

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

A P R I L
2 0 0 4

DEMOCRACY NOW!



***Amy Goodman comes to Fresno
(see story on page 6)***

Builders and Developers Call the Tune in Fresno Elections

By Mike Rhodes
March 4, 2004

There was little good news for Fresno progressives in the March 2 primary elections. Conservatives Jerry ("Dirty Bomb") Duncan and Brian Calhoun easily won re-election to the Fresno City Council. To celebrate, Calhoun went out drinking and was arrested on DUI charges hours after being re-elected. The one Democrat running for re-election on the City Council was defeated. Larry Westerlund, who defeated Brad Castillo, is a recent graduate of the San Joaquin Political Academy. The Academy has been set up by Pacific Gas & Electric, the Building Industry Association, the Fresno Association of Realtors, the Fresno Business Council, the Fresno Farm Bureau, and other businesses interested in electing officials that will be sympathetic to their political and economic agenda. For all of the March 2, 2004, election results in Fresno County, go to <www.co.fresno.ca.us/2850/Post/results-1.htm>.

Out of an estimated 486,581 eligible voters in Fresno County, only 125,467 voted in this election. There are 335,073 registered voters. In other words, only about 26% of those eligible to vote bothered to register and cast a ballot. Voters are apathetic, disillusioned, and alienated by the choices they have. They are not convinced that voting makes enough of a difference for them to take 30 minutes out of their day to cast a ballot.

Unfortunately, the builders and developers in this area do not feel the same alienation from the voting process that working and poor people feel. In fact, builders and developers are the major contributors to political campaigns in Fresno County. Republican mayor Alan Autry received \$13,750 from the building industry, which amounted to half of his campaign contributions for this election. Brian Calhoun received \$21,300 and Jerry Duncan got \$34,194 from the building industry. In contrast, Calhoun's opponents received \$100 from the builders and Duncan's opponent received \$800. The building industry plays the tune and the City Council members know the dance.

In Fresno City Council District 4, the race between Brad Castillo and Larry Westerlund, money also played an important role, but the amount given to each side by the building industry was not so lopsided. The builders gave Castillo \$31,250 and Westerlund \$11,350. The difference in this race was Westerlund's ability to draw in money from other sectors. Westerlund got \$15,500 from business compared to Castillo's \$12,625 and he received \$8,500 from Agriculture compared to Castillo's \$225.

Individual contributors are an insignificant factor in Fresno politics. The \$10, \$20, and \$30 contributions are under the radar screen in these political races. The politicians know where the money is and they do what is necessary to get those major contributions, which keep them in office. The Fresno Bee did a major study of campaign contributions shortly before the election. That story can be seen at <www.fresnobee.com/local/story/8208442p-9058176c.html>.

The focus of the Bee story was that builders and developers in Fresno are the major players in getting candidates elected. The builders and developers support particular candidates because they have business before the City Council and they want to have access to the elected officials. Sometimes, as was the case in the Westerlund/Castillo race, they will bankroll both candidates. That way, no matter which candidate wins, the builders and developers don't lose.

The builders' and developers' interests are well protected by the City Council members they elect. The building industry is doing so well that the price of Fresno

Continued on page 3
CA 2

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.

Editor: Mike Rhodes

Editorial Board: Carol Bequette, The Rev. Floyd Harris, Rey Leon, Diane Scott, Janet Slagter, Richard Stone, Manuel Toledo, Pam Whalen

Layout/Design & Printing: Hume Printing & Lithograph

Circulation and Advertising Director: Vickie Fouts

Copy Editor: Barbara Price

Proofreader: Carol Bequette

To subscribe send \$35 (regular) or \$10 (low income) to:

Community Alliance Magazine
PO Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755

(559) 978-4502 (voice)

(559) 226-3962 (fax)

email: AllianceEditor@Comcast.net
website: www.fresnoalliance.com/home

Photo Credits:

Page 1 by Robert Kim • Page 3, 5, & 7 by Mike Rhodes
Page 12 by Fran Saunders & Ray Ensher

Boycott Taco Bell

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



Need a bullhorn for your next event?
The Community Alliance has one available - just call

978-4502

to make arrangements to use it.



There is an over abundance of housing for the rich in Fresno. This picture was taken on "the bluffs" overlooking the San Joaquin River.

Continued from page 2

area homes rose faster than anywhere else in the country. Local housing prices rose 20.6% this year and 62.2% over the last five years. That is great news for the building industry. They are making so much money that making significant contributions to political campaigns is not a burden. It is just the cost of doing business in Fresno.

But, how does this bonanza for the developers affect the poor and homeless? It has created an environment where the city is attacking the homeless and cannot meet the housing needs of the poor. A representative from the Housing Authority said that they opened enrollment for Section 8 housing (low income, subsidized housing) for four days and got 6000 applicants. He said that if they had kept the enrollment open another two days, there would have been more than 10,000. There simply are not enough vouchers, nor is there enough funding, for affordable housing. When the new Hmong refugees come later this year, there will be no housing for them, and there will be further overcrowding. Meanwhile, there is all of the upscale housing in North Fresno that money can buy. Is there a connection between political contributions to City Council members, the preferential treatment of builders and developers by the City Council, and the lack of affordable housing in this community? You decide.

A few years ago the practice of buying politicians got so blatant in this town that the FBI set up a sting. They called it Operation Rezone. During Operation Rezone they arrested one city council member for selling his vote to developers in exchange for a set of tires for his car. Another council member traded his vote for a cheap suit. It was embarrassing, and everyone in the community hoped that city council members had learned a lesson. It seems instead that they might have shifted strategies and figured out a way to legally accept this dirty money from the builders and developers.



Development in North Fresno is moving at an unbelievable pace.

The bad news is that until there is campaign finance reform and publicly funded elections, voters will be alienated by the political system and corporate interests will dominate the political landscape.

But, there are reasons for hope.

The first reason for hope is that there is a group, Fresno Area Congregations Together (FACT), which is conducting a grassroots campaign to get out the vote. They are organizing and inspiring poor and working people to register to vote so they can elect progressive candidates in Southeast and Southwest Fresno. Once elected, those elected officials will be held accountable to the grassroots. If FACT can get 15% of the eligible voters to participate in elections, candidates can be elected who share the progressive community's core values—like support for a living wage, environmental justice, and the need for affordable housing. If you want to get involved, FACT can be contacted at (559) 442-1094.

Voter registration and a grassroots campaign to get out the vote are essential in electing candidates who are more responsive to the progressive community, but it is not enough. Two more elements are needed to turn around the alienating and corrupt political system in this community. The first element is viable candidates that are willing to run for political office. These candidates need to share



Robert McCaffrey donated \$3,200 each to help re-elect City Council members Jerry Duncan, Brian Calhoun, and Brad Castillo.

the core values of the progressive community, they need to understand the issues, and they need the financial backing to run a credible campaign.

A majority of eligible voters are tired of double-digit unemployment, the worst air quality in the nation, and developers and builders determining who is elected to the City Council. If activists started a progressive Political Action Committee (PAC) and got 1,000 members to contribute \$5 a month they would have enough money to run a viable campaign for the City Council. If you combine the PAC with a "get out the vote" campaign that mobilized 15% of the eligible voters to cast their ballot for a progressive candidate, progressives could run this city. Fresno could become known as the city that pays workers a living wage, has an independent police auditor, provides affordable housing, reverses the trend to privatize city government, increases public art, builds bike paths, and cleans up the air. In short, Fresno's elected representatives will stop working for the developers and builders and begin working to benefit working and poor people.

If you like the idea of starting a progressive PAC that will make local government responsive to "the people," contact the editor of the Community Alliance magazine at (559) 978-4502. With your encouragement, this project could happen.



This is a photo of Fresno Mayor Alan Autry - AKA "Bubba" from the TV series "In The Heat of the Night."

City Council Profiles:

Jerry Duncan

By Richard Stone

I had anticipated that interviewing Jerry Duncan would be the most challenging task of this series. For the most part, however, our meeting was cordial and informative. I hope that he was equally surprised by the face of the putative “enemy.”



As is also the case with Brian Calhoun, the affluence of Duncan’s district has allowed him to focus primarily on city-wide issues rather than the pressing material needs and problems of his constituents. Among his greatest concerns is job creation, and he is very involved with making the Regional Jobs Initiative work. He sees this effort as private-sector driven, but when we discussed the process in greater depth, we found unlooked-for agreement in the importance of going beyond getting new corporate businesses in town. Duncan turns out to be a strong advocate of grassroots entrepreneurship: he wants to see an agency (like a community development bank) providing loans and micro-grants to budding businesses. He also questions the wisdom of “code sweeps” that target street vendors. Why not, he asks, have areas where occasional vendors can sell goods, for example on holidays?

