next meeting is Monday, August 25th

MORE ON THE OCTOBER BALLOT THAN RECALL!

by Carol Bequette

Yes, on October 7 registered voters are going to vote on recalling Governor Davis and choosing his successor, if he is indeed recalled. But there will be an important initiative on that ballot that could prove to be as divisive as the recall.

Proposition 54 (the Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, and National Origin initiative—CRECNO) qualified for the next statewide general election, which has turned out to be October 7, 2003. If passed, Prop. 54 would ban state and local agencies from collecting or analyzing data on race and ethnicity. It would eliminate information that pinpoints where inequities lie—undermining efforts to prosecute hate crimes or enforce civil rights laws barring discrimination in housing, education, and employment, and jeopardizing programs that combat such chronic health problems as teen pregnancy, breast cancer, and AIDS.

An alliance of approximately 350 civil rights, health, education, and environmental organizations, calling itself Coalition for an Informed California, has been formed to fight the initiative.

To get involved, contact ACLU-NC volunteer coordinator, Jessica Justice, at (415) 621-2493, ext. 383; or Ray Leon at (559) 241-6572 or rleon@lif.org.



- a US citizen,
- a California resident,
- at least 18 years old by the next election (October 7),
- mentally competent, and (if you've served time in prison or on parole) released from whichever one you were sentenced to.

If you were previously registered, you must reregister. You must also reregister if you move, change your name, or change your party affiliation. You must register at least 15 days before the next election. You may fill out a registration card from an individual who is registering people, or at the Elections office, 2221 Kern Street, Fresno, or call 488-3246 for more information. You may request an absentee ballot, which must be returned to a county elections official between 29 and 7 days before the election. If you need assistance with registration information in another language, here are numbers to call: In English (800) 345-VOTE (8683), Spanish (800) 232-VOTA (8682), Chinese (800) 339-2857, Vietnamese (800) 339-8163, Japanese (800) 339-2865, Tagalog (800) 339-2957. Elections materials for Fresno County are printed only in English.

You will, after registration, receive a sample ballot containing names of all candidates; the back page will state the address of your polling place and whether it is accessible to those with disabilities. You may check the name of the candidate you wish to vote for in your sample ballot and take that booklet with you to your polling place. If you do not have a way to get to your polling place, many organizations and political parties have lists of persons willing to provide transportation to vote.

The minimum, the very basic minimum, of a citizen's duty is to cast a vote on election day. Even now, too few of us discharge this minimal duty. —Eleanor Roosevelt, 1960

MEDIA DEMOCRACY COMES TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY

by Mike Rhodes

Don't like what you see on the television these days? Think you could do better? Well, if things go the way they should, TV (cable TV, at least) is about to get a whole lot better. That is because our new cable service provider, Comcast, must renegotiate the franchise agreement with the City of Fresno. Actually, they are negotiating a new agreement with Fresno County, the City of Clovis, and Madera. But, more about that later.

The new franchise agreement will determine the future of cable TV in this area for the next 10 to 20 years. Perhaps the most interesting prospect is the possibility of Public, Education, and Government (PEG) access:

- The "public" channel(s) will give every person and organization the opportunity to have a TV show, for free. Individuals and groups can produce a show about anything they like: immigrant and worker rights, a talk show like *The Right Stuff from the Left*, or music from Cambodia. The possibilities are endless.
- The "education" channel(s) will be used by schools to share knowledge through distant learning programs, inform the community about learning opportunities, and show events that take place at schools, such as musical performances, dance, and sports. This channel will also provide students with a

valuable opportunity to learn the skills needed for television production.

- The "government" channel(s) will give you a chance to see how government works. In addition to showing the City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings in their entirety, the channel can be used to show what is happening in important board and commission meetings, to interview elected officials, and to cover key events.

PEG access will increase civic participation by providing the community with as many channels as needed. When one PEG channel is filled up with programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the community will get another channel. PEG access on cable TV will be the biggest soap box for free speech ever imagined in this community. There will be no censorship, there will be unlimited time available, and best of all, it will be *free*. We expect Comcast, when the new franchise agreement is signed, to provide the community with PEG access, a community media center, and all the equipment needed to produce quality programs.

What would you do with your own TV show?

Our taking control of what we see on TV bucks the trend of media consolidation and the domination by corporations to control all content. PEG access will give a voice to the voiceless and give community groups and individuals an opportunity to participate in public debate about important local and world issues. I believe that this is the largest restructuring of access to the media in the Central Valley since TV went on the air more than 50 years ago.

What the community stands to gain with PEG access is threatened by corporate greed and public apathy. Comcast is not going to give us all these new services out of the goodness of its corporate heart. Expect Comcast to fight tooth and nail to limit PEG access in any way they can. They will send in the best lobbyists to convince City Council members that nobody cares about this issue. They might threaten us with higher rates or offer a better deal for education and government access if the City Council agrees to drop public access. The possibilities are endless and the stakes are high. The counter to the endless resources Comcast will throw into this fight is community involvement. If community groups and individuals want to democratize media and have a voice in their world, they will keep their eye on this ball.

The City of Fresno is setting up a series of community needs assessment meetings that will be held in October to find out what you think about and how you would use PEG channels. It is absolutely critical that the city hears from community members at this time. We will announce the location and times of these meetings in the next issue of the Community Alliance magazine.

The City of Fresno has hired the Buske Group (www.buskegroup.com) as a consultant to help in the negotiation of the franchise agreement with Comcast. City Council members should be thanked for their wisdom in hiring a consultant and leveling the playing field in this effort to support community media. The current agreement between the City of Fresno and Comcast ends in December 2004 but a new contract could be settled at any time.

Comcast contracts are also being renegotiated in Clovis, in Madera, and with the County of Fresno. If you live in any of those areas you should contact your elected representatives and ask them what they are doing to guarantee PEG access in the new franchise agreement. Encourage them to hire a consultant to help their staff in this technically complex field. It would be great if these different government entities worked together and cooperated to bring media democracy to the Central Valley.

For more information about this project contact Cable Access Now (CAN) at (559) 226-0477.

DELANO PRISON BACK IN COURT

FRESNO COURT HEARS APPEAL AS STATE BUILDS \$595 MILLION PRISON IN MIDST OF BUDGET CRISIS

by Craig Gilmore, California Prison Moratorium Project and
Rose Braz, Critical Resistance

FRESNO, CA—The controversial Delano II prison was back in court on August 11, as the Fresno Court of Appeal heard arguments by opponents of the \$595 million project that the Environmental Impact Report on the project remained inadequate.

Opponents maintain that the California Department of Corrections' (CDC) report—which the Court had earlier found lacking—continued to provide an inadequate analysis of the project's impact on sensitive Valley issues such as water, air quality, and farmland preservation.

In a precourt press conference, Rosenda Mataka of the Central California Environmental Justice Network told reporters, "These prisons are sucking the Valley dry and draining the state's treasury. Help us clean up Valley air and eliminate pesticides. Help us fund education for our kids and develop good paying jobs for Valley residents. Don't saddle us with another prison we don't want and don't need."

The prison's opponents, a broad-based coalition of more than 80 organizations, including the Fresno NAACP, the Delano Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment, and the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network, have also questioned the budgetary wisdom of the \$595 million project, which comes in the midst of the state's most serious budget crisis.

"While the state builds a \$595 million prison, it also forced cancellation of 135 bus routes for Clovis school children and Valley kids are losing state healthcare," said Rose Braz, Director of Critical Resistance, a member of the coalition fighting the prison.

When Governor Davis resurrected the proposed prison in January 1999, California was flush with a multibillion-dollar budget surplus. Today, health care is being slashed, K-12 teachers laid off, fees for UC and CSU raised 30%, and fees for community colleges raised more than 60%. The state has also delayed the opening of UC Merced for another year and frozen state workers' pay. With the state facing years of \$8-10 billion deficits, the wisdom of the project is all the more questionable.

"While the only area of state spending the governor wanted increased was prison spending, four separate statewide polls all found that likely voters favored cuts to prisons over any other area of state spending," added Braz. "A poll by the governor's own pollsters found that 58% of California voters favor a moratorium on state prison construction."

In June 2001, prison opponents won a historic court challenge to the CDC's environmental analysis, when the Court ordered CDC to prepare a new environmental report. "The revised analysis revealed for the first time that the prison would actually use far more groundwater than the site's current occupants, farmers," said Babak Naficy, attorney for appellant, Friends of the Kangaroo Rat. The endangered Tipton Kangaroo Rat and San Joaquin Kit Fox have been previously found on the prison site.

"A revelation of such magnitude should not have been hidden in a revised cumulative impact analysis. CDC should be required to prepare a new Environmental Impact Report," continued Naficy. "Kern County deserves better. How were local farmers, businesses, and towns to know that the information in the previous report—about the critical issue of water—was false?" Southern San

Joaquin Municipal Utility District's Bill Carlisle also spoke at the press conference.

"This is another clear indication of the Department of Corrections' lack of regard and respect for the communities they deal with," said Craig Gilmore of the California Prison Moratorium Project.

Referring to the Delano prison plan, Gilmore commented, "CDC takes 480 acres of farmland out of production when there are hundreds of acres lying fallow nearby. They fail to interview or even notify the local water utility of their plan. And they make factually incorrect assumptions about the critical issue of water."

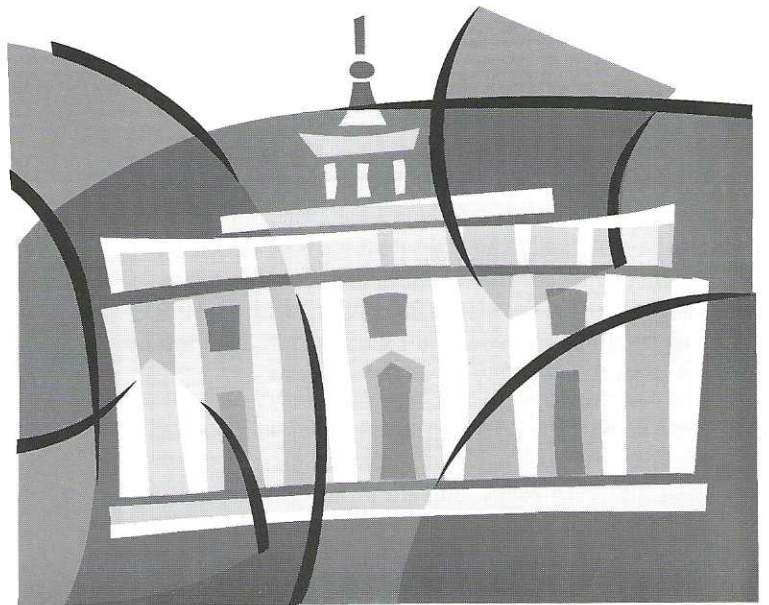
During the press conference, University of California Professor Ruth Wilson Gilmore displayed a graph showing that Delano's current prison had not increased Delano's sales tax revenues. She also quoted former Delano mayor Napoleon Madrid, who in 2000 told the New York Times that based on what occurred with the first Delano prison, it was projected that only 72 of the 1600 jobs to be created by Delano II would go to city residents.

On appeal, opponents also challenged the CDC's analysis of the prison's impact on traffic and air quality, reiterating concerns raised by both CALTRANS and the City of Delano. "The CDC's analysis of the impact of the prison on traffic ends in 2002, despite the fact that the prison is not scheduled to open until 2005. Both CalTrans and the City of Delano requested that the CDC use the CalTrans 20-year traffic planning method, but CDC refused," said attorney Naficy.

Opponents additionally asked CDC to mitigate for the loss of 480 acres of Williamson Act Farmland of Statewide Importance. "The prison has converted 480 acres of important farmland to an industry—the prison industry," said Naficy, who argued that the CDC should mitigate for the loss of prime farmland by purchasing conservation easements on other farmland, preserving that land from future conversion.

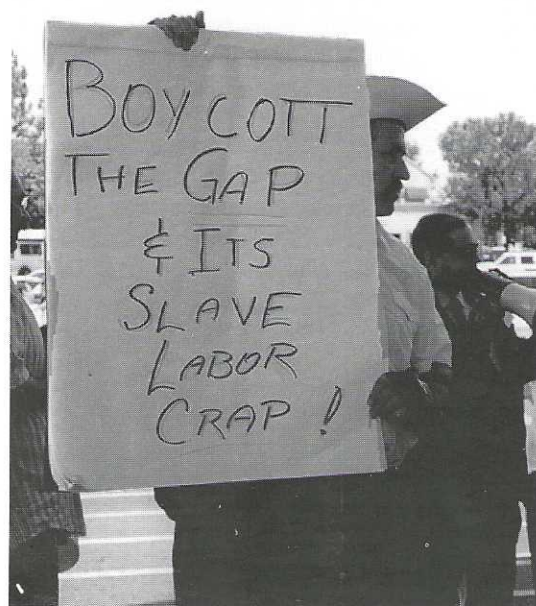
Since the Delano II prison was authorized by the legislature in 1999, the state's prison population has dramatically declined and the CDC is now projecting 20,000 fewer prisoners than it anticipated when Delano II was authorized. This dramatic decline has also called into question the CDC's purported need for the 5,160-bed prison.

The Court has 90 days to rule on the appeal. For further information or to support the campaign to oppose Delano II, contact the California Prison Moratorium Project at (510) 595-4674 or califpmp@igc.org; or contact Critical Resistance at (510) 444-0484 or crnational@criticalresistance.org.



The Legal Context of the Gap 19 Case: Part 2 of 2

by Paul Thomas Jackson



Keeping in mind that the only legal justification for a mall's rules affecting the time, place, and manner of speech is to ensure "freedom from disruption of normal business operations and freedom from interference with customer convenience," we now discuss the three remaining issues concerning Fashion Fair's time, place, and manner

stores. Neither precedent nor policy compels a result so at variance with the goal of free expression and communication that is at the heart of the First Amendment."

Clearly, the policy underlying free-speech rights would be defeated if Fashion Fair's ineffable-tenant rule had been upheld. Another authority supporting our attack of the constitutionality of that rule is the U.S. Supreme Court, in its decision in *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*:

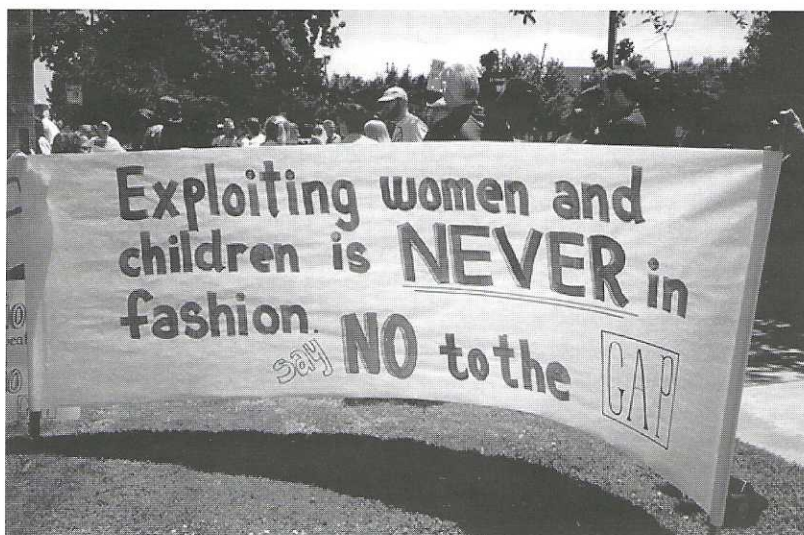
"Importantly, the reasonableness of a time, place, or manner regulation—whether it was imposed by a government agency or a private property owner—depends on the relation the regulation bears to the overall problem the agency or property owner seeks to correct, not on the extent to which it furthers the agency or property owner's interest in an individual case." This statement was quoted in *Savage v. Trammell Crow Co.*, a state court case mentioned in an earlier article.

As the H-CHH Associates court said, and as the prosecutor kept insisting, a mall owner may require prior approval of signs and posters. Yet, a mall owner's performance of this function does not convey the power to regulate speech whose content doesn't suit the owner's interest in cases that may come up involving demonstrators on its property. (See *Rock Against Racism*, quoted above.) From this outcome of the Gap case, then, we conclude that the ongoing struggle for free speech has gained an additional assurance that a mall owner may not arrogate the role of censor!

We now discuss a rule concerning the place where free speech may be exercised at Fashion Fair. The rule in question—cited by the prosecutor and refuted by the demonstrators' attorneys—prohibits demonstrators from standing near the entrances to Fashion Fair. In light of the fact that the 19 demonstrators made no application or agreement to abide by this or any of its other rules, the prosecutor—still wanting to elevate the rules' status to that of law—argued the demonstrators' activity was unconstitutional and, under a section (602.1) of the penal code, left them exposed to liability for criminal trespass. As already dis-

rules that appear to have arisen in the criminal case pursued against the 19 people who on May 6, 2000, demonstrated free speech against one of Fashion Fair's tenants, the Gap.

The rule that purported to prevent "activities which identify by name the Center owner manager or any tenant in the Center" went far beyond time, place, and manner of speech and deep into the content of speech. The prosecutor, citing *H-CHH Associates*, simply insisted that a mall owner can make a rule requiring approval of any sign or poster before it is displayed on mall property.



The demonstrators' attorneys, describing the net effect of this "ineffable-tenant rule," as we might call it, swiftly and soundly refuted the prosecutor's position, which appeared to be that a mall owner can arrogate the power to regulate the content of speech. The attorneys then cited the following passage from the decision in *Re Lane*, in which the state supreme court quoted its federal counterpart in *Food Employees Union Local 590 v. Logan Valley Plaza*:

"Business enterprises located in downtown areas would be subject to on-the-spot public criticism for their business practices, but businesses situated in the suburbs could largely immunize themselves from similar criticism by creating a cordon sanitaire of parking lots around their

CA 6



Photos this page courtesy of Catherine Campbell

cussed and as poignantly argued by the demonstrators' attorneys, a mall's rules do not have that status.

The prosecutor's pleadings—in arguing that probable cause exists for criminal trespass and in discussing the issues in the case—casually lump mall rules together with state law, offering no explanation for this juxtaposition. This shows why experienced lawyers are needed, lawyers who, like those retained by the demonstrators, are able to catch opposing counsel's sly devices and to expose them effectively but without excessive fanfare—just as Patience Milrod did in the straightforward reply she gave to the prosecutor's opposition to the motion to dismiss. In a system as busy as the courts, brevity like hers is the soul of wit.

Apparently, the court did not honor the rule for one or two reasons. One may have been that, having found Fashion Fair's ineffable-tenant rule to be unconstitutional, the court chose not to enforce any of its rules. A court will adopt this standoffish position, we've said, based on the principle that the government (or governing entity, in this case, Fashion Fair) that created the rule, or set of rules, should not profit from its own wrong.

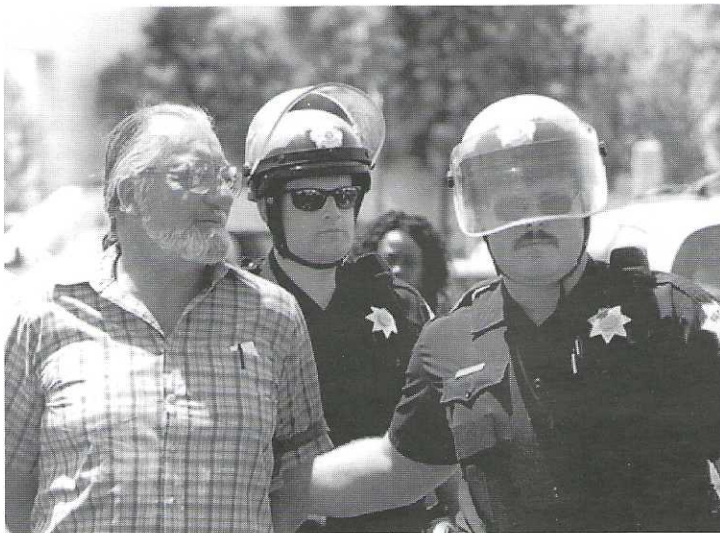
Another reason for the court's standoffishness might have been that none of the Gap 19 had ever put in an application or signed an agreement to abide by Fashion Fair's rules. This closely parallels the other reason, since it would have been dishonest had the demonstrators, whose very purpose was to criticize the Gap's labor practices, agreed not to mention any of Fashion Fair's tenants!

Whichever of these reasons led Judge Hamlin to stand off Fashion Fair's rules, Fashion Fair's error in attempting to insulate itself and its tenants from public criticism appears to have been fatal to the prosecutor's case. This is also a potent lesson for mall owners who may be tempted to draft such a rule!

Finally, we step back and look at how Fashion Fair pursued its case. As

cases where demonstrators on its property fail to abide by time, place, and manner requirements. Conceivably, their failure to do so could involve assault or creating a public disturbance. But these would be facts involved in a case that would probably be separate from anything having to do with such requirements.

Generally speaking, statutory law provides no rem-



edy for an alleged nuisance occurring on one's private property. Because the legislature has not provided any remedy for such a nuisance, the property owner's recourse lies with the courts, which—exercising their injunctive power—will decide what may be needed to prevent any further nuisance. Upon a verified petition and after holding a hearing on any reasons why an injunction should not be granted, a court can issue an injunction and preserve the public peace.

The advantages of using this recourse are obvious. The hearing on an order to show cause (OSC) gives

both the owner of the property and the alleged creator of the nuisance an equal opportunity to be heard. In the Gap 19's case, on the other hand, Fashion Fair's recourse to the local police resulted in a lopsided situation that was extremely prejudicial to their rights.

Had Fashion Fair instead petitioned the court for an injunction, the demonstrators would have had an opportunity to object to its rule banning all mention of it or its tenants. After reforming the agreement, the court might have instructed the demonstrators, before holding any future free-speech activity there, to agree to abide by all of the other rules (including the rule prohibiting free-speech activities near mall entrances). But since Fashion Fair decided to play hardball and did not seek an injunction, its ineffable-tenant rule stayed on its books tainting its purported case against the demonstrators, with the ultimate result that Fashion Fair could not enforce its rule about activities near its entrances. Such appear to have been the results of its decision to seek criminal prosecution.

The demonstrators' victory is an example to all others concerned with free speech in the Central Valley, encouraging the responsible pursuit of civil rights. Its outcomes are instructive to free-speech demonstrators



Photos this page courtesy of Dallas Blanchard

Continued on page 12

The Invisible Community of Westside of Fresno County, California

By Kathryn Forbes, Susan Arpad, and Joseph Arpad

When you drive west out of Fresno on Shaw Avenue and turn south on Dickenson Road and then onto the McMullin Grade, the scenery changes from farmhouses



crops change to a larger scale as the Panoche Hills come into view in the western distance. By the time you come to the crossroads at Five Points, the scenery looks like a moonscape, particularly after the cotton has been harvested. There is little sign of human life. When you see the giant machines in the fields, planting or harvesting, it's easy to imagine that machines rule the world and only a few people live here. That's because, for the most part, the people who live on the west side are invisible to the public eye.

Those who live here reside in what the Fresno County Environmental Health Department calls "labor camps"—ranch-owned housing for the farmworkers. These small villages, scattered among the farms and serviced by farm-owned and operated water and sewer or septic systems, are the only communities that exist on vast stretches of the west side of the county. For the most part, the labor camps are off the main roads. You have to know which dirt roads to follow to find them. Some of the roads have big "Keep Out" signs as you turn off the paved road. Sometimes clumps of large trees hint of the presence of humans, but those trees can fool you because when you drive down the road, all you may see are concrete pads where houses used to be or uneven ground where the houses that used to be there have been burned and buried.

Most the people who work on the west side live elsewhere. Of the 2,016 people who work year-round in the Westside Elementary School District, only 359 can live in the district because of the shortage of housing. The rest of the district's year-round workers (1,657 people) travel to and from work in cars, labor contractor vans, old station wagons and pickup trucks. If the drivers are undocumented, they are unlicensed, uninsured, and untested in driving skills. They live as far away as Fresno, an hour's drive and so they are doubly invisible. At 4:30 a.m. one recent morning, as we drove southwest on Dickenson Avenue, we saw a mile of headlights in our rear view mirror. An hour later, the traffic had disap-

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and al-
mond
groves.
Then,
gradually,
the acres
of field



peared as the workers melted into the landscape. These people became briefly visible on August 9, 1999 when a van load of farmworkers returning to Fresno after completing their day's work of harvesting tomatoes crashed into a loaded tomato truck, killing 13 of the van's occupants.

That van crash caused the media and politicians to momentarily draw the curtain aside and look at the lives of these west side farmworkers. Senator Dean Flores and Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes successfully campaigned for stricter equipment and licensing standards for labor contractor vans. At a recent meeting at Fresno State University, Professor Andrew Alvarado said that farm labor is one of the most dangerous occupation in the U.S., but "a farmworker is four times as likely to be killed or injured traveling to and from work than on the job." Nevertheless, two years after the van crash, Fresno County implemented its new General Plan and once again erased the west side agricultural workers by declaring that no residential housing would be built in the "unincorporated Westside South Market Area," an area only slightly smaller than the state of Rhode Island. And no one complained. The Plan was hailed as a great step forward for Fresno County, particularly because the Plan declared that agricultural land would be preserved by directing new housing to existing cities and towns. Environmentalists in the cities applauded. No one asked west side farmworkers how this would effect their lives.