Duncan is also concerned with rationalizing the use of grants to the City to align with City priorities. He has, for example, spearheaded creation of a unified housing plan (and administrating task force) to direct the use of funding for affordable housing. Now—with prices going up and interests rates still low—the emphasis has been on rehabbing older homes for resale, and putting the profits back into the fund. Under other market circumstances, the emphasis might change, say, to providing down payment assistance.

Unlike several of the other council members I’ve interviewed, Duncan is not only an avid advocate of the strong mayor plan (he sees it as providing appropriate balance), he even thinks it crucial that the mayor be given additional powers to veto land-use legislation in protection of the General Plan. He is comfortable in his relations with the mayor and the city manager, and thinks they are vital to providing a city-wide vision. He also advocates a change so that some (not all) of the Council would be elected at-large to further the balance between district-specific and whole-city responsibility. (As we talked, we agreed the danger exists of “Big Money” hijacking the more expensive city-wide races, but found no current defenses to this danger. Duncan says he has long called for complete, immediate posting of campaign donations and has unsuccessfully fought for lower donation limits.)

Duncan’s genuine interest in electoral reform also includes advocacy of the instant run-off system being pioneered in San Francisco; and abolition of what he calls “the Incumbent Protection Act,” the restriction of fundraising to the few months prior to an election. Although ostensibly written to “level the playing field,” he believes this law obstructs potential new candidates from planning a successful challenge to incumbents.

For his district constituents, Duncan has concerns about current transportation resources, seeing a need both for better auto access and for a viable bus system. Another imaginatively stated concern is Fresno’s “export of children,” speaking to the lack of local opportunity for the coming generation. My suggestion that this problem need be looked at in the context of an economic system that is outsourcing jobs, rather than creating local opportunity, led to one of the moments of uneasiness in the interview. The shortcomings of corporate capitalism were not to be a fruitful topic of discussion.

Duncan has been an active player in efforts to revitalize downtown. He agreed on the need to dispel myths about lack of safety south of Shaw (in his words, “Fulton Mall is safer than River Park”), and he and Tom Boyajian have formed a

surprising political alliance in working to bring development into the southern regions of the city.

Contrary to my expectations, Duncan says he is not religious, and he feels called on to take into account the many different religious and cultural views of the city’s varied residents. He even states a strong support for the Human Relations Commission . . . as long as it stays on what he sees as its primary mission: bridging cultural divides within the city. He was less open to looking at how national policies and stances exacerbate those situations (e.g. the US response to 9/11).

He is proud of his hard work and preparation for deciding issues—skills learned in private business—and of his website <www.Fresno6.com> , which has been called a model for informing the electorate. Duncan says that, as a public official, he has had to learn the skill of consensus building in making decisions—and to be careful of what he e-mails.

Our interview touched on several sore spots where his demeanor (and complexion) changed—where further discussion seemed pointless—such as the limitations of a market economy, the reality of police misconduct, the negative impacts on Fresnoans of US international policy. But overall Duncan’s approach to being a council member seems to have much to recommend it.

ISSUES:

Water meters—long-time advocate; (the poor shouldn’t be subsidizing big users)

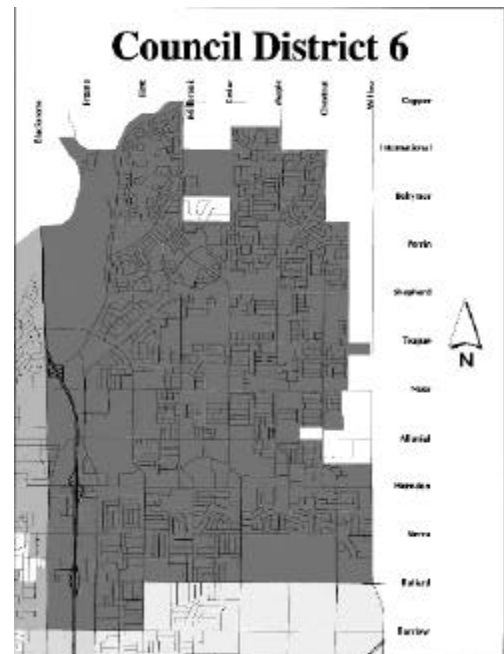
Homelessness—existing agencies are doing as well as can be expected

Police review board—not needed (has had no complaints from his district)

Living wage ordinance—opposed; wages should be “market driven”

Privatization of city services—not police and fire; but as long as there is transparency in the process and city employees have a fair chance to compete, privatization provides opportunities for better value

State and national issues—is an active lobbyist for city needs with state and federal officials, but prefers to act as an individual to seek council-wide positions



An Overview of Haiti, Past and Present

By Patrick Young
March 15, 2004

In 1994, President Clinton sent in the Marines to restore the elected president of Haiti. It was a simple act of decency that earned him no votes. It was about as popular as sending troops to Somalia and was quickly forgotten by most Americans.

Last week, in a move of staggering hypocrisy, President Bush sent in the Marines to help a gang of ex-death squad leaders, drug dealers, and cashiered military men retake control. It does sound unbelievable, but even the generally sympathetic US press had to point out this glaring fact.

Guy Philippe, the so-called rebel leader, is actually a mutinous former police chief who fled Haiti in 2000 after he and his cronies attempted to overthrow the legal government. He and his partner Louis Chamblain, (a convicted murderer and death squad leader) the leaders of this phony "rebellion," have been on the payroll of drug traffickers for years. Interestingly enough, Philippe also trained with the US Secret Service in 1995, and in all likelihood was groomed by the CIA for the role he is now playing. Philippe, ever respectful of the democratic process, promised to kill the elected president if he did not flee, and then murdered his way south to the capital, killing more than 100 allies and supporters of the president.

When one wants to understand the saga of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, one must first think of a man of incredible courage, determination, and fortitude. Especially courage.

He has lived under threat of death for two decades. He led the poor of Haiti, against incredible odds, to challenge not only the corrupt and brutal Duvalier regime, but the military men and criminals who did not flee, but instead remained to try to reinstate the same type of non-government: one built on terror and crony capitalism.

President Aristide, in an act of supreme courage, disbanded the most feared and despised force in Haitian history: the Haitian army. He did it not only because as an institution it had never played a role in defending Haiti (against whom, anyway?), but because the army served as an element of brutal repression and murder. The same went for the overwhelmingly corrupt police force.

Virtually all of these men were unwilling to surrender their weapons and their privileged status in Haitian society, and Aristide had no effective means to disarm them. This group overthrew Aristide soon after he was first elected, and they have tried several times since then; the crucial difference this time is that they had the support of President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Aristide is loathed by the right wing of this nation not because he is crooked, repressive, or a thief. Before he assumed the presidency, he was a Catholic priest who operated an orphanage in Port Au Prince, in one of the world's worst

slums. He is the heart and soul of the Haitian people's aspirations, and he has given his entire life to the betterment of his country, against odds that few of us can even imagine. He has been one of the courageous leaders of modern times.

Countless personal friends and allies were murdered as he led the nation to expel the hated dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. The Haitian elite tried numerous times to assassinate him, have pushed the military to overthrow him, and have done everything they could to sabotage him at every turn. And all for one simple reason: because President Aristide has made it his life's mission, and his unswerving goal, to help the poor of Haiti. That means giving political power to the impoverished masses, to the few honest and extremely brave Haitian crusaders who won't stop fighting for something better, to the near-starving workers making a dollar a day in international sweatshops.

Aristide is a very dangerous man to those who wish to keep the Haitian people ignorant and exploited, and who favor a government composed of drug dealers, ghouls, freelance death squads, and the wealthy who benefit from this repression. And that includes the US, which has traditionally been the patron of Haiti's awful governments before Aristide. Aristide will not allow these people back into power, nor should he.



All of the photos on this page were taken at a demonstration in front of the Fresno Federal Building on March 11, supporting democracy in Haiti.

The major work done by the Bush administration to destroy Aristide's presidency has been economic. After members of an opposition party complained about 2000 parliamentary elections (which were incredibly clean for such a poor nation), President Bush cut off all aid. It is useful to note that US aid always flowed when Haiti didn't have elections, and when it was run by a single family of homicidal crooks with their own private death squad, the Ton Ton Macoutes.