Simply stated, the problem is this: There is not enough housing in the west side of the County to house the people who work there. The Fresno County General Plan says the farmers should continue to provide the housing, but the farmers are getting rid of their on-farm housing. The Fresno County General Plan's response is that the workers should move elsewhere, to "established communities." We would argue that Westside is an established community. It just looks different from the communities in which the county provides the roads, water, and sewer.

Westside Elementary School has been the physical,

social,
political,
and cul-
tural cen-
ter of this
thriving com-
munity since
t h e
s c h o o l
w a s



founded in 1926. The first one-room brick school served the children of the ranch owners and managers. Children of the Mexican farmworkers were educated by teachers who traveled from ranch to ranch. In 1942, the U.S. government instituted the Bracero Program. Under this program, Mexican laborers were allowed to enter and work in the U.S. on a temporary basis. Very quickly workers in the Bracero program became the primary source of labor for growers across the Southwestern United States. To accommodate the influx of workers and to ensure consistency in their work force, many growers built farm worker housing next to their fields. Often these labor camps consisted of a mix of different types of structures: large dormitories which housed seasonal male workers; cook houses where meals for the laborers were made and served; and smaller



houses for year-round employees.

To accommodate the children of farmworkers, the various on-ranch school buildings were moved and consolidated in Westside Elementary School's present location and by 1950 enrollment rose to almost a

thousand students during the cotton picking season. Since the 1950s, the school has served as the community center for the farmworker families who live in the 186 square mile school district, providing medical and dental care, adult education, pre-school education, and arts, civic, social, and political activities. Because the school children live in housing on the ranches, before school begins each year, Estela Hernandez, the school's Migrant Aide and Community Liaison, visits each ranch in the district to see which families on the ranches have children so that the busses will know where to pick up the students. Estela also notes when houses disappeared as ranch owners decided to demolish houses. One hundred and forty-four units disappeared in 2000-2001 alone. The town of Calfax, which still appears on most Fresno county maps, disappeared when the owner demolished all of the houses.

In the last two decades the economics of agriculture have changed. Many farmers now say they want to "get out of the housing business" and demolish the farmworker housing on their properties. As transportation routes have improved, farmers have found that they can find a labor supply that is willing to travel greater distances even though the costs in money and injuries to the

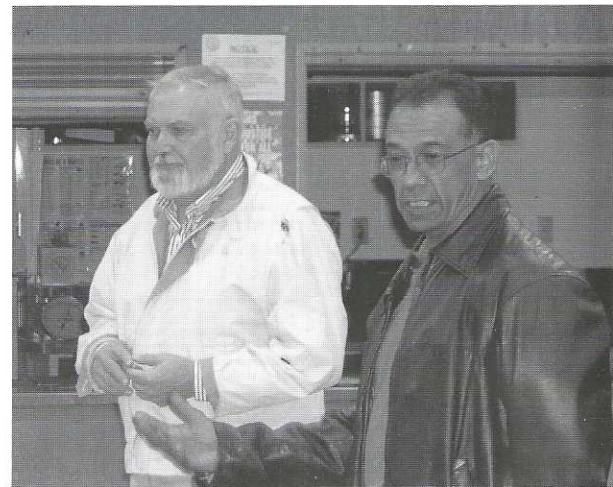
worker have climbed.

On the other hand, most of the residents of the Westside School District say they want to continue to live in the District. One fourth grader wrote a St. Patrick's Day essay about what he would do if he found a pot of gold under the rainbow:

"I would help Westside. I would buy houses for the people who live out here so they don't have to go away. I would buy my family a new house because the one we have belongs to the ranch and it is worn out."

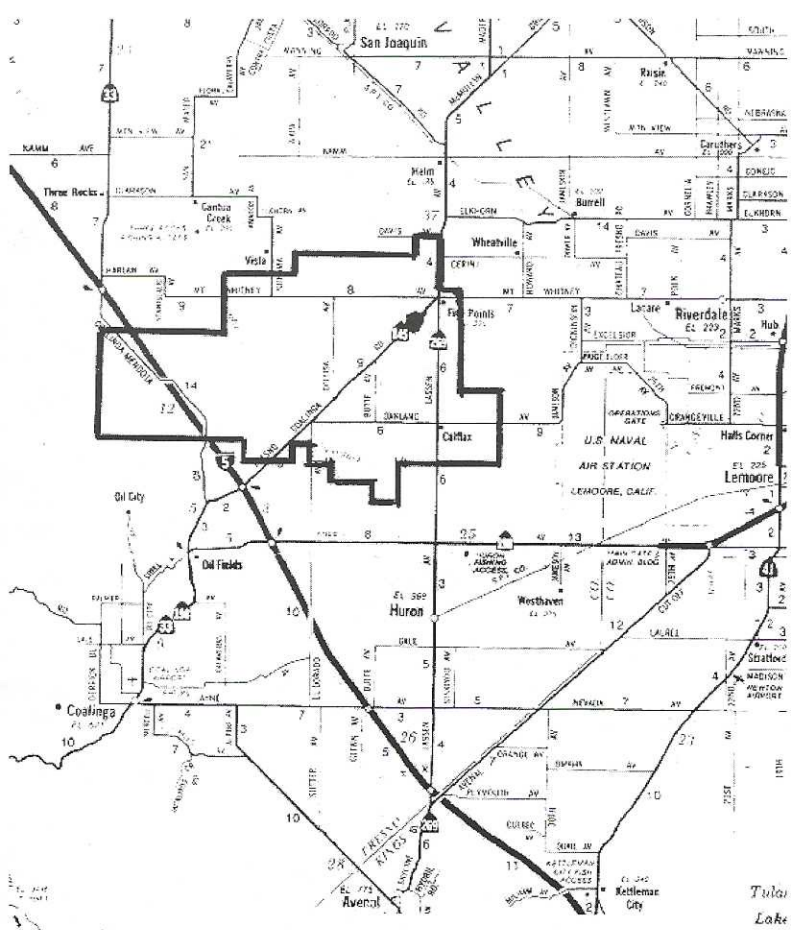
Many families are descendants of laborers who first came to Fresno County on the Bracero Program. Like their relatives before them, adults in the area routinely work 10 hours a day and, during the harvest season, many work as much as twelve hours a day. Living close to where they work allows them to avoid long commutes made dangerous by fog and fatigue, and enables them to remain connected to the school.

Families consistently and enthusiastically say that the Westside Elementary school is extremely important to them and their children's future. Maria Carbajal, whose 4th grade son is a member of Westside's Odyssey of the Mind team, says that "at the school they explain everything to me and to my son." In conversations with parents and students in the Westside Elementary School District it becomes clear that the school is a place where they



can learn not only about literature, music, and writing but also about medical programs, self defense, and labor rights. Even after their children graduate, one parent says, "We communicate with Mr. Hernandez [the principal and superintendent] all the time." Parents and children alike feel a deep sense of connection to the school. This sense of ownership reflects the parents' commitment to their children's education. Another parent says she tells her daughter to work hard in school: "You can see how I am working over here in the fields like a donkey so you can study a lot." The school's teachers and staff have integrated the cultural and social needs of the student and parent population into its mission. The fact that the school's principal and many of his staff once attended the school attests to the school's success and importance to the community.

Three years ago the principal of the school, Baldo Hernandez, and two of his staff—Judy Grijalva and Vickie Parvin—wrote a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting \$200,000 to study the feasibility of building a village of farmworker housing adjacent to the school. The proposal was sponsored by Fresno's Habitat for Humanity and the grant was made. In June of 2002, Dr. Joseph Arpad was appointed project director, with Dr. Susan Arpad as his assistant. The Arpads, retired professors, quickly realized that if the project was to be feasible, it would require a new Fresno area non-profit agency to accomplish it. Westside Housing and Economic Network—WHEN—was created as an umbrella networking organization to join together community groups, government entities, granting agencies, educational institutions, builders, and Westside growers, managers, and farmworkers. WHEN is working to create a 200-unit affordable housing community adjacent to Westside Elementary School, near Five Points, California. Modeled on the



Westside Elementary School District

Continued on page 13

FREE SPEECH VICTORY IN FRESNO

By Mike Rhodes



Photo by Pat Wolk

Free speech activists won an important victory in Fresno on July 4, 2003. Defying Fashion Fair mall representatives who had threatened arrests, over a dozen participants read from the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and other historical documents at the front entrance to the mall. A crowd of about 75 gathered and listened as the event unfolded. They too, risked arrest.

The significance of this victory is that participants were able to hold this action at the front entrance of the mall without getting arrested. Ever since 19 anti-sweatshop activists were arrested at this site in May 2000, Fashion Fair has maintained the position that they will arrest anyone who holds any event at the front entrance of the mall, without a permit. They refuse to give permits to hold events at the front entrance. What this 4th of July event did, was to force Fashion Fair to make an exception for their policy, thereby setting a precedent which can be used later.

As participants read from the documents, undercover police and mall security were visible but not threatening. It was nothing like the event 3 years ago when heavily armed riot clad police blocked off the area and conducted the arrests. At that time, there were over 100 police present, the police helicopter was over head, and several buses were in place to haul away the peaceful protestors. Go to: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/home/GAP.htm> for more information about that Free Speech struggle. In the end, the Free Speech/anti-sweatshop activists won and all charges were dismissed. Fashion Fair and the City of Fresno paid a huge settlement to the activists in order to drop the civil suit charging them with violating their civil liberties.

July 4, 2003 event participant and union organizer Pam Whalen reminded the audience about Fresno's long history of Free Speech fights. Starting in 1909-1910 the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) fought for the right to Free

Diane Scott reads the Bill of Rights



Karen Roselle reads historical documents on the 4th of July

Speech. They were organizing farm workers in the Central Valley when the struggle began. IWW members would stand on a soap box in downtown Fresno and call on the workers to organize into one Big Union. The police arrested them as they spoke and eventually IWW members from around the country came to Fresno to join the fight. They filled the jails and eventually the City had to let them all go. The City was forced to change their ordinances to allow Free Speech on street corners. There is now a plaque and a Free Speech area at Mariposa Street and the Fulton mall commemorating the struggle. You can read more about this Free Speech fight at: <http://www.fresnoalliance.com/IWW/>

The origin of KFCF 88.1 FM, free speech radio for the Central Valley, had its origins in a Free Speech fight that took place at CSUF during the late 1960's and early 70's. The Fresno Free College Foundation formed to defend academic freedom at the University during the anti-war protests at that time. A good book to read about this period of Fresno history is Ken Seib's *The Slow Death of Fresno State*. One lasting result of this struggle is radio station KFCF, which rebroadcasts KPFA in Berkeley. This station, for many, is an oasis of rational thought in an otherwise bleak landscape controlled by corporate media. KFCF has, in recent years, started more local public affairs programming which gives a voice to the voiceless here in the Central Valley. To find out more about KFCF, go to: <http://www.kfcf.org>

The July 4, 2003 event ended with the declaration that the area in front of Fashion Fair mall was now Fresno's newest Free Speech area. While the success of this event was significant, it is not the end of the struggle for Free Speech in Fresno or at this location. Fashion Fair security still believes that they can control the front entrance of the mall and arrest anyone they want. Organizers and participants at this event, have shown that Fashion Fair's power is not absolute and that they will back down. The court in Fresno did dismiss all charges against the 19 anti-sweatshop activists saying that they have a Constitutional First Amendment right to Free Speech. The Fresno Police Department showed no interest in arresting Free Speech activists at the July 4 event. Could it be that they learned something about the rights of people exercising Free Speech?

The role of the police at an event like this should be to make sure that participants Free Speech rights are not violated. Not, as was the case 3 years ago, to be the muscle for corporate bullies.

At the end of the event, as I talked with Fashion Fair head of security Greg Delphous he suggested that next year we should do this in conjunction with the Fashion Fair marketing committee. I had told Greg all along that Fashion Fair should embrace this event and join it. Issue a permit whether we ask for one or not. Put red, white and blue bunting up at the mall entrance and give us a podium to speak from. Fashion Fair knew it would have been a huge mistake to arrest people for reading the Bill of Rights on the 4th of July. They just could not get themselves to take that extra step and actually support the event.