As has been the course in every election since 1990, Aristide's party won overwhelmingly in balloting for the nation's parliament, with more than 70% of the vote, and the old Haitian elite was once again left out in the cold. Earlier that year, Aristide easily won reelection,

succeeding his friend and supporter Rene Preval, also of Aristide's Lavalas party. This should come as no surprise, as Aristide has very little legitimate political opposition in Haiti. Most of the people who have truly struggled and suffered tremendously to make Haiti better are Aristide supporters.

Using the complaints of this tiny but vocal minority in Haiti as the pretext, President Bush cut off all economic aid to the destitute and desperate island. Coincidentally, aid was cut to the fledgling police force, leaving the Haitian government with only 3,500 police officers to keep the peace in a nation of 9 million. Most were issued only side arms, and they were spread so thin they could not possibly resist an organized group of soldiers with modern automatic weapons.

A country as utterly poor as Haiti lives and dies on these aid packages, and historically, aid has been used by the United States either to reward pliable cronies or to punish those leaders who develop unpleasant streaks of independence and nationalism. The \$500 million loan package now sits, dangling as a tool for the Haitian elite to use to blame Aristide for the country's woes.

Continued on page 6

Democracy Now! Host Amy Goodman Comes to Fresno

Amy Goodman, host of the award-winning news program Democracy Now!, is coming to Fresno on Wednesday, April 14, on her *Exception to the Rulers* tour.

Amy will be appearing at two venues on the Fresno State campus. From 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM you can meet and greet her at a reception in the Renaissance Room in the University Center building. Admission is \$50 per person, which includes a copy of her book *Exception to the Rulers*, refreshments, and preferred seating at the lecture. Following the reception, Amy will speak at 7:30 PM at the Satellite Student Union in a free public lecture. Amy Goodman's visit is sponsored by KFCF Radio, the Beth Ann Harnish Lectures, and the Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition.

Tickets for the reception are available from The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness, or by calling KFCF at (559) 233-2221.

About Amy Goodman and Democracy Now!

Amy Goodman is the executive producer and host of Democracy Now!, a national, listener-sponsored public radio and TV news hour, pioneering the largest community media collaboration in the country. The program airs daily on more than 200 venues including Pacifica radio stations, Pacifica and NPR affiliates, public access TV stations, Free Speech TV (DishNetwork Channel 9415), short-wave radio (Radio for Peace International), Sirius Satellite Radio, the Internet (democracynow.org), and increasingly on radio in Europe and Australia. In Central California, Democracy Now! can be heard on listener-sponsored, Pacifica associate station KFCF 88.1 FM at 6 AM and 9 AM weekdays, and on the Internet at <www.kfcf.org>.

Recently, Democracy Now! exposed the Bush administration's role in the overthrow of Haiti's democratically elected government with exclusive interviews of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Amy Goodman is a 1998 recipient of the George Polk Award for the radio documentary *Drilling and Killing: Chevron and Nigeria's Oil Dictatorship*, in which she and co-producer Jeremy Scahill exposed the oil company's role in the killing of two Nigerian villagers on May 28, 1998. They were also awarded the Golden Reel for Best National Documentary from the National Federation of Community Broadcasters. Project Censored selected the documentary as one of the

"10 Most Censored Stories of 1998." They also were honored by the Overseas Press Club, a citation they rejected because of the Club's agreement that journalists not question the keynote speaker, US Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke, at the awards dinner, in the midst of the US bombing of Yugoslavia. Goodman and Scahill co-wrote two articles in *The Nation* magazine on the Chevron-related killings.

Amy has also won numerous awards for the radio documentary she co-produced with journalist Allan Nairn, *MASSACRE: The Story of East Timor*, including the Robert F. Kennedy Prize for In-

ternational Reporting, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Award, the Armstrong Award, the Radio/Television News Directors Award, as well as awards from AP, UPI, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In 1991

Goodman and Nairn survived a massacre in East Timor in which Indonesian soldiers gunned down more than 270 Timorese. The Indonesian military banned them from returning. Goodman and Nairn returned to East Timor to report on that nation's independence, in May 2002.

Amy has reported from Israel and the occupied territories, Cuba, Mexico, and Haiti and was the first journalist ever to interview the jailed US citizen Lori Berenson, serving a life sentence in Peru. Goodman also broadcast the first US radio interview with imprisoned East Timor rebel leader Xanana Gusmao, and she was the only US journalist to attend the first press conference held by Subcomandante Marcos after the Zapatista uprising in 1994.

In addition to doing her daily shows, Goodman speaks around the country on university campuses, as well as to human rights, church and community groups about media activism. She also runs workshops at community radio and TV stations and for journalism students on grassroots coverage. She is the author with her brother David of the book, *The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media that Loves Them*.

Haiti continued from page 5

Only the terrifically naive could believe that this package was withheld because the Bush administration or American interests in Haiti wanted to see more democracy. A simple look back at the last 50 years shows US aid and weapons flowing unabated to the incredibly corrupt and brutal regimes of President For Life "Papa Doc" Duvalier, and his son "Baby Doc"—a family that ran the country as their own private bank and playground.

And it should be noted and underlined that when Aristide's popular movement finally succeeded in making the dictator flee, it was up into the belly of a US C130 to fly him (along by the national treasury) to France, where he now lives a comfortable life on the French Riviera with his beautiful model wife, free from prosecution.

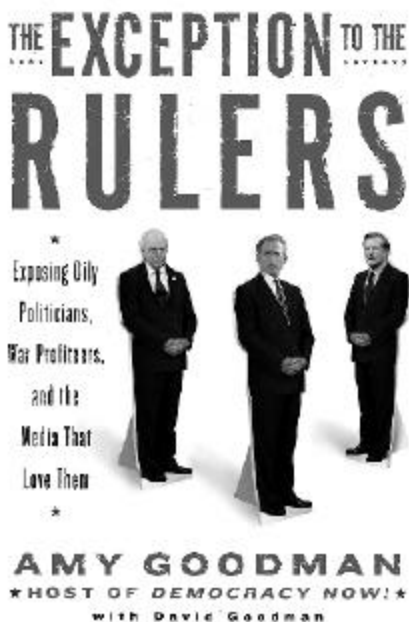
Evidence of US bias against Aristide and his popular movement abounds in the last decade. The leader of one of Haiti's many death squads, former army commander Raoul Cedras, now lives comfortably in New York selling real estate. Believing him responsible for hundreds of deaths, disappearances, and incidents of torture, the Haitian government issued an extradition request for him to stand trial in Haiti. US immigration not only issued a weak claim that he "had somehow slipped through," but now also refuses to deport him. This man with so much blood on his hands now walks free among us.

And now, we are left with Haiti undergoing yet another military coup, its thirty-third. Haiti will have a government that will never be accepted as legitimate because it cannot be ignored that it shot its way into power. And if the Bush administration and past history have any say, Haiti will return to a nonfunctioning government of the same old crooks and thugs, with some appropriate window dressing.

We can be sure of nothing now in Haiti but more chaos, because the rule of the gun has once again killed the democratic process. It is impossible to conclude that this is good for our nation, or that we cannot do better.

###

Patrick Young of Fresno is the coordinator of the Wheelchair Project and has been to Haiti several times delivering humanitarian aid. He can be contacted at (559) 251-3814 or (559) 244-1042.



Be The Media

By Mike Rhodes
March 13, 2004



A diverse task force, working on a new cable franchise agreement in Fresno, recently visited community media centers in Santa Rosa, Gilroy, and Monterrey. The task force included representatives from education, government, and community groups.

TV worth watching is coming to Fresno. Efforts to bring Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels to our local cable network are starting to bring more local programming and media democracy to the area. Last month, the City of Fresno and sev-

franchise agreement. The ability for individuals and organizations to produce and broadcast their own programs will help democratize the media, improve communications in the community, and empower community activists to Be the Media. A public access channel will also give the community a vehicle to get programming, such as Amy Goodman's Democracy Now!, on the public access channel and onto the cable network. Democracy Now! and other free-speech TV shows can then be seen by thousands of viewers in this area every day. Currently you can listen to Democracy Now! at 6 AM and 9 AM on KFCF 88.1 FM in Fresno.

There has been some concern expressed that the current proposal for an education/government channel leaves out public access. While that is true, the turning on of the E/G channel is not a part of the franchise agreement that is being renegotiated. The channel is a part of the old agreement but it is not currently being used to broadcast E/G programs. Now that education and government groups know that the channel is available, they have put forward a proposal to the Fresno City Council to begin using it as soon as possible. Having an E/G channel will provide impor-

tant information about what is going on in local government and in the schools. The new E/G channel could be on the network as early as June 1 of this year. Negotiations for the new franchise agreement will begin soon and will include a proposal for PEG channel(s), a community media center, and an I-Net.

The I-Net is a cable fiber network, which will link numerous government, education, and possibly nonprofit organizations. The advantage of including an I-Net in the final franchise agreement is that it will improve communications for participating groups, lower communication costs, and provide multiple areas where live

eral education organizations presented a proposal, which is likely to get the go-ahead, to use channel 96 on Comcast cable. The proposal will bring government and education programming to the community. While this development does not yet give us public access on the cable network, it is a step in the right direction.

Big changes in community access on the cable network are coming because the City and Comcast are renegotiating the contract that gives the cable company the right to operate in this city. The current franchise agreement in Fresno expires on December 31, 2004. Other franchise agreements, with Clovis, Madera, and the County of Fresno, also expire at the same time. The last franchise agreement in Fresno, which was negotiated more than 20 years ago, did not give the community PEG access.

Public access will allow any resident to produce a TV show free of charge. Franchise agreements in other communities where Comcast provides cable service also include a community media center. In the community media center there are production studios, digital editing equipment, video cameras you can check out, skills training, and more. All of this is provided free by Comcast as negotiated in the



This is a digital editing booth at the Gilroy community media center.

events can originate from. For example, the I-Net could connect City Hall, CSUF, Roosevelt High School, and the Ted Wills community center. An event held at any one of those locations could then be broadcast live on a cable channel. Some communities have 50 "live" sites in their communities.



Laurie Cirivello, director of the Santa Rosa Community Media Access Center, displays hard drives used for digital editing.

PEG cable access will improve media democracy in Fresno. It will provide training, equipment, studios, and an almost unlimited amount of bandwidth for community members to share their ideas with others. This will be the biggest change that has happened to local television in the last 50 years. If you want to find out more about the franchise renewal process and PEG access. go to <www.buskegroup.com>. There is also a local listserv that will keep you up to

date on developments about the franchise renewal process and PEG access. You can join the listserv by sending a message to: Alliance_for_Community_Media_in_Fresno_subscribe@yahoo.com.



Sue Buske is the consultant working with the City of Fresno in the franchise agreement negotiations with Comcast.

COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS WANTED

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

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

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

Dr. Meg Hadcock: Healer, Helper, Humanitarian

By Toni Eames

Many of us end up crying in a doctor's office at one time or another. Sometimes this is the result of good or bad news, frustration or anger. However, my crying at Dr. Meg Hadcock's office six years ago was caused by a different set of circumstances. Dr. Hadcock had just told me that having survived a double mastectomy, I no longer had to see her. Her work as surgeon was over, and it was now time to see an oncologist.

When Donna Pickel, a retired teacher, contacted me in November 2003 about attending a lunch being organized for Dr. Hadcock, I shared this experience with her. Donna responded by indicating she had gone through a similar crying jag under exactly the same circumstances, and that was one of the reasons she developed the idea of a patient-initiated celebration of Meg Hadcock's life as healer, helper, and humanitarian.

The event Donna and a small group organized on February 28 at Tornino's fulfilled all my expectations and was one of the most marvelous tributes I have ever attended. More than 200 women were present who had survived breast cancer with the help of Meg Hadcock. Their families, Meg's family, and several colleagues brought the total number of participants to 372. As one observer commented, the life force and energy in that room were palpable!

When Meg entered the room on the pretext that she was celebrating two years of partnership with Dr. Riolo, we all held our breath. Donna, who was hosting the event, requested silence so we could all get a good look at Meg's face as the realization took hold that we were all there for her! Folks at my table provided a blow-by-blow description of Meg's initial surprise, followed by disbelief, followed by a flood of grateful tears. As she later said, this was the best day in her life!

I was delighted to be one of the six speakers expressing the individual and collective gratitude of the multitudes of women facing the fear of coping with breast cancer, whose burden had been lightened by Meg's nurturing, concern, and competence. I talked about her advocacy on my behalf to allow my guide dog Escort to stay in the hospital with me following surgery. After all, she noted, Escort had more training working with a blind person than any nurse!

The theme running through other patient testimonials focused on Meg's humanness and humaneness, two elements, unfortunately, that are rare in the medical profession. One never felt rushed in Meg's office, and she usually shared elements of her life with those whose lives she so profoundly affected. One spouse described his fear for his wife, himself, and his children, and how Meg spent more than an hour and a half allaying these fears, answering every question, no



Dr. Margaret Hadcock (left) and Dr. Kay Riolo (right)

matter how many times repeated. Meg's ability to listen and insert herself into the life of her patients was brought home to me when she asked one woman about her favorite baseball team, another about her two young children by name, another about her recent trip, and so on.

Donna had worked closely with Cindy Coppo, Meg's nurse. Because of privacy issues, it was Cindy who contacted women and passed on Donna's contact information for those wanting to participate. In Cindy's tribute, the respect, admiration and love of people who work closely together in a life-saving operation were apparent. Representatives of the medical community who are part of the breast cancer treatment team represented the entire process from first detection to postsurgical treatment. They ran the gamut from internist to oncologist, and included the radiologist, pathologist and support system members. One comment that captured Meg's spirit was that she was aware she walked on water, but didn't want to broadcast this since it would make others who could not walk on water feel bad! Sister Ruth, administrator at St. Agnes, said Meg's sweetness with patients turned into ferocity with staff who failed to make her patients feel welcome, comfortable, and safe.

Like most women approaching 60, I have had my fair share of encounters with the medical community. I can't think of many providers who would have become the center of such an outpouring of adoration and love. Many of us believe that the American health-care system is in chaos and that crisis intervention is needed. Many of us support universal health care and a single-payer system. In addition to these approaches, perhaps the best way of saving our failing system is by recruiting more Meg Hadcocks!

#

Toni and Ed Eames can be contacted at (559) 224-0544 or eeames@csufresno.edu.

Radical Anti Ne-conservative Organized Resistance

By Michael Becker

A recent blurb in the corporate press brought us news that Attorney General John Ashcroft recently had his gall bladder removed. Considering the abundance of gall these days in the Justice Department, Ashcroft's operation must have been a long one. In a recent special, Bill Moyers pointed out several instances in which the Justice Department has been caught using its souped-up powers under the Orwellian "Patriot Act" to infiltrate various citizen groups. Who knows how many other, undiscovered times this has happened?

Surveillance, clandestine infiltration, spying, and other threats to civil liberties are designed in part to chill dissent, instilling fear in citizens who would exercise their first-amendment rights to free expression, to assembly, and to petition the government for a "redress of grievances." According to a recent study, the average American is under surveillance twelve times a day. Here where I work, on the Fresno State campus (thanks to a recent Pelco contract), there are approximately forty cameras keeping constant watch over students, faculty, and staff. One fish-eyed lens has been placed directly above the "free speech area" (another of my favorite Orwellian terms). Like Ashcroft's Justice Department, surveillance is designed to instill fear and automatic compliance. One must always obey, because one is always potentially under the gaze of the disciplinary machine. This subtle exercise of control goes back at least to Jeremy Bentham's design for the perfect modern institution, the "Panopticon," and is analyzed in great detail in Michel Foucault's "Discipline and Punish." Of

Continued on page 15

Fresno Disability Rights Advocates

By Lisa Brown



FDRA (Fresno Disability Rights Advocates) is an organizing effort that represents the greater Fresno area. It is an outgrowth of the California Developmental Disabilities Community Imperative, a statewide advocacy group uniting on behalf of the disabled. FDRA's web group serves as a communication tool to coordinate efforts within our own geographic area.

With our financially challenged condition in California today, the disabled, elderly, and poor are suffering threats and attacks to their services, support, and programs like never before. FDRA unites our various local agencies, organizations, and private citizens, who have been working independently for so long, to better continue and coordinate our advocacy efforts in these dangerous times. We need to mobilize our local disability community to take action to fight off and prevent further cutbacks and attacks, and to advance the rights of all disabled in our state.

For further information or to join this web group, please contact Lisa Brown at lab2000lab@aol.com or (559) 485-5199.

Domestic Violence Committee Issues

By Maria Zarate

We have started a committee dealing with domestic violence within the community. Our group is a part of the Fresno County Democratic Latino/Chicano Caucus, and we are in the process of developing more contacts. We have information about agencies that serve victims but would like more. If you are in a violent situation or can offer some help to victims call (559) 221-1247. We are looking for new members on the committee. If this is an important issue for you, please feel free to contact me at the above number.