Several TV stations covered the event but the Fresno Bee (this area's only local daily paper) was conspicuously absent. Several people have asked why they did not cover this event? 75 people were risking arrest for reading and listening to the Bill of Rights on the 4th of July! And that is not news? The Bee's headline in the July 5 Bee was: "U.S. revels over birthday, Constitution, war troops" and "Californians put worries on hold to celebrate." The last story had a nice picture of Mickey Mouse riding in a car with U.S. armed forces at Disneyland. The Bee's reason for not covering the huge Patriot Act forum a couple of weeks ago was that there had been a shooting which diverted their reporter. To The Bee, another story about violence in Fresno is more important than the largest gathering of people (about 300) in recent history coming together to hear about the erosion of our civil liberties. The Bee prioritizes stories about crime and violence and ignores the events taking place in the progressive community. Their non-coverage of important events like the Patriot Act forum and this Free Speech struggle is further evidence about why we need alternative and independent media in this area. I encourage you to subscribe to the Community Alliance magazine and become a member of KFCF 88.1 FM so our voices will be heard.



Judge Betsy Temple reads the Bill of Rights

All photos courtesy of Mike Rhodes

ACORN COMES TO FRESNO!



On June 1, 2003, Fresno ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) officially opened for business. ACORN describes itself as "the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families, with over 150,000 member families organized into 700 neighborhood chapters in 51 cities across the country." Some of their current campaigns focus on predatory lending, a living wage, better schools, affordable housing, and community reinvestment.

Staffed by former San Jose ACORN lead organizer Baltazar Avila, Fresno ACORN already has 50 member families and its first support from area businesses. Donations of office furniture and equipment are needed! The current office address is 2839 Mariposa Ave, Fresno, CA, 93721, and the phone number is (559) 441-7131. Fresno ACORN becomes the ninth ACORN office in California. For more information contact Derecka Mehrens at caacornsjo@acorn.org or (408) 293-1520.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Vickie M. Fouts

URGE THE US TO ASSURE NORTH KOREA IT WILL NOT ATTACK

Express your support for continued diplomacy and a nonviolent approach to resolving the current conflict with North Korea. Urge the president to demonstrate his commitment to diplomacy by providing a formal assurance to North Korea that the US will not attack it and by refraining from joint military exercises or other confrontational military activities that would heighten the risk of a devastating war. A pledge not to attack North Korea would help build the trust necessary to allow all diplomacy to proceed, and it would help immediately to reduce military tensions in the region. You can contact the president at <<http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=2960356&type=PR>> and your senators at <<http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=2960156&type=CO>>.

State Senator John Burton's Senate Bill 810

This bill will justly eliminate the California Department of Forestry's (CDF) ability to overrule Regional Water Quality Control Boards when the latter objects to timber harvest plans that will violate water quality laws—a first step in reigning in CDF, that despicable agency whose excesses and abuses have been documented and criticized widely, including in a Little Hoover Commission dossier. Contact your state legislature to support this bill at <www.assembly.ca.gov/> and <www.sen.ca.gov/>.

Oppose the Broad-Based Stock Option Plan Transparency Act

S 979 and HR 1372 would block the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) decision to expense options and allow greedy executives to continue to cash out on millions of dollars of unexpensed stock options. It is widely recognized that this loophole in financial accounting can inflate company earnings, reduce corporate taxes, and mislead investors. Unexpensed options were a major factor in the recent corporate scandals. Urge your congress members to oppose these bills and instead support SB 182, Ending the Double Standard for Stock Options Act. For a sample letter and link to your senators & representatives see <www.citizenworks.org/corp/options/options-main.php>.

STOP CORPORATE ASSAULT AGAINST CONSUMERS & WORKERS

The corporate assault on the ability of consumers and workers to bring class-action lawsuits now comes to a head. The Senate is expected to vote soon on S 274, which would effectively revoke the class-action rules in every state by sending class-action cases to federal court. Here are the industries and the types of class-action suits they want to restrict:

Insurance: Fraudulent sales practices; unfair denial of claims; inflated copayments for medical services.

Pharmaceutical companies: Price-fixing; deceptive advertising; unsafe drugs.

Retail: Refusal to pay overtime wages to workers.

Automotive: Refusal to fix dangerous conditions in vehicles; padding car loan payments with unnecessary insurance coverage.

Consumer credit: Predatory high-interest, high-fee lending; padding credit card bills with illegal fees.

Fax your senators from <www.publiccitizen.org/action/>.

GAP continued from page 7

throughout California, clarifying certain aspects in civil rights law. And, the experiences of those involved have yielded insights also important to a full understanding of the struggle for free speech.

Just as the demonstrators, when nearly a battalion of police officers arrived on the scene, smiled in the face of adversity and did nothing that would have harmed their case, so their attorneys presented their arguments without yielding to the prosecution's emotional appeal about a puppet's alleged gruesomeness. The lesson to remember here is that such tactics show desperation in the face of our state's strong tradition of free speech—a tradition that we sincerely wish all Californians respected and honored, a tradition against which none would ever make an overly restrictive, unlawful rule, only to react with disproportionate force against those who exercise their right to ignore it. Only adherence to nineteenth-century ideas about private property rights can explain such hostile reactions. In the time since, the thinking of Fashion Fair's owners appears to have evolved closer to that of the twenty-first century.

As a victory for free speech—for any free speech—the Gap protestors' victory deserves some appreciation by all members of our community, whether involved in progressive politics or not. Although directly benefiting the continued presence at Fashion Fair of protestors against the Gap's sweatshop labor practices, their victory also came with a sacrifice, driven by moral convictions, benefitting those who exercise their right of free speech throughout California.

An enormous personal commitment is required of anyone pursuing their free speech rights—or any cause for social justice—through the courts. On May 6, 2000—more than 20 years after Pruneyard was decided, its principles having become well established in several court of appeal decisions; and when the legality of free speech at a mall like Fashion Fair should have been obvious to anyone employed in the legal field—the owners of Fashion Fair, whether honestly mistaken or relying on bad advice, had the audacity to treat the Gap 19 like criminals. As clouds of uncertainty and occasional near-despair hung over their heads, the demonstrators waited almost a year and a half until their criminal case was dismissed. As former chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court John Bannister Gibson said, paraphrasing Euripides "Millstones of Justice turn exceedingly slow, but grind exceedingly fine."



Photo courtesy of Catherine Campbell

plaza design typical of Mexican villages, and incorporating principles of smart growth planning, this housing community will consist of renovated and new structures to be owned rather than rented by its occupants. Senior housing and a health clinic are part of the project. Already 198 families have signed declarations expressing their interest in living in the housing community, and several growers have promised houses. Westlands Water District is working with WHEN to utilize the housing on lands being retired from agricultural production.

Given the fact that WHEN has secured preliminary funding, has broad based support, the long-standing nature of the residents in the area, the dangers and added air pollution of long commutes to work, and the special significance of the school in linking an under served population to a better future, we might expect that Fresno County would lend support by giving the green light to WHEN to secure federal and state funding for the project. Fresno County, however, has responded with roadblocks. County supervisors and their staff consistently say that WHEN's housing initiative violates the General Plan. It does. But members of the Westside Housing Economic Network believe that the General Plan is flawed and discriminatory.

Initially adopted in October 2000 and amended to include a Housing Element in March 2003, Fresno County's General Plan is designed, in part, to stop urban sprawl and curtail the negative effects associated with it. Plagued by "leap frog" development, growing traffic congestion, bad air quality, and threatened agricultural land, Fresno County adopted a policy of "smart growth." The new plan restricts new housing developments to existing cities and towns and encourages developers to focus on in-fill projects. Along with environmentalists and farmers, WHEN applauds the guiding sentiment of the plan but argues that while the General Plan reflects the tenets of smart growth it does not reflect informed growth. By only recognizing incorporated areas as appropriate places to build houses, the plan ignores the entire farm worker population that has lived and worked on ranches for decades. It is as if these communities do not exist. Or perhaps more accurately the county only recognizes the labor these workers produce—they're welcome to work 10 and 12 hour shifts in the area, they just can't rest there.

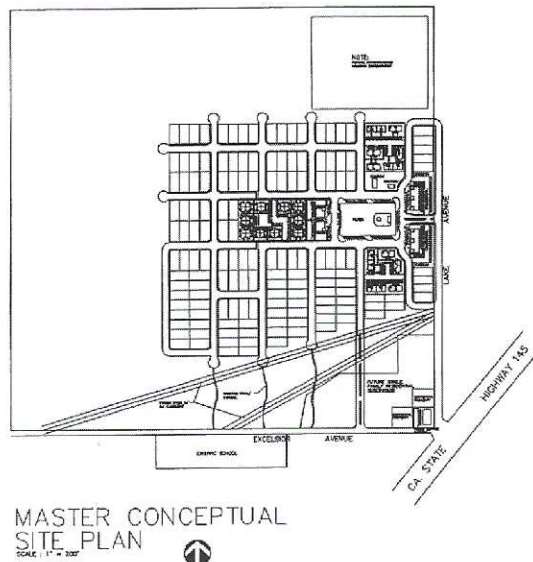
The General Plan is discriminatory because it says that in the Westside South Market area—

an area only slightly smaller than the state of Rhode Island—all housing will be directed to existing towns and cities. But there are no towns or cities in the Westside School District. Farmworkers who work on farms in the school district must drive thirty minutes or more if they live in the closest existing town. They must move outside of the community in which they have lived, for some families for generations. The Fresno County General Plan says it wants to encourage people to live near where they work, except in the west side. The difference is partly because the people who work on the west side are invisible and voiceless to the people who make decisions. The communities of on-farm housing have also been invisible. Only a month after the General Plan was adopted, it was amended to permit the Copper River development by and for people who are not invisible.

Some County officials cite the land retirement in the Westlands Water District as a reason for not building housing in the west side. The need for housing is so great that even in the worst case scenario—if one-third of the land were retired and one-third of the workers lost their jobs—there would still be a large demand for farmworker housing on the west side. Land retirement, in fact, will further diminish the availability of housing because, before the Westlands Water District takes possession of retired land, it requires that the land owner evict all tenants from buildings on the land.

Ironically, in 1963, the same year the Bracero Program officially ended, Fresno County, in a farm employment study funded by a Federal grant, noted that the demand for residences in "rural areas by farm employed persons is expected to increase." Four decades later, the County has not only failed to respond to their own prediction but is thwarting the efforts of a non-profit group to respond to a regional crisis in low income housing: according to the 2000 census taken prior to the elimination of many of the houses on the Westside, 20.2% of housing units were overcrowded and 30% more were classified as severely overcrowded.

WHEN has received grants from the Vanguard Foundation and from the Great Valley Center's LEGACI program to help west side farmworkers organize themselves as a community—to break the silence and to become visible. But they also need help from those in the Fresno community who know how to use their voices to speak out against discrimination and injustice and for equity and decency. A simple, decent, safe place to live is little enough to ask for those who labor in Fresno County's most important industry—agriculture.



Roy Bourgeois to Speak on U.S. Terrorist Training Camp

by Ken Hudson

Peace Fresno presents the following opportunities in September to get informed, to reflect, and to act for peace.

Father Roy Bourgeois

Speaking on **School of the Americas Watch**

Friday, September 5, 7:00 PM

Mennonite Community Church, Fresno, 5015 E. Olive (at Willow)

Freewill donation accepted, Sponsored by Peace Fresno

About School of the Americas:

"The United States government has been training terrorists at a camp in Georgia for years—and is still at it. The Fort Benning-based School of the Americas (SOA), renamed in 2001 the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" (WHISC), has been pumping out assassins, dictators, and death squad leaders for the dirty work in Latin America since 1946. . . . The SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence, and interrogation tactics. SOA graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people" (from <www.soaw.org>).

Biographical Information

Roy Bourgeois, MM, Founder of SOA Watch

Naval officer for four years—two years at sea, one year at a NATO station in Europe, and one year of shore duty in Vietnam. Recipient of the Purple Heart.

After military service, entered seminary of Maryknoll Missionary Order. Ordained a Catholic priest in 1972. Worked with poor of Bolivia for five years. Arrested in Bolivia and forced to leave the country for his defense of the poor.

In 1980 became involved in El Salvador after four U.S. churchwomen were raped and killed by Salvadoran soldiers. Two of the nuns were his friends.

Became an outspoken critic of US foreign policy in Latin America. Since then has spent more than four years in US federal prisons for nonviolent protests against the training of Latin American soldiers at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 1983 produced a documentary film about the nuclear arms race, *Gods of Metal*, which received an Academy Award nomination.

ended the School of Americas Watch, an office that does research on the US Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia. Each year the SOA trains hundreds of soldiers from Latin America in combat skills—all paid for by US taxpayers.

The School of Americas Watch, located just outside the main entrance of Fort Benning and with an office in Washington, DC, informs the general public, Congress and the media about the implications of this training on the poor of Latin America.

In 1995 worked on a documentary film about the School of Americas, *School of Assassins*, which received an Academy Award nomination.

Recipient of the 1997 Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award.

In September 1998, released from federal prison after serving a six month sentence for protest against the SOA. In November joined thousands at the main gate of Fort Benning to call for the closure of the SOA.

In December 1998, testified in Madrid before Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon seeking the extradition of Chile's ex-dictator General Augusto Pinochet.

From 1999 to the present, has travelled extensively giving talks at universities, churches, and other groups around the country.

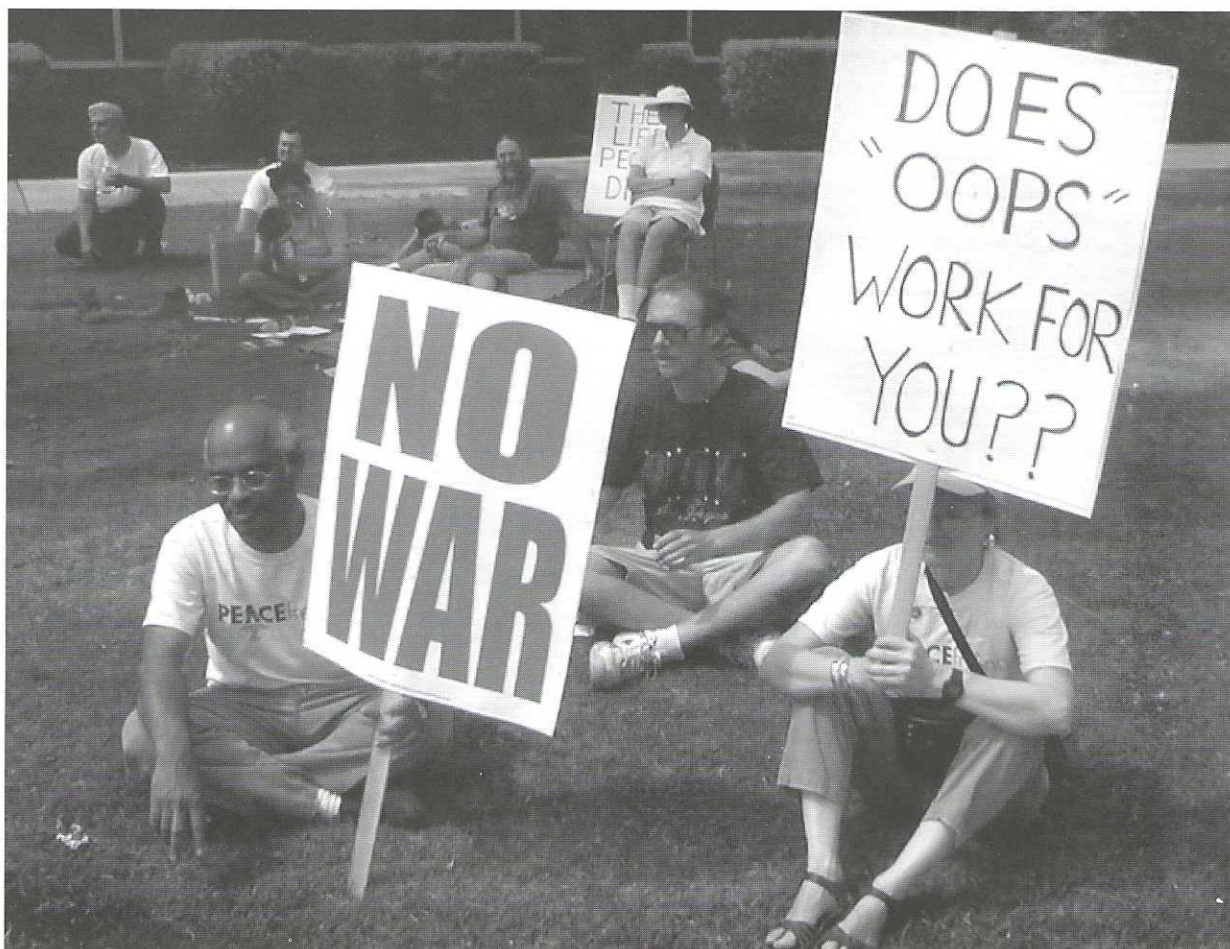
9/11 No-Link Memorial

No link between 9/11 and Iraq has been established.

No link between al-Qaida and Iraq has been established.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

5:30–6:30 PM



Fulton Mall Clock Tower (free speech area)
Speeches memorializing all victims of terrorism

Reflective music

Recitation of "Not In My Name Pledge"

By holding its memorial before 9/11, Peace Fresno hopes to remind the public that as they view upcoming 9/11 events, no link has been established between Iraq and al-Qaida.

Video—9/11: Aftermath, unanswered questions about the 9/11 attacks

Thursday, Sept. 11, 6:30–7:30 PM

CSU, Fresno—University Student Union building, Room 312

Cosponsored by Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition

International Day of Protest against Empire and Occupation

Sidewalk demonstration in solidarity with calls for protest worldwide by International ANSWER

Sunday, Sept. 28, 12:30–2:30 PM

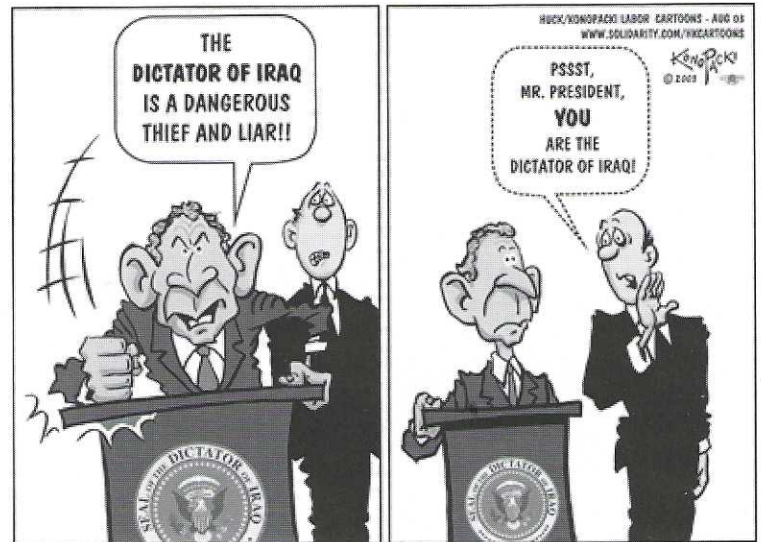
Olive & Wishon in Fresno's Tower District

Bring signs, costumes, drums, and other ways to demonstrate for peace and to call for an end to a US foreign policy of empire and occupation. Support the troops by making your voice heard: Bring them home NOW!

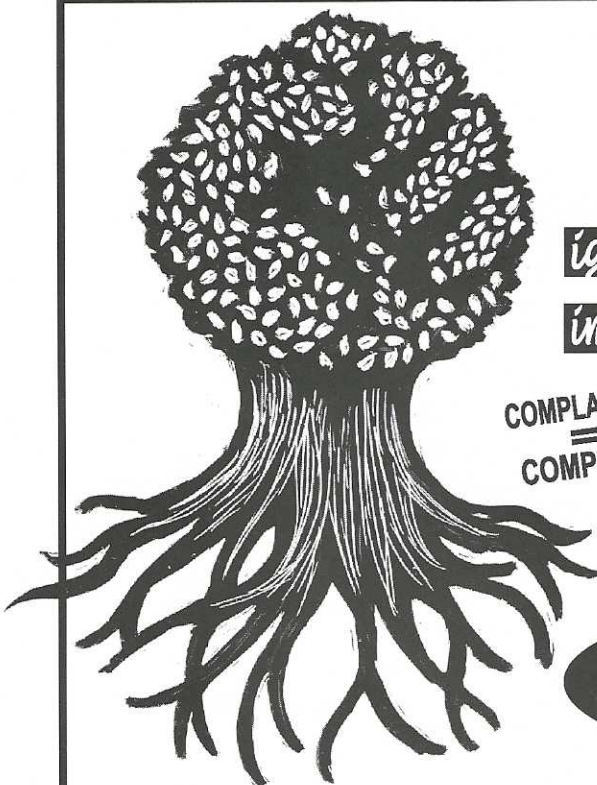
No Child Left Unrecruited? Add this to your Back-to-School list: Students and parents wishing to have school districts protect student contact information from being divulged to the military must inform the district in writing. This increased access by the military is a provision of the federal "No Child Left Behind Act." Peace Fresno members met this month with representatives of the Fresno Unified School

District on this matter. We were informed that the district has printed new student Emergency Cards with a space for parents to check if they wish to have contact information protected from the military's requests. However, many schools may be distributing old cards while they are in stock. We are still attempting to seek a policy reversal of this Opt-out option, a policy that would automatically protect contact information unless parents chose to "opt in." We were also told that in addition to the new cards, FUSD is directing principals of middle schools and high schools to send letters home informing parents of their right to opt out.

Elections: The Peace Fresno election of officers will occur Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness, where we meet every Tuesday. Throughout September we look forward to seeing new folks as well as the familiar ones.



Art of Labor and Social Justice T-shirts • Posters • Cards •



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immigrants

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starts with
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security



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BAD
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Friday, September 5 • 7 PM

School of the Americas Watch presentation by founder, Father Roy Bourgeois
Mennonite Community Church
5015 E. Olive (at Willow)
Freewill donation accepted

About School of the Americas:

"The United States government has been training terrorists at a camp in Georgia for years - and is still at it. The Fort Benning based School of the Americas (SOA), renamed in 2001 the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" (WHISC), has been pumping out assassins, dictators and death squad leaders for the dirty work in Latin America since 1946. ...The

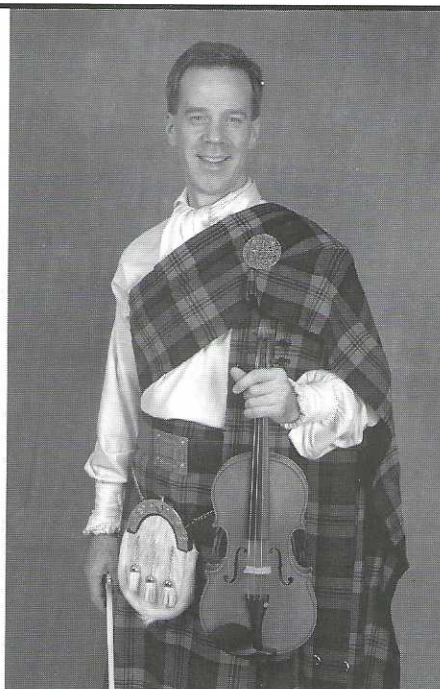
SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. SOA graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people." (from www.soaw.org)

For more information about this, or other Peace Fresno events, contact them at www.peacefresno.org or (559) 487-2515.



Sunday, September 7 • 7 PM

The Fresno Folklore Society proudly presents Jamie Laval, the 2002 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, along with his Seattle-based acoustic guitarist Hannsjoerg Scheid. Jamie is renowned for his subtle, expressive interpretation of Scottish, Irish, and Quebec traditional music performed with a fresh, modern sensibility and dynamic audience appeal. Check out his website: www.jamielaval.com



WHERE: The Wolk Garden, 6661 N. Forkner, Fresno
431-3653

WHEN: Sunday September 7,
7:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$10; phone 431-3653

DETAILS: Jamie can be heard every Monday night on national T.V. playing the theme song to the popular family drama "Everwood." He has played solos for movie sound tracks including "Finding Home" and "Wild America" and was featured on the NBC Today show. Jamie performed for the Queen of England when she visited Victoria in 1992. His recently released debut CD "Shades of Green" will be available for sale at the event.

Tuesday, September 9 • 5:30 - 6:30 PM

9/11 No-Link Memorial
No link between 9/11 and Iraq
No link between al-Qaida and Iraq

Fulton Mall Clock Tower (free speech area)
Speeches memorializing all victims of terrorism
Reflective music
Recitation of "Not In My Name Pledge"

For more information about this, or other Peace Fresno events, contact them at www.peacefresno.org or (559) 487-2515.

Tuesday, September 9 • 7 PM

Beginning in September, the Stonewall Democratic Club will have a new meeting time & place. After wandering from place to place they hope they have found a new place to call home.