April Take-Action Report

By Vickie Fouts

Help All Americans Breathe Easier: Smog and soot pollution are health threats, leading to asthma attacks, heart attacks, and even tens of thousands of premature deaths annually in the United States. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new rules to cut this dangerous air pollution. Unfortunately, the proposed cuts do not go nearly far enough, and would leave many people breathing unhealthy air for years to come. But there's still hope. Estimates show that steeper cuts could prevent thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks each year. Send a message to the EPA and President Bush asking them to make steeper reductions in smog and soot pollution immediately at actionnetwork.org/campaign/interstateair/88e75d2vj5et56.

Stop the Radical Religious Right from Amending the US Constitution: Spurred by the recent Massachusetts State Supreme Court decision against discrimination, some members of the radical religious right are aggressively campaigning to amend the US Constitution to deny the right to marry to same-sex couples in committed relationships. The proposed amendment ([H.J. Res 56/S.J. Res 26](http://www.hj.res.56/s.j.res.26)) would also invalidate all state and local domestic

partnership laws and nullify civil-rights protections based on marital status. Send your member of Congress a fax at www.aclu.org/LesbianGayRights/LesbianGayRights.cfm?ID=9977&c=101.

Trouble Ahead for Public Broadcasting: In the next two months, Congress will hold hearings in both the House and Senate that will affect the future of public broadcasting. Congressional opponents of the current system have threatened to challenge the long-standing editorial independence that was one of the core reasons public broadcasting was created. We also anticipate that the public broadcasting foes will try to undermine the disbursement of the limited amount of government funds the system receives. Public broadcasting must be protected from efforts to politicize and privatize it. Send an e-mail to your Congress members at causenet.commoncause.org/.

Act to Protect the Freedom to Choose a Union: New bipartisan legislation (H.R. 3619 and S. 1925) introduced in Congress will help fix the broken process through which workers form unions. Please take a moment right now to send a fax to your senators and representative. Urge them to sign on as a sponsor of this important pro-worker legislation. Send a letter at www.unionvoice.org/campaign/sponsorsfca.



Poetry Corner

We received some kind words and strong writing from someone who goes by "david lynch." I will publish some excerpts this month and perhaps some more in the future (especially if nothing new comes in). Thanks, david, and hang in there.

just some truth from Fresno

Saying things that are true ain't as easy as they once were. I give it all up to feed. Myself and mine. Alone inside of any apartment, I could be. My jobs are the same as yours. You know me as well as I know you. Every animal goes through the stages. No one is born special. They make you, as they break you. Remember that. Cuz whatever way you think, I guarantee you'll run into me. A part of your tragedy. . . .

I drove in tears. The year McGwire was breaking apart history. My mother had sliced up her arm and told me that aliens did it. I knew she did it. When she was 16 her mom cut up her own arm and said my mom did it. They locked her into the mental ward of Valley Medical Center where my grandma worked part-time. I was the result of something in that time period. My mom sat on the couch scared cuz Fresno Unified was laying off all the teacher's aides that didn't know how to speak Hmong or Spanish. Her request for food stamps was denied. She was scared one night. Little green men came and took her away for a while. Her nightmares are louder than ever. . . .

At 25 I was playing with suicide. A box of tapes on the kitchen table. I was reading night away. In the darkest moment I've ever known. I read myself into a new beginning.

GRAND JURIES, UNDERCOVER AGENTS, THREATS, AND INTIMIDATION

By Mike Rhodes and Catherine Campbell

A federal grand jury issued a subpoena to antiwar activists at Drake University in Iowa earlier this year. The grand jury wanted membership lists, agendas, and other information from the campus antiwar group. The infiltration of groups engaged in peaceful protests was accelerated when Attorney General John Ashcroft and the Bush administration passed the Patriot Act in the wake of September 11. Ashcroft encouraged the FBI and local law enforcement agents to infiltrate community groups like Peace Fresno and the group at Drake University. Now, the tactic of using grand juries to investigate these groups has started to emerge.

In Iowa, Fresno, and around the country, people are outraged at the government's use of agents to infiltrate peaceful groups. The new tactic of using a federal grand jury to threaten and intimidate peaceful protesters who are not suspected of any crime is outrageous. One of the problems, as explained by Brian Terrell, a member of the Catholic Peace Ministry, is that if "people know that our group at Drake University is being investigated by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, it will have an effect on who comes to the next meeting." The use of grand jury investigations and undercover agents has a chilling effect on the democratic process. Nobody wants the government to associate his or her group with terrorism.

But, when word got out about the government's use of the grand jury in Iowa, pressure mounted and the government was forced to drop its use of that tactic. While many people have heard about the Drake University incident, few of them know that grand juries are being used right here in Fresno to threaten and intimidate local community groups who are engaged in work for social and economic justice. In the last six months there have been at least three grand jury investigations, specifically targeting and disrupting the work of community groups. With the threat of jail hanging over the head of anyone who discloses information about grand jury activity, there may well be a lot more going on here than anyone knows about.

But what is a grand jury and how does it function? What are your rights if you are called to testify before one? Here is what we know:

The grand jury is an archaic, secret organization of the powerful, chosen by the powerful. There are county and federal grand juries. Sometimes grand juries are used by prosecutors to conduct criminal investigations by interrogating witnesses in secret. When this is done, the prosecutor is deliberately choosing the grand jury process to avoid media and public scrutiny. The usual way of prosecuting crime is through the criminal justice system, which

is constitutionally required to be open to the public, with investigative materials (statements and other evidence) required to be available to the defense. A grand jury proceeding is secret, even to the indicted person's attorney.

A grand jury has the power to compel the attendance of witnesses through issuing subpoenas, and sometimes does so using a mass-scale "sweep" designed to intimidate hordes of people into grand jury appearances without having consulted counsel. A grand jury can also issue search warrants, have investigators record phone conversations, and conduct undercover operations. The scope of a grand jury investigation is not hampered by the usual rules of evidence and can be as broad as the prosecutor wants it to be.

The grand jurors themselves are rarely involved in any of these processes; prosecutors pluck the strings of the grand jury instrument. Jurors rarely see the subpoenas, the warrants, or the undercover operatives. Jurors almost always do exactly what prosecutors ask them to do and are infamous for issuing unfounded indictments.

The failure to comply with a grand jury subpoena will result in a sanction, and incarceration is the usual outcome of a willful refusal to testify. One who decides not to comply with a grand jury is engaging in serious civil disobedience that can result in a jail term of an indefinite length.



Brian Terrell, with Catholic Peace Ministry in Iowa, received a grand jury subpoena delivered by an agent working for the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

It is possible to "quash" a federal grand jury subpoena under Rule 17 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure if "compliance would be oppressive." Some limited protection is also available under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. As a practical matter, however, courts rarely quash grand jury subpoenas. Anyone called before the grand jury can refuse to testify before the grand jury if he or she asserts that the testimony has the possibility of being personally incriminating under the Fifth Amendment. Individuals also retain their personal privileges, such as the attorney-client privilege and the marital communication privilege.

Persons called to testify before a grand jury do not have the right to counsel in the grand jury room. However, you can have a lawyer present outside the room, and you can ask for as many breaks as you want or need, including one per question, to consult with counsel. Counsel should be consulted by anyone who receives a subpoena to testify before a grand jury.

For further information on the history and abuses of the grand jury, read Frank J. Donner, *The Age of Surveillance: The Aims and Methods of the American Political Intelligence System* (New York: Knopf, 1980). The book is out of print but available through used booksellers or through the library.

If you have received a subpoena to testify before a grand jury, and if you feel you have had your civil liberties violated due to your political or religious activities, contact Nicholas DeGraff at assistance-fresno@riseup.net or (559) 213-2042. It is important that the incidents of civil liberties violations be monitored and that victims are told about their legal options.

Thursday, April 1

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence is moving. Their new address, as of April 1, will be 1584 N. Van Ness, across from Fresno City College - SE Corner Van Ness & McKinley * Entrance on Van Ness. Same Phone Number 559-23PEACE 559-237-3223

Thursday, April 1 • 1:30 PM

CSUF Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition meeting at CSUF room USU 310. For more information contact ruthoj@csufresno.edu

Thursday, April 1 • 6 PM

The CHAANGE San Joaquin Valley Chapter, will be hosting the Lobby Day Dinner at Fresno City College. They will have guest speakers including a member of the Green Party. The Dinner is free. Information will be shared about our Lobby Day Trip to Sacramento on April 19th. If you know of anyone living with HIV/AIDS, we especially extend an invitation for them to travel with us to Sacramento on April 19th for Lobby Day, and to meet with their legislators to discuss the budget cut's impact on medications for individuals currently living with HIV/AIDS in this Valley and California. CHAANGE will sponsor and make arrangements for those individuals wishing to attend Lobby Day. However, if anyone wish to make a donation on behalf of someone you knew or currently know living with HIV/AIDS, please send donations to CHAANGE San Joaquin Valley. c/o Fresno Center for Non Violence. Proceeds will go towards sponsoring advocates to Sacramento. Please RSVP by April 12th if you wish to attend Lobby Day in Sacramento. For more information contact: Jean Kennedy - 270-1023, or Gary Denise 237-3223

Saturday, April 3 • 9 AM

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley meeting at Denny's Restaurant at Abby and Divisadero in Fresno. Speaker is Tom Bohigian, Acting State Director for Barbara Boxer. Details (559) 439-8140

Sunday, April 4 • 11 AM

March in honor of Cesar Chavez in Delano. Join United Farm Worker president Arturo Rodriguez in a march for legalization, education, and justice. The march starts at the Cesar Chavez High School in Delano and concludes at the Cesar Chavez Park (also in Delano). For more information go to: www.ufw.org

Friday, April 9 • 5PM and 8PM

Fresno Filmworks presents the Chinese film *Blind Shaft* at the Tower Theatre. Set in the illegal coal mines that have sprung up throughout China, the film is a gritty exposé of that country's new capitalist economy. Tickets are available at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, and at the door. Tickets are \$9.00; \$7.00, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to www.fresnofilmworks.org.

Saturday, April 10 • 2-4 PM

"Women's Spirituality and Leadership" -- A panel of women of different faiths will discuss how they use their spirituality to help them in their leadership roles. Life Enrichment Center, 2767 E Shaw Ave. Fresno. Co-sponsored by Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization and others. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Vickie Fouts at vmfou1@sti.net or 658-8260.

Wednesday, April 14 • 5:30 PM Meet and Greet • 7:30 PM Presentation at CSUF

Amy Goodman, host of the award-winning news program *Democracy Now!*, is coming to Fresno on Wednesday, April 14th on her Exception to the Rulers tour. Amy will be appearing at two venues on the Fresno State University campus. From 5:30 to 7:00 pm you can meet and greet her at a reception in the Renaissance Room in the University Center building. Admission is \$50 per person, which includes a copy of her book "Exception to the Rulers", refreshments, and preferred seating at the lecture. Following the reception, Amy will speak at 7:30 pm at the Satellite Student Union in a free public lecture. Amy Goodman's visit is sponsored by KFCF Radio, the Beth Ann Hamish Lectures, and the Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition. Tickets for the reception are available from the Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness, or by calling KFCF at 559-233-2221.

Wednesday, April 14 • 7 PM

John Kerry Meet-In. Fresno Democratic Office, 255 N Fulton Ave #104. Details: 486-5422 or 439-8140.

Thursday, April 15

Tax Day: Fresno WILPF has a long history of leafleting on April 15th at a local Post Office with information on where the majority of our tax dollars go: they go to the military and war instead of social justice programs. Please help WILPF educate the public! Last year's event was very successful with over 1,000 leaflets handed out at Post Offices in Fresno, Clovis, North Fork and

Oakhurst. They need 3-4 people to sign up per 2 hour shifts on April 15th at the Cardwell Post Office, 1606 Griffith Way, between 10AM-6PM. If you can help please contact Vickie Fouts at 559-658-8260 or as soon as possible. It can't be done without your help.

Sunday, April 18 • 6 PM

The Fresno Earth Day Committee Presents: "Dinner and Documentaries" at The Starline. \$10 donation. *Return of the Scorcher* a film by Ted White. This half-hour documentary looks at bike culture and bike lifestyles around the world with beautiful and inspiring scenes of bike use filmed in China, The Netherlands, Denmark and the U.S. *Tales of the San Joaquin*, a film by Chris Beaver a provocative look at the history of the San Joaquin River followed by a discussion "How can farms and rivers properly coexist?" Vegetarian food provided by T&D Willey Farms www.tdwilleyfarms.org and prepared by Daily Harvest Catering (www.dailyharvestcatering.com) For more info and tickets <email info@fresnoearthday.org> or visit <<http://www.fresnoearthday.org>>.

Thursday, April 22 • 6:30 PM

Central California Criminal Justice Committee Meets at their new location: Fresno Center for Non Violence, 1584 N. Van Ness, corner of McKinley and Van Ness, across the street from City College. There is parking in the back. For more information about the CCCJC go to: <<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/ccjc/>>.

Saturday, April 24 • 11 AM - 3 PM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence OPEN HOUSE at their new location, 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. Come See the Center's new home & Celebrate With Us. Refreshments Provided

Saturday, April 24 • 7:30 PM

ALICE STUART in concert sponsored by the Fresno Folklore Society. Fresno Art Museum 2233 N. First. Tickets \$15 Advance, \$20 Day of the Performance. Info? 497-5033 Alice's music is a heartfelt mix of revived acoustic blues-based songs with a tasty touch of folksy feel. Her career has spanned 4 decades including a number one billboard hit right here in Fresno, "Freedom's the Sound" in the early '70s. Her newest CD, "Can't Find No Heaven," was nominated for both a Grammy and a Handy Award and was chosen Best Northwest CD by the Washington Blues Society in 2003. "She cut the road Bonnie Raitt traveled."—Taj Mahal

Sunday, April 25

To demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion and birth control, the largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday April 25, 2004. For the first time ever this pro-choice march is a collaborative effort - four leading national women's rights groups have come together to organize this momentous event. Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the

Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and National Organization for Women are the principal organizers of the March for Women's Lives and have pooled efforts and resources to lay the groundwork. The march will begin at noon from the Lincoln Memorial, although participants may begin assembling as early as 10 a.m. After marching on Washington, a rally will be held from 1-4 p.m. on the National Mall. Special seating will be available for people with disabilities. The rally program will be signed for the hearing impaired. The route is wheelchair accessible and transportation will be provided for those who cannot negotiate the route. Planned Parenthood Mar Monte in Fresno proudly supports the March for Women's Lives on April 25, 2004. Locally, they are working on this exciting national event by sponsoring events to educate community members on the march and threats to reproductive freedom at the local, state and national levels and working to send as many people to the march as possible.

Sunday, April 25 • Noon till Sundown

5th Annual Fresno Earth Day Festival 2004 will be held at Roeding Park. Live music and speakers on a solar-powered stage, environmental exhibits, a farmers market, children's environmental education, cuisine from around the world, arts & crafts sales and the return of the Sunset Drum Circle so bring a drum! This is a community sponsored event made possible through the support and efforts of local organizations and green businesses in order to increase awareness about the preservation of our natural resources. Brought to you by the Fresno Earth Day Committee. For more information visit <http://www.fresnoearthday.org>

Sunday, April 25 • 7:30 PM

Renowned folk singer and human rights activist CHARLIE KING will perform in concert at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4144 N. Millbrook (1/2 block south of Ashlan) in Fresno. Admission is \$10. For tickets and information, call Donna at 275-4974, or Maria at 255-9492.

Tuesday, April 27 • 7 PM

"Whites Looking at White Privilege", sixth in a series of discussions in which whites will be challenged to examine the benefits received from centuries of racism. Fresno City College, Room SO-110. Contact Richard Stone to enroll: 266-2559. Contact Gerry Bill for parking permit: 227-2133, or 442-4600 ext. 8348. Note Change in meeting day.

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

A NEW HOME! A NEW FUTURE!

By the time you get this issue of Community Alliance magazine, we will have closed our doors at 985 N. Van Ness for the last time. We'll be remembering the countless activities and events of the past 12 years; we'll recall the organizations who have shared our home; and we'll remember with pride the fledgling groups that we helped grow to adulthood. Most of all, we'll remember the courage, hard work, and strength of the people who have worked with us, sat and talked to us, persuaded us, cried with us, marched with us.

Welcome to 1584 N. Van Ness

Our new home is 1584 N. Van Ness. We arrive excited at the thought of new challenges and goals. One of these goals is to attract younger people to the Center, and the proximity of Fresno City College appears promising. Another expectation is more visibility and hopefully more foot traffic. The organizations currently meeting at the Center will be moving over with us; we are glad to share our new space with them, and we appreciate their support.