Starting with the September 9th meeting, the Kingsmen Café, 1495 N. Van Ness, (559) 441-1357, has graciously offered us the use of their facilities. The café usually closes at 6 p.m. but they will remain open for us on the second Tuesday of every month. They offer coffee, pastries, sandwiches and salads. They are easy to find. Just go north on Van Ness from Olive Ave. toward McKinley. They are on the left just after the Movies video rental store.

Next general meeting: Tuesday, September 9th, 7 p.m., call to order at 7:30 p.m. We hope to have a representative of the Secretary of State's office as our guest. I'm sure you will want to join us for a timely discussion of the ramifications of the Recall and the Ward Connerly Initiative.

Wednesday, September 10 • 7 PM

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Renewable Energy Economy. Why is Fresno so important to Alaska and why is Alaska so important to Fresno? A slideshow presentation with David Edeli from the Alaska Wilderness League.

The question of whether to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has dominated national environmental debates since the last presidential election. Environmental groups and friendly congress people are drawing the line in defense of the last 5% of the north slope of Alaska not already open to oil drilling.

Meanwhile, an avalanche of recent studies show that the Central Valley economy and air quality are poised to benefit from shifts in federal and state policies toward renewable energy. But current federal energy bill "solutions" like Arctic Drilling will only bring more instability to our energy markets and our economy...and keep our pediatricians busy with asthma cases.

How can you help turn the energy tide? Come find out!

Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club program at the Unitarian Church 4144 N. Millbrook Avenue, Fresno.
For more information: Heather Anderson 434-2510

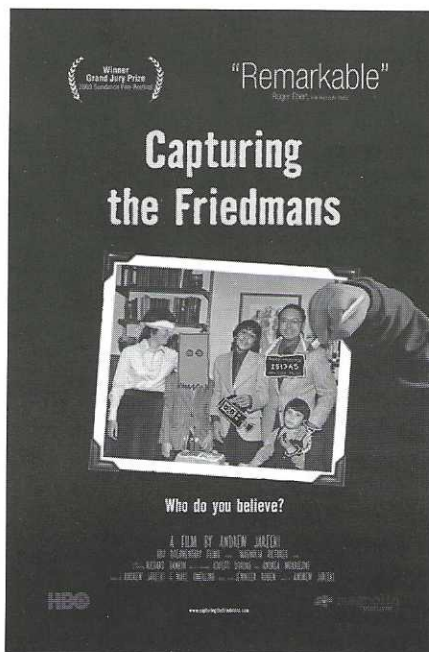
Thursday, Sept. 11 • 6:30 PM

Video - 9/11: Aftermath

Unanswered questions about the 9/11 attacks

CSU, Fresno — University Student Union building, Room 312

For more information about this, or other Peace Fresno events, contact them at www.peacefresno.org or (559) 487-2515.



Friday, September 12 • 5:00 PM or 8:00 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents Capturing The Friedmans (<http://www.capturingthefriedmans.com/main.html>) which will be shown at the Tower Theatre. Tickets are on sale now in the Tower District at The Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., and at the Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., and in Fig Garden Village at The Fig Garden Bookstore, 5094 N. Palm Ave. Tickets: \$8.50 for Adults • \$6.50 for Students and Seniors. For more information about this film or Fresno Filmworks go to: <http://www.fresnofilmworks.org/>

Friday, September 12

KFCF 88.1 FM benefit with David Gans and Brad Rogers at Club Fred. Details to follow. <http://www.kfcf.org/>

Saturday, September 13

Fresno Free College Foundation (the owner and operator of KFCF 88.1 FM) annual banquet at the Downtown Club. Guest Speaker: Gray Brechin.

Plus FFCF Free Speech Awards, dinner, and more. Urban geographer, Gray Brechin provides a visionary and myth-shattering reinterpretation not only of the city by the Bay but also of the process of urbanization itself in California. <http://www.kfcf.org/>

Monday, September 15 • 7 PM

The National Organization for Women (NOW) will resume their regular monthly meeting at the Center for Non-Violence, 985 N. Van Ness. Information at 252-7569.

The 14th Fresno International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival September 17 - 21, 2003

September 17 - 21

REEL Pride 2003, Fresno's 14th International Gay and Lesbian Film festival is proud to announce the addition of a fifth day of programming! Building on the success of last year's four days of films, star appearances, events and receptions, this year's festival promises to offer our audiences even more as we gather to celebrate the very best in gay and lesbian films, documentaries and shorts. For more information call 443-0600 or email reelpride@aol.com Their web site is www.reelpride.com

Thursday, September 18 • 6:30 PM

NEW STUDY GROUP FORMING ON CORPORATE PERSONHOOD. How did corporations get to be so powerful? How can we take back that power? Come to an organizational meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno. A study group is being planned to meet every other Thursday evening to discuss the WILPF program's ten sets of readings and discuss strategies to rein in corporate power. Meeting times will be 6:30 to 8:30. Study materials will be available to download or purchase. For more information call 227-1462.

Friday, September 19 • 7 PM

Come one, Come all, to the Special Recall Gathering of Fresno County Greens at the Round Table restaurant located at 1st and Bullard. We have reserved their exclusive banquet room to meet to discuss the upcoming recall. We will also be offering training for those interested in tabling at our Fresno Fair booth in October. Entertainment TBA. Come early for free pitchers of beer or soda!!!

Friday, September 19 • 7:30 PM

Lou and Peter Berryman in **CONCERT** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno, 4414 N. Millbrook. Lou (that's her) and Peter (that's him) **BERRYMAN** have been called folkdom's favorite funny folks. The duo combines humor and folk music in a quirky, wry, ironic act that appeals to all ages.

Comments to convince you not to miss this concert: "Lou & Peter Berryman! Long may they wave! Their F-word song, "A Chat with Your Mother" is one of the Great American folksongs of the 20th century."—Pete Seeger. "Rhymes that rhyme! I love your stuff, and if I were still performing, I'd steal it!"...Tom Lehrer. Tickets: \$20. Larry Bassman booked them into the Unitarian Church as a building fundraiser. Contact him at 559-244-0562



Saturday, September 20 • 11 AM - 4 PM

The **CLOVIS ETHNIC FOOD and DANCE CELEBRATION** at the Clovis Civic Center, 1033 Fifth St, Clovis. Free Admission - Salsa Dancers - Celtic Bagpipes - Stomp Dancing - East Indian Flutes and Dance - Hmong Dancers and much more! Celebrating diversity through music, dance, food and craft...

Saturday September 20 • 2:30 PM to 5 PM

How do we answer the critics who are opposed to granting any rights to people who have come here without proper documentation? Should they all be returned to their native countries? Are they to be denied all services even though many of them have worked here for a long time, raised families here, and are upstanding members of the community? Must they live in fear of the immigration authorities, afraid to even use services that are granted to them lest they be picked up and sent packing? How should we treat those who are attempting to cross the border daily without permission? What policy should we enact regarding those who want to come here to work or to join family already here?

Let's discuss this with people who have worked to solve this immigration dilemma in our community

September 20, Saturday, 2:30- 5:00 in the afternoon at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Gloria Hernandez and guests will share their experiences and solutions. Come take part. This is an important issue in our community.

This meeting is sponsored by the Women's international League for Peace and Freedom and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence and is open to all who are interested. Free, of course.

Sunday, September 21, and Tuesday, September 23 • 7:30 PM

Fresno Filmworks presents 24 Hour Party People at the Starline, 831 E. Fern St. Admission is \$5. For more information, go to www.fresnofilmworks.org.

Sunday, September 28 • 12:30 - 2:30 PM

International Day of Protest Against Empire and Occupation
Sidewalk demonstration in solidarity with calls for protest worldwide by International A.N.S.W.E.R. Olive & Wishon in the Tower District, Fresno.

For more information about this, or other Peace Fresno events, contact them at www.peacefresno.org or (559) 487-2515.

Sunday, September 28 • 12 Noon

International Days of Protest Against OCCUPATION and EMPIRE From PALESTINE to IRAQ to the PHILLIPINES to CUBA and EVERYWHERE

September 25 - 28

The A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition expresses its solidarity with the call issued by the Arab progressive movement, the European peace movement and others who are holding activities timed to coincide with the third anniversary of the second Palestinian Intifada (which began on September 28, 2000). Nationally coordinated demonstrations will take place around the world between September 25 and 28. In the Arab world, most demonstrations will be on September 26 and September 28. In Europe, the coordinated day of action will be on September 27 (see www.stopwar.org.uk), and in other areas it will be on September 25. A.N.S.W.E.R. chapters, in coordination with other organizations, will be holding actions during that week.

SAN FRANCISCO ACTION — SEPTEMBER 28

In San Francisco, there will be a demonstration on Sunday, September 28 starting at Dolores Park at 12noon and marching to Civic Center. We are calling all West Coast organizers to mobilize to come to San Francisco for this important demonstration to tell the Bush administration in one voice that "We Say No to Occupation and Empire from Iraq to Palestine! Bring the Troops Home Now!" Check next week at www.actionsf.org to download flyers. Organize at your school, work, or community group. Spread the word.

CALL For ENDORSEMENTS

To endorse this rally and march in San Francisco email sept28@actionsf.org with the following info: name of organization, phone number, email, contact person.

GET INVOLVED!

Attention local San Francisco Bay Area organizers! Come this Tuesday to the weekly ANSWER Meeting at 7 p.m at 2489 Mission Street, Rm. 28 at 21st Street in San Francisco. Start strategizing and organizing for the September demonstration. Bring your creative ideas and energy to help build this action. Join a working group * pick up flyers, posters & stickers to get up around your neighborhood* organize a mobilizing teach-in, request a speaker at your school, near your military base, union, workplace or faith community.

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 saying you would like to subscribe to this service.**

MOVING?

If you receive this magazine by mail and are moving, please let us know. It will keep your magazine arriving on time and save us money.

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

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

Every Tuesday • 7 PM

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

Every Tuesday and Thursday • 6:45 - 9 PM

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

Every Friday • 9 AM - 5 PM

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

Every Friday • 4:30 PM

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

Every Saturday • 1-2 PM

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

Every Saturday • 1 PM until the last patient is served

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

* Staffed by Dr. Marc Lasher and volunteers.

* Accepting financial donations. Contact: 266-0444

Every Saturday • 1-3 PM

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

Every Saturday • 2 - 3 PM

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

ONGOING MONTHLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

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

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

1st Monday of every month • 7:00 PM

FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticide) meets at The Barn at Margaret Hudson's. For more information email FresCAMP@yahoo.com or call (559) 227-6134.

2nd Monday of every month • 7 PM

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

3rd Monday of every month • 7 - 9 PM

The National Organization for Women 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.

1st Tuesday of every month • 6 PM

The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights meeting. For more information call (559) 498-6033 or email SVJCoalition@aol.com

1st Tuesday of every month • 6 PM

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

2nd Tuesday of every month • 7 PM

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

3rd Tuesday of every month • 7:00 PM

Stonewall Democrats will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Democratic Party Office of Fresno 255 N. Fulton Ave. #104, Fresno. 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 • 12 Noon

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

1st Wednesday of every month • 7 PM

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

1st Wednesday of every month • 7:30 PM

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

3rd Wednesday of every month • 6 PM

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

2nd Thursday of every month • 7:00 PM

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

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

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

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

1st Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

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

1st Saturday of every month • 2 - 4 PM

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

2nd Saturday of every month • 9:30 AM

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

Last Saturday of every month • 9 AM

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

POWER STRUCTURE RESEARCH PROJECT

by Mike Rhodes

The *Community Alliance* magazine has started a power structure research project to identify who has political, social, and economic power in Fresno County. We want to know how the rich and powerful maintain their power and what poor and working people can do to increase their power. How does the relatively small ruling class in this community stop a revolution from occurring that would prevent the injustice from continuing? Some of their methods are obvious, but many are little understood and all but invisible. The result of the medieval-like power structure is stark and dramatic.

Poor immigrant workers have been housed on top of toxic waste dumps. Half of our students that enter high school will drop out before they graduate. The infant mortality rate of African Americans in Fresno is 3 times the national average. Indeed, new studies of the Central Valley are calling us the new Appalachia of America. Unemployment in Fresno County is chronically in the double digits (10% or more above the national average). On the West side of the City of Fresno unemployment is even higher and in some areas of western Fresno County unemployment is more than 40%. More 50% of students in the Fresno Unified School district are eligible for free or reduced-cost meals because of family poverty. But these figures don't begin to present the reader with the pain and suffering that is inflicted upon the poor and working people in this area. Not having access to adequate nutrition, housing, and health care is a matter of life and death to poor and working people. Children and adults die in this county because they lack the resources needed to sustain life.