Many of our members have pledged \$30.00 a year for two years to help with the increased rent, and we want to thank them very much. Without their enthusiastic response, this move would not be possible.

Grand Opening

Don't forget our OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, April 24, from 11 AM to 3 PM. Come and meet the Board and representatives from other groups that meet at the Center. We'll be having music and refreshments, and you'll be able to see where we are going to hang out—we hope for a long time.

For your reading and viewing pleasure!



We are reorganizing our book and video library, bringing it up to date. A good friend of the Center is building new shelving for a "library corner" for us so it will be easier to browse. We want to encourage everyone to make use of the books and videos, many of which are not available elsewhere. Instead of going to Blockbuster, think of coming to us. The videos are listed on our website so you can call ahead and see if your choice is available.

We do have a need to expand our library, so we invite you to make donations of books and videos that are related to peace and social justice. Please call or drop by if you are able to help.

Feel happy about what you drink!

As many of you know, we have dreamed of expanding the Center so that we could have a "store front" that carries fair-trade, organic coffee, cocoa, and tea, as well as such items as progressive books, videos, and bumper stickers. With that in mind, for about a year and a half we have been selling organic coffee (and more recently, cocoa and tea) not only to make a little profit for the Center, but to support farmer cooperatives in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. By buying through Equal Exchange, it is comforting to know that even when market prices are very low, farmers are assured a steady income.

Though we are not yet in a position to sell the other items mentioned, you will be able to purchase coffee, tea, drinking cocoa, and baking cocoa. With our new open hours (see below), it will be much easier to arrange your day to include a visit to the Center. And while you are browsing through our books and videos, come and try a cup of coffee on us.



NEW OPEN HOURS

Monday to Friday:

11 AM to 3 PM

Saturday:

10 AM to 12 noon

We do have a need for some extra volunteers to staff the Center during these times. If you can help, please call Angela at 435-6383.

Fresno Center for Nonviolence
1584 N Van Ness • Fresno, CA 93728
Ph. (559) 237-3223 • fcnv2@juno.com
<http://www.fresnoalliance.com/centerfornonviolence>

A serious error appeared in the printed March Welch Report (in second paragraph under Military and Nonmilitary Spending). The faulty sentence should have read, "The largest of the US weapon programs, the Ballistic Missile Defense, (which has yet to prove it can work) will cost an estimated \$744b in 2003 dollars".



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



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, April 7, noon: Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway.

Saturday, April 10, 2–4 PM: Women's Spirituality and Leadership. See below.

Monday, April 12, 7 PM: WILPF Board Meeting. 1584 N Van Ness Ave. **NOTE:** New address for the Fresno Center for Nonviolence as of March 28. All members are invited to attend.

Thursday, April 15, 10 AM–6 PM: WILPF Tax Day Leafletting . VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! See below.

Sunday, April 25, noon–sundown: WILPF Tabling at Earth Day. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! See below.

Wednesday, April 27, 3:30–5 PM: WILPF Anniversary & Jane Addams Children's Book Awards Presentation. See below.

Wednesday, April 28, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir It Up on KFCF 88.1, hosted by Gabrielle Kirkland.

Women's Spirituality and Leadership: In celebration of International Women's Day at CSUF on March 8, a panel of women from different faiths discussed how they use their spirituality to help them in their roles of leadership. Six women from the Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths (two of them WILPF members) gave a very moving presentation. There was a feeling of sisterhood and solidarity among the panelists and the audience members. The event was co-sponsored by WILPF, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, CSUF Women's Resource Center, and Women's Alliance. There was a desire by some for an event to be held in the evening or on a weekend. So WILPF is organizing another event on **Saturday, April 10, 2–4 PM** at the Life Enrichment Center, 2767 E Shaw Ave, Fresno. We will have another panel of women from different faiths, ending with a half-hour mediation led by WILPF member Sister Veena Kapoor of Brahma Kumaris. This event will be co-sponsored by WILPF, Fresno Center for Nonviolence, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, and others. Please join us if you can and help spread the word. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Vickie Fouts at vmfout1@sti.net or 658–8260.

WILPF Tax Day: Fresno WILPF has a long history of leafletting on **April 15** at a local post office with information on where the majority of our tax dollars go: They go to the military and war instead of social justice programs. Please help us educate members of the public in the hope that they will push their elected officials to spend our tax dollars in a more humane manner. Last year's event was very successful with more than 1000 leaflets handed out at post offices in Fresno, Clovis, North Fork, and Oakhurst. We need three or four members to sign up for each two-hour shift on April 15 at the Cardwell Post Office, 1606 Griffith Way, between 10 AM and 6 PM. If you can help, please contact Vickie Fouts as soon as possible. It can't be done without your help.

WILPF Earth Day Tabling: WILPF will again be tabling at Earth Day at Roeding Park on **April 25**. We need three members to volunteer for each two-hour shift. If you are interested in helping, please contact Vickie Fouts as soon as possible. It can't be done without your help.

WILPF Anniversary: The 89th anniversary of WILPF is **April 27**. In celebration of this day and WILPF's first president, Jane Addams, we will be presenting copies of the Jane Addams Children Book Awards books to the Fresno County Main Library with a public event at the library co-sponsored by WILPF and CSUF Social Work Department. The program will include presentations on Jane Addams as a social worker, the first president of WILPF, and the first woman to be added to the CSUF Peace Garden. There will be a reading of some of the books to children who attend. We will then present copies of the 2003 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards books to the library as we have done for several years. All are welcome to attend and bring along your children or grandchildren or the children on your block. The event will take place **April 27, 3:30 PM–5 PM** in the Sarah McCardle Room. For more information contact Ruth Obel-Jorgensen at ruthoj@csufresno.edu or 916–5748.

WILPF Peace Camp: On March 13 we held a Peace Camp Reunion that was attended by four campers from last year, three parent/volunteers and four volunteers. We watched a nine-minute video of last year's camp that was produced by Elfie Ballis of Sun Mountain. What a wonderful experience! We bought a copy of the video for our archives, using our Peace Camp funds, as a promotional tool. If you are interested in viewing it please contact Vickie Fouts. The children folded cranes while the adults talked about this year's camp. Then we all talked about what we liked best about camp and what we would like to see added this year. This year's Camp Harmony will be held **June 14–18** at CSUF O'Neill Park. Volunteers are greatly needed so if you are interested in helping out before or during camp, or if you would like to donate to our scholarship fund or donate materials, please contact Vickie Fouts as soon as possible. We have a lot of work ahead of us and your help is needed if we want another successful peace camp.

Peace Camp will also be featured on KNXT Channel 49's Yesterday, Today and Forever, on April 13 at 7 PM. Jim Grant will be interviewing Peace Camp co-chair Marilyn Shelton, who helped write the national Peace Camp manual, and Peace Camp teacher, Kyoko Kimura. As many as nine of last year's participants will be in the audience. Elfie Ballis's video will also be shown. The show will rebroadcast the next Sunday at 6 PM and the next Monday at 8 AM. Please try to catch the show and tell others about it.

Quote of the Month: It is my understanding that feminine power and harmony are to become very strong in this new age onward; and as I look around when in spiritual gatherings, I see that it is womankind who is most represented. The old world order with its restrictive, male-dominated regime is being eclipsed. It is good to see that women are finally taking up their spiritual roles, as womankind is more peaceful, and this aspect is sorely needed. In this time of dangerous atomic weapons, peaceful people must have the stronger voice. This new age, with its indications of a new spirituality, gives Native Americans great encouragement and relief.

–Eagle Man (Ed McGaa) in Mother Earth Spirituality: Native American Paths to Healing Ourselves and Our World

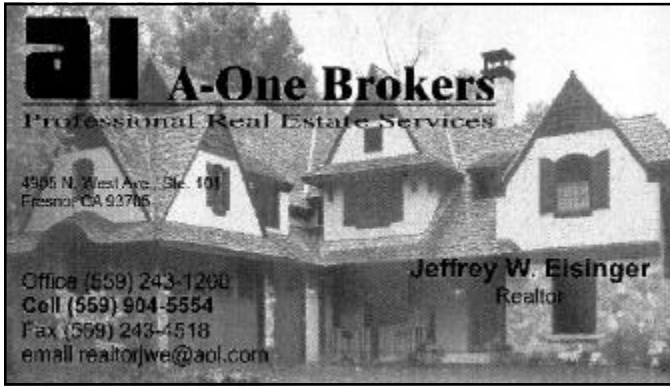
DANIEL BLODGETT MD

Holistic and Family Medicine

Offices in Oakhurst and Fresno
(559) 683-6600 (Oakhurst)

Specializing in non-drug treatment of chronic conditions by whole food supplements.