This picture of extreme poverty is in sharp contrast with the great wealth and power maintained by a few families and individuals. Their children do not go hungry at night. They eat in the best restaurants and have access to the finest medical care available. They live in mansions on the North side of town, far away from the toxic dumps, the dilapidated housing, and poverty found in other parts of the city. Why does the majority allow itself to be exploited and robbed of their wealth by this small group of the ruling elite? What forms of social, political, and economic control could account for people allowing their own children to starve and go without needed medicine so that these people can continue their lifestyle of wealth and opulence?

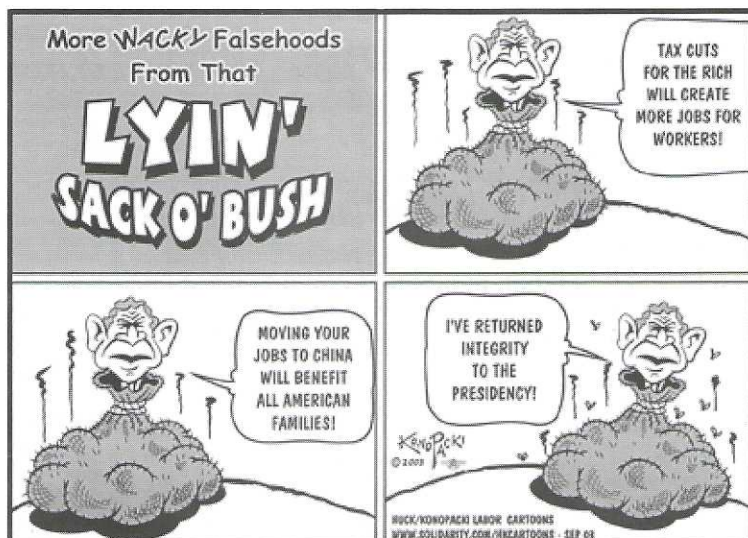
Until we understand the dynamics of how the rich maintain their power, there will continue to be significant numbers of homeless, our children will

be sick for lack of medicine, and people will continue to go hungry in the largest agricultural region in the country.

This project will use the tools at our disposal to expose how the ruling class maintains its privilege. We already know that politicians are bought and sold to the highest bidder. In the City of Fresno, developers gave one City Council member (guess who) a set of car tires in exchange for a vote. Another politician sold out for a cheap suit! In July 2003 Assembly member Sarah Reyes voted on an energy bill beneficial to power companies immediately after attending a lavish fundraising party sponsored by PG&E. The pandering of politicians to powerful forces in this community is just the tip of the iceberg.

This study will go well beyond the obvious centers of power. We will look closely at the growers and large agricultural interests to see how they have exploited generations of workers and used racism as a tool of social and economic control. Land developers have made millions while giving politicians peanuts. The developers have manipulated city politics and distorted the very structure of the city we live in. It is not an accident that downtown Fresno is a ghost town—it is the developers' lust for money that has pushed Fresno ever northward. The role of law enforcement, the prison-industrial complex, and the war on drugs will be explored. The ability of corporate newspapers, television, and radio to control and manipulate the poor and the working class borders on mind control.

We expect to find that the rich and powerful in Fresno do not meet behind closed doors in a secret society that has set out to dominate the working class. Oh, there may be a conspiracy, but it is nothing so simple as a unified force whose goal it is to rule the world. There are circles of influence that sometimes cooperate with each other and sometimes compete. While some individuals in the ruling class are more powerful than others, the primary power comes from groups that have similar interests—such as agriculture, law enforcement, and business. Most ruling class circles have differences of opinion within them, but the primary characteristic is that the goal is to maintain social, economic, and political control. How these forces work together to maintain class privilege for the ruling class, what the relative power of poor and working people is in this society, and how to change that balance is what this power structure research project is all about.



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:

September 7th "On the Wings of Song" Rev. Bryan Jessup and DRE Aubree Smith, Speaking

September 14th "Reclaiming the Story of Our Lives" Rev. Bryan Jessup, Speaking

September 21st "Starting Over" Rev. Bryan Jessup, Speaking

September 28th "Holy Questioning" Rev. Bryan Jessup, Speaking

Summer Service Schedule

Services 9:15 • Church School 9:15

Nursery care Available

4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno • Phone: 227-6136

"Action of the Month"

The Center has more ideas and possible projects than it has workers to handle them. Here is a great one: The Nonviolent Peace Force is training its first team to go to Sri Lanka. Help is needed to raise money, publicize the program, and create interest in having a standing corps prepared to intervene peacefully around the world. Contact www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.

RACE MATTERS: a challenge

PREMISES

Racism and cultural supremacy are two of the most salient ideological principles influencing the course of American history, from the moment of European access to the continent.

The American formulation of racism and cultural supremacy continues to guide and justify much of our country's foreign policy. Furthermore, because the US has uniquely experienced increasing economic and military hegemony over the last 150 years, our form of racism and cultural supremacy has yet to be successfully challenged and has become the most pernicious and dangerous in the world.

Domestically, our racism and cultural supremacy has created a power system of "white privilege," which—because of the overlay of democratic principles on which we pride ourselves—has been systematically disguised by official sources and denied by its primary beneficiaries. Ironically, it is so well concealed that it is now called "color blindness."

The requisites of white privilege continue to negatively impact the relationship of all immigrants and people of color with the national culture. White privilege continues to

distort the assimilation process, and its presumptions are built into the existing rules of social acceptance.

CONCLUSIONS

It is necessary for all of us who think of ourselves as progressive and liberal to frankly examine the play of white privilege in our own daily lives, and to analyze the ways that racism and cultural supremacy undergird the foreign policies of our country.

The call for reparations by people of color—and especially by African Americans—represents a demand that the facts of racism, cultural supremacy, and white privilege be admitted to the "court of human justice" and truly considered.

Bottom line: to participate in changing the underlying ideological framework of our times—the violent way that we "do business"—white progressives must understand first how we are called on to change, and second, what our responsibility is for trying to change the terms of public discourse.

CHALLENGE

This is a call to white progressives to open themselves to serious self-examination for the purpose of becoming unambivalent, clear-thinking agents of change. If you accept this challenge, join us in planning a process of dialogue, values clarification, and consensus-building, leading to social action. To sign on or for more information, call Richard Stone at (559) 266-2559, or Gerry Bill at (559) 277-2133. We will meet on Wednesday, September 3, at the Center, 7:30 PM.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

985 N. Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728

Ph. (559) 237-3223 • fcnv2@juno.com

<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence>

THE WELCH REPORT

August 11, 2003

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

12 LIES ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR



Iraq was responsible for the September 11 attacks. A supposed meeting in Prague between Mohammed Atta, leader of the 9/11 hijackers, and an Iraqi intelligence official was the main basis for this claim, but Czech intelligence later conceded that the Iraqi's contact could not have been Atta. No Iraqi hijackers were aboard the crashed airliners.

Iraq and al-Qaida were working together. Claims by US and British leaders that Saddam and Osama bin Laden were in league with each other were contradicted by a British Defense Intelligence report which said there were no current links between them. Mr. bin Laden's aims are in ideological conflict with present-day secular Iraq, it added.

Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa for a reconstituted nuclear weapons program. The head of the CIA has now admitted that documents purporting to show that Iraq tried to import uranium from Niger were forged, and that the claim should not have been included in President Bush's State of the Union address.

Iraq was trying to import aluminum tubes to develop nuclear weapons. The US alleged that Baghdad tried to buy high-strength aluminum tubes whose only use could be in gas centrifuges, needed to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. The international Atomic Energy Agency, however, said the tubes were being used for artillery rockets and were not even suitable for centrifuges (and it so told the UN Security Council).

Iraq still had vast stocks of chemical and biological weapons from the first Gulf War. Experts pointed out that apart from mustard gas, Iraq never had the technology to

produce materials with a shelf-life of 12 years, the time between the two wars. All such agents would have deteriorated to the point of uselessness years ago.

Saddam Hussein had the wherewithal to develop smallpox. This allegation was made by the secretary of state, Colin Powell, in his address to the UN Security Council in February. In March the UN said there was nothing to support the claim.

Previous weapons inspections had failed. Tony Blair stated in March that the UN had tried unsuccessfully for 12 years to get Saddam to disarm peacefully. However, in 1999 a Security Council panel concluded: "Although important elements still have to be resolved, the bulk of Iraq's proscribed weapons programs has been eliminated."

Iraq was obstructing the inspectors. Dr. Blix said in February that the UN had conducted more than 400 inspections, without notice, covering more than 300 sites, and that access to sites had been without problems.

Troops would face chemical and biological weapons. US Marine General James Conway conceded afterwards that intelligence reports of chemical weapons deployed around Baghdad before the war were wrong.

Interrogation of scientists would yield the location of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). Almost all Iraq's leading scientists are now in custody, and such information has not been revealed.

Iraq's oil money would go to Iraqis. A Security Council resolution has given the US and UK control over Iraq's oil revenues, and there is no UN-administered trust fund for the Iraqi people.

WMDs were found. Tony Blair and George Bush declared on 30 May that two trailers found in Iraq were mobile laboratories for the production of biological weapons. It now is almost certain that the vehicles were for the production of hydrogen for weather balloons, as the Iraqis claimed, and that they were exported by Britain. (Source: Connections, San Joaquin County, Aug./Sept. 2003)



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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

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

WILPF Dates

Wednesday, September 3, Noon: Women In Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway.

Monday, September 8, 7 PM: WILPF board meeting, 985 N Van Ness.

Saturday September 20 - 2:30 PM to 5 PM - Program on Immigrant Issues
Fresno Center for Nonviolence 985 N Van Ness - Co-sponsored by Fresno Center for Nonviolence (note date change)

Wednesday, September 24, 3:30 PM: Stir It Up, WILPF Style, hosted by Gabrielle Kirkland.

Date & Time to be Announced - Program on Prop 54 or Ward Connerly's Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin Initiative (CRECNO) - 985 N Van Ness - Co-sponsored by Fresno Center for Nonviolence. For more info contact Vickie Fouts vmfout1@sti.net or 658-8260.

PEACE CAMP REPORT by Vickie Fouts

Camp Harmony was a great success the week of July 28. We had 19 day campers and 26 volunteers. Most of the volunteers were there all day, all week long, making things run smoothly. Talk about TLC! The theme for this year was "Living in Harmony with Each Other and Mother Earth." We also had daily themes that our daily activities were built around: Harmony, Mother Earth, Global Peace, and Responsibility.

Most of the campers said they would use their talking sticks and peace paths in the future to solve a conflict. Three campers gave us handmade thank yous. Several have expressed their desire to return next year, as have many of the volunteers. We wish to **thank** the campers, their parents, the teachers, and the volunteers for making the camp such a success and a joyful learning experience.

We wish to give **special thanks** to those who donated money toward scholarships as only five campers were able to pay the full cost. Most of the children would have been unable to attend without this wonderful support. **Thank you** to: Susan Orovitz, Ph.D., Larry & Lynette Bassman, Joan Poss, Sally Vogl, Desi Cortez, Polly Victor, Julie Young, The Interfaith Alliance of Central California, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Fresno City Human Relations Commission, Fresno Unified Project Access.

Many businesses and organizations donated materials or money to purchase food for Camp Harmony. **Thank you** to those who helped out: Save Mart at Herndon & Clovis for a \$25 gift certificate to purchase miscellaneous supplies, Whole Foods for healthy snacks and literature, Tory Farms for fresh fruit, Fresno Folklore Society for food, Food Not Bombs for two days of food, Paradise Printing for donating half the cost of printing, Offstream Design and Print for donating the labor in making camp T-shirts. **Thank you** to the following individuals for their donations: Karin Larka, Elfie Ballis, several Unitarian Universalist members and to WILPF members Carol Bequette, Howard Watkins, Ellie Bluestein, Lauralee Crain-Carbone, Julie Young-Andrews, Nora DeWitt, Joyce Huggins, Sandra Kehoe.

Special thanks go to Marilyn Shelton for being my co-chair. Marilyn helped write the peace camp manual for WILPF several years ago. You can't find a

better co-chair than that. Marilyn also worked with the teachers on planning the curriculum, training the volunteers, organizing and storing all the supplies, making up many of the forms, and was camp director. **Thanks** also go to Marilyn's son, Tom, who helped us greatly before, during, and after camp. **Thanks** to Sally Vogl for coordinating the food and to Morghan Young for coordinating the volunteers.

We will soon be mailing out CD's of all the pictures that were taken at camp to the campers and volunteers. Elfie Ballis will also be making a video that will be on Channel 49 and Free Speech TV and available for sale. I can't wait!

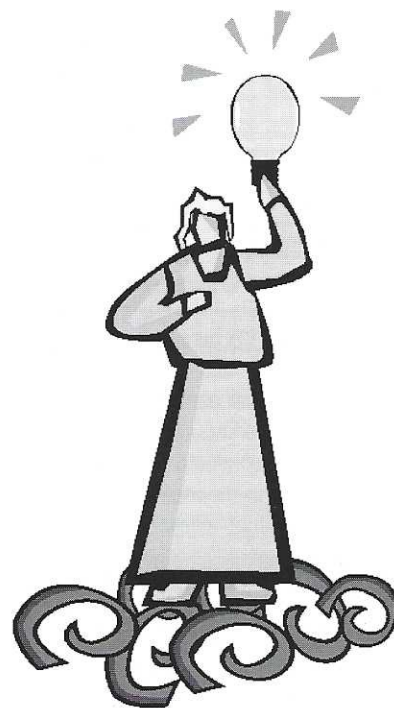
Thank you again to everyone who helped make Camp Harmony such a success. We could not have done it without you. We are ready to do it again next year. No more waiting years between camps.

Interns: We are pleased to announce that WILPF will have two CSUF social work graduate interns for the next school year. They will each be giving us 16 hours per week the first semester and 20 hours the second. Think of all the wonderful things we can do with their help.

Ruth Obel-Jorgensen graduated last May from CSUF with a degree in psychology. She has had volunteer/intern experience with Friendly Visitors, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition, and Planned Parenthood. Ruth joined us at the Western WILPF Gathering and is looking forward to working with us.

Catherine Garoupa graduated last December from UC-Santa Barbara with a degree in religious studies. She has worked as a residential coordinator at Genesis Development Services and as a volunteer for Jagriti Foundation and Cambria Women's Resource Center. Catherine seems very excited about being able to work with Fresno WILPF.

This has been able to happen thanks to Lynn Jacobsson, who has worked hard to start up a relationship with the CSUF Social Work Intern Program and WILPF. Lynn will be acting as faculty liaison. Joan Poss will be the field instructor and Vickie Fouts will be the agency supervisor. Thank you to these WILPF members for volunteering to take on these jobs so the partnership could take place.



WILPF & Metro Ministry Partnership - A big **Thank You** to WILPF members who donated over \$800 towards Metro Ministry's USDA matching grant for community food assessment and access to fresh food. What a wonderful response in such a short time frame. We will also be donating hours from one of our interns and Vickie Fouts worth \$1500 towards the in-kind match.

PayPal is Up and Running

With the help of several volunteers (Rio, John, and Chris), our PayPal feature is now up and running. We are counting on this (and you) as a means for establishing a consistent financial basis for building the Green Party in Fresno County. Please get out your credit card, go to our website at www.cagreens.org/fresno, and sign up to be a regular contributor. Our goal is to get at least 50 Greens to sign up to contribute at least \$10.00 per month by the end of the year. We will keep you posted on *your* progress toward this goal. There is no grassroots democracy without grassroots giving!

Camejo for Governor

Following the unprecedented urgent polling of every active county-level Green Party chapter in the state, the Green Party of California (GPCA) endorsed Green Party member Peter Miguel Camejo for governor.

The GPCA is the second major endorser of Camejo this week, following Tuesday's endorsement by long-time consumer rights activist Ralph Nader, the Green Party's presidential candidate in 2000. Nader says Camejo, a financial advisor, has a better understanding of the state's fiscal crisis than do other candidates.

Camejo's candidacy offers California voters both fiscal wisdom and progressive values. Demonstrating his grassroots support, Camejo turned in the most signatures among all certified candidates. Collected on his behalf by volunteers across the state, the signatures made Camejo the only major candidate to qualify by signature support rather than buying his way onto the ballot.

Camejo is also the first candidate in the recall race to be endorsed by a major political party. The endorsement process was unique for the Green Party of California, with such decisions usually made by delegates in face-to-face meetings. "The democratically elected representatives of our eleven regions opted to make a decision now, polling every active county in the state to fully inform this bottom-up decision," said Michael Borenstein, co-chair of the GPCA Coordinating Committee. "We're proud of the Green Party's inclusive politics, and we challenge the top-down parties to try it."

Peter Camejo has adopted the Green Party platform and he often points out the disproportional tax burden shouldered by the state's working poor. Camejo calls for a progressive and fair tax plan, a living wage for workers, and instant-runoff voting. "Peter has earned strong grassroots support in his coalition work with unions, farm workers, and other underrepresented communities," said Magali Offerman, co-coordinator of the state Campaigns and Candidates Working Group. "With Camejo in the race, voters can look forward to issue-based debates, instead of the usual hollow sound bites."

For more information, go to www.votecamejo.com.

GREEN PARTY SET SIGHTS ON 2004 PRESIDENTIAL RACE, ENDS MYTH OF DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SUPPORT

Following weeks of media speculation and misinformation regarding the Greens' 2004 presidential election plans, the Green Party of California (GPCA) is setting the record straight: the Green voters decide. "The corporate parties maintain a top-down, smoke-filled back room tactic for anointing their candidates, usually those with the most money," said John Strawn, a GPCA spokesperson and CA 22

member of the USGP Presidential Exploratory Committee (PEC). "The Green Party of the United States (USGP) has a novel democratic process, which has included Greens' grassroots input from the start, and it is Green voters across the country who will make the decision in the end."

That decision will be the culmination of months of grassroots surveys, letters to candidates, response analyses, and Greens' feedback. State Green Parties will then form candidate committees to support their candidate choices. Finally, Greens will choose their candidate next year during the primaries (in states where Greens participate in primaries) and at the national convention, with the participation of all state parties and the Green national membership.

"The Green Party, the only major party to denounce the war in Iraq and the excessive reach of the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act, is poised to electrify a voter orbit unlikely moved by other parties," said GPCA spokesperson Ross Mirkarimi.

Okay, but what about Representative Dennis Kucinich (D.-Ohio) or former Vermont governor Howard Dean? "If progressive Democrats like Kucinich or Dean win the nomination then opportunities for collaboration may arise," said Mirkarimi. "However, unless Democratic Leadership Council strategies change, it's doubtful that a progressive Democrat can win the nomination, even with the assisted math of Greens reregistering Democrat." Santa Monica Mayor pro tem Kevin McKeown urges Greens to put their efforts into Green candidates. "Worrying what to do if Kucinich becomes the Democratic nominee," he says, "is like worrying what color ice skates to buy if hell freezes over."

Green Gathering on September 19

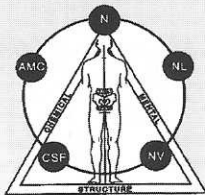
Come one, come all, to the Special Recall Gathering of Fresno County Greens on September 19 at 7:00 PM at the Round Table restaurant located at First and Bullard. We have reserved their exclusive banquet room to meet to discuss the upcoming recall. We will also be offering training for those interested in tabling at our Fresno Fair booth in October. Entertainment TBA. Come early for free pitchers of beer or soda!!! See you there!

Get Involved!

Come to the Fresno County Green Party's monthly meeting at the Center for Nonviolence located at 985 N. Van Ness on September 11 at 7:00 PM and get involved. Listen to the Green Scene on KFCF 88.1 on September 17 at 3:30 PM. And don't forget to visit our website at www.cagreens.org/fresno (where you can now donate via PayPal) or call us at 265-3647.



Dirk Down Under: Fresno Green Dirk Van Gelder rallies with his son Eric (on left) and other Greens in Australia in July.



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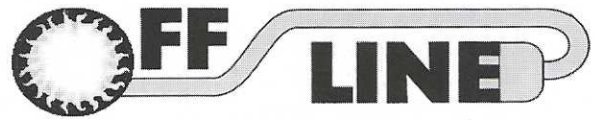
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IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

On October 1 scores of buses will converge on Washington, DC, with thousands of voices to lobby Congress for the rights of immigrant workers in this country. They are simply asking for legalization and a road to citizenship for all immigrant workers in this country, the right to reunite families, and protection of worker rights on the job without regard to legal status.

Immigrant workers, living and paying taxes in the United States, want the rights that have been denied them because of their undocumented status and outdated laws. Congress had promised to address this, but since the 9/11 frenzy no one wants to speak to this issue.

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is a national mobilization, to focus public

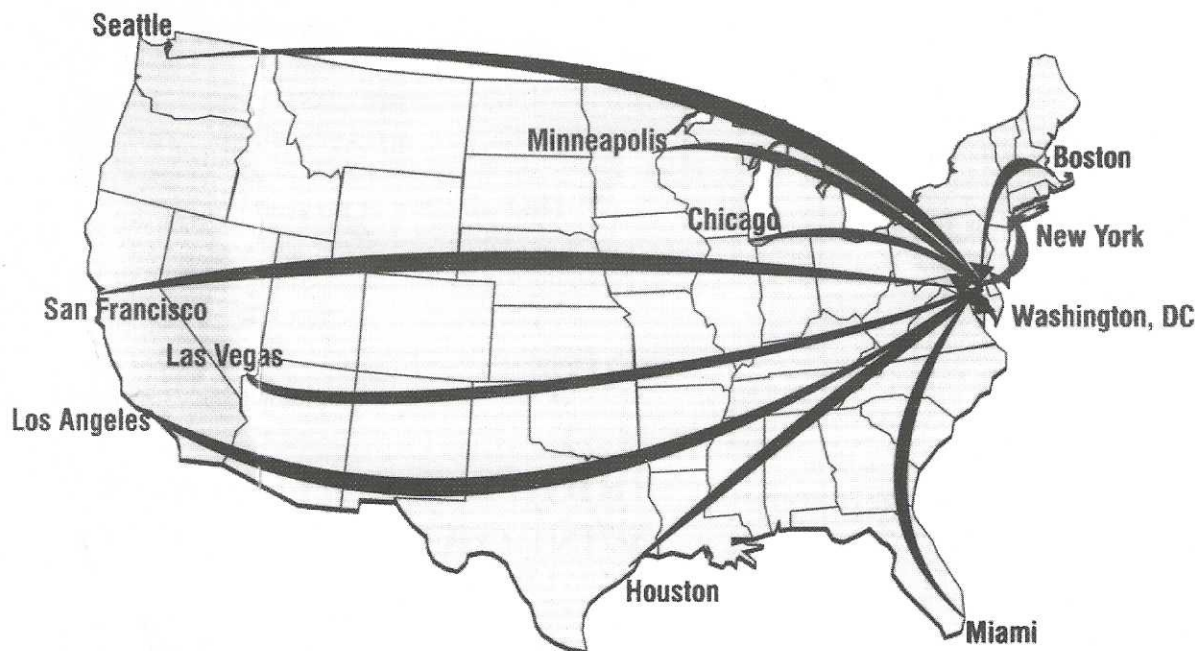
attention on the injustices of current immigrant policies. Inspired by the Freedom Riders of the civil rights movement, immigrant workers and their allies are simply asking for full citizenship, given that they live here, work here, pay taxes here, and raise their families here.

Included in the hundreds of national organizations endorsing the Freedom Ride are the AFL-CIO and all the major unions: HERE ; Farm Labor Organizing Committee; AFSCME; Coalition of Black Trade Unions; International Association of Machinists; IBEW; United Farm Workers; SEIU; United Food & Commercial Workers . . . the list goes on. You can check out the web site at <www.iwfr.org> for updated information.

It's exciting to note that the Central Valley will receive a daily report from our very

own reporter: Sara Shakir will be on the bus as a Radio Bilingüe correspondent for Noticiero Latino's *Edicion Semanaria*. She is also a volunteer producer for *Enfoque Latino* and *Nuestra Voz*, Spanish-language programs for KPDK-Pacifica in Los Angeles. Sara's place on the bus is being supported by the Immigrant and Worker Rights Center with a grant from the Great Valley Center.

But notice the word *volunteer*—Community Alliance for a Fair Economy would like to provide her with some expense money for the trip. Donations for Sara's expenses will be accepted by mail: Community Alliance for a Fair Economy, P.O. Box 4496, Fresno, CA 93744.



CESAR CHAVEZ BOULEVARD

Fresno Area Congregations Together and the San Antonio Maria Claret Local Organizing Committee are discussing the idea of moving the issue of Cesar Chavez Boulevard forward. They would like to invite all interested parties/organizations to work with them in this endeavor. All that is required is the ability to work within the framework of a team. Please call Manuel Toledo at 442-1094 if you are interested in working on this project.

**Fresno Center for Nonviolence
annual book sale will be on
Saturday, October 4, 2003
between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Donations of books, CD's and
videos welcome.**

**Helpers also needed on October 3 and 4.
Place TBA.
Call Angela 435-6383.**