30% cash discount.



ai A-One Brokers
Professional Real Estate Services

4395 N. West Ave., Ste. 101
Fresno, CA 93705

Office (559) 243-1200
Cell (559) 904-5554
Fax (559) 243-4518
email: realtorjwe@aol.com

Jeffrey W. Eisinger
Realtor

Sari H. Dworkin Ph. D

Psychologist Lic. #13852
Marriage and Family Therapist Lic. #23370

Feminist Therapy
Sexual Orientation Issues

1130 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 105 • Fresno, CA 93710
Ph. (559) 227-1977 • Fax (559) 227-2698

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:

04/04 • "Everyday Transformations" by Rev. Bryan Jessup

04/11 • "Rebirth for the Earth and Us Too" by Rev. Bryan Jessup

04/18 • "Defending Marriage" by Rev. Bryan Jessup

04/25 • "The Victim Offender Reconciliation Program" by Duane Ruth-Heffelbower

Services 9:15 & 11:00 am • Church School 9:15 & 11:00 am

Nursery care Available

4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno • Phone: 227-6146



Offline Independent Energy Systems
PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN, INSTALLATION & SALES
19 years of inspired service

Don Lowebug
Cynthia Lowebug
ofln@aol.com
559 877-7080

Box 231
North Fork, CA 93643
<http://www.psnw.com/~ofln>
License #661052



CHANAH COSSMAN, CNM
Nurse-Midwife
Prenatal and Newborn Care

Enfermera Partera
Cuidado Prenatal y de Bebé

CHINATOWN
Family
Medicine
and
Midwifery
Medical Office

Hospital & Home Birth Services

829 F Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Tel (559) 266-0444
Fax (559) 266-7745

INCARNATION COMING TO LIFE IN MIND AND BODY

Richard Stone's latest book is now available
for

\$10.00

Call 266-2559 to arrange delivery

PATIENCE
MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844

North Van Ness

Fresno, California

93728

559/442-3111

pm097@csufresno.edu



HUME
PRINTING & LITHOGRAPH, INC.

SERVING FRESNO SINCE 1911.
H (COMMERCIAL) (POSTER) (LITHOGRAPHY) (OFFICE)

**FRESNO'S UNION
PRINT SHOP**

3021 W. Dakota Ave., Ste. 199
Fresno, CA 93722-4975

Phone: 559-226-4863
Fax: 559-226-4828

Email: humeprinting@sbrglobal.net



P.O. Box 16133 • Fresno, CA 93755
www.PeaceFresno.org • (559) 487-2515

Peace Fresno and You

By Camille Russell

Peace Fresno has become one of the leading local voices against war, against recent destructive shifts in federal policies, and in defense of civil rights. It needs your support. Membership dues and donations pay for telephone bills, flyers, signs, permits, amplification, and rentals. A large membership lends credibility to our views and strengthens our position in the community. Please use the membership application printed on blue paper (see insert) to become a Peace Fresno member.

Community Alliance readers have a good idea what Peace Fresno does and what it stands for. Most of you have joined events and activities presented or co-sponsored by Peace Fresno. But, maybe you don't know too much about how the group operates or about its relationship to the Fresno Center for Non-violence, Dedicated to Peace and Social Justice.

The bylaws state, "Peace Fresno is a community-based, volunteer, nonprofit advocacy organization that emerged in response to the 9/11 attack of 2001. Peace Fresno members work for nonviolent solutions to problems of terrorism and militarism. We are dedicated to the principles of social, economic, and environmental justice. We support the protection and preservation of civil liberties and human rights set forth in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution, and the United Nations "Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Peace Fresno meets every Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Fresno Center for Non-violence. About twenty people attend weekly—typically, half of those are regulars; others come irregularly as their schedules allow, and often there are first-timers. New people are always welcome. Usually the meetings focus on strategies for involving larger numbers of people in activism and on plans for upcoming events. The second and fourth Tuesdays are business meetings when decisions are formally made, following Roberts Rules of Order. Other Tuesday meeting activities include writing letters to elected officials, viewing videos, signmaking, hearing presentations by guests, and planning future activities.

Peace Fresno is a young organization, but it got a jump-start from the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, which provided initial leadership and a meeting place for community members who felt compelled to respond to the events of 9/11. Peace Fresno is one of several organizations that call the Center home. Peace Fresno supports the Center and the Center supports Peace Fresno, but the two are separate.

Peace Fresno's marches, rallies, demonstrations, and vigils provide opportunities for public expressions of dissent and hope. Its educational events provide community access to valuable information. Peace Fresno takes public stands. In the past year it has organized and co-sponsored many events.

Demonstrations and Vigils: At the Peace Corner (Shaw and Blackstone), at River Park, in the Tower District, at City College, on the Fulton Mall, in front of the Federal Building, at the Islamic Cultural Center, at CSU-Fresno.

Bus Trips to San Francisco and Sacramento: To oppose war in Iraq and the corporate globalization of agriculture.

Speakers and Programs: Kathy Kelly, of Voices in the Wilderness; Father Roy

Bourgeois, of School of the Americas Watch; the Patriot Act Forum.

Performances: The Peace Concert presented by music department faculty at CSUF, the Big Lies Rally, and Parade of Cartoons.

Advocacy: Seeking to prevent the release of Fresno Unified high school students' personal contact information to military recruiters. Seeking a Fresno City Council resolution against going to war against Iraq.

Civil Rights Defense: Challenging the infiltration of Peace Fresno by an officer working in the Anti-Terrorism Unit of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

This level of action has been possible because of the commitment and enthusiasm of Peace Fresno members, because of the broad support for its mission, and because of the depth and dynamism of the local progressive community.

You can always get information about Peace Fresno's upcoming events on the web at <www.peacefresno.org>. And please, use the blue application form in this issue of the Community Alliance to become a Peace Fresno member and supporter.

RANCOR continued from page 8

course it is taken to much greater length in an era of wire-taps, computer monitoring, hidden cameras, and so forth.

The question for each of us is whether we will submit. Surveillance is meant to create docility—creating the perfectly compliant worker, patient, student, citizen.

I encourage each reader to resist. In whatever form you are countering the Bush junta, continue, more resolutely. Now more than ever it is crucial that citizens reject fear and embrace hope. Not succumbing to threat but instead standing in solidarity with other citizens to assemble and air grievances will mark the difference between a restoration of some semblance of democracy or the continuing slide from proto-outright fascism in the United States.

Fresno RANCOR—Radical Anti Neo-Conservative Organized Resistance—is continuing to prepare for a Fresno presence in New York City at the Republican National Convention, beginning August 29. We will be joining other groups and individuals from around the country, indeed, from around the world, to say "Ya Basta!": enough of the lies; of the imperialism; of the crimes against the Earth and her people, especially the poor; of the attacks on civil liberties; of tax cuts for the rich; of all that Bush and his corporate cronies represent. More than a million in the streets saying, WE WANT A DIFFERENT FUTURE! More than a million in the streets saying, ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!

This is the time to make history with the most massive outpouring of resistance ever. Be in New York City, August 29. Converge from every NYC borough and neighborhood, from every state in the nation, from all over the world to say, "You do not speak for us, George Bush—our dissent will NOT be silenced! Another world IS possible!"

RANCOR has been meeting for several months and already has a core group going to New York from Fresno. Join our efforts as we organize to send activists to New York. Cost is approximately \$400–\$500 depending on housing—we have arranged some housing in hostels immediately across from Madison Square Garden.

For more information contact us at:

Fresno RANCOR
email@rancor.info
(559) 213-2042
http://rancor.info/

PO Box 4438, Fresno, CA 93744-4438
Meetings: Fourth Thursday each month, 6:30 PM
Meeting site: Call for info!



Queer Eye . . .

By Dan Waterhouse

HIV/AIDS Advocacy in Fresno

One of seven regional chapters of CHAANGE—the California HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network Grassroots Evolution—is headquartered in Fresno's Tower District.

What does this mean for Fresno and the Central Valley?

"We do advocacy to get dollars for Fresno and the Valley," CHAANGE's local co-chair Gary Dennis said. "There are two major issues here—the 150 to 200 people a month waiting to get in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and the anticipated decrease in prevention and education funding."

Every year, CHAANGE organizes "Lobby Day." Organizers and clients travel to Sacramento to meet with legislators to educate them on the need for adequate funding.

This year's Lobby Day will be in April.

Dennis said that, year after year, the ADAP falls short of having the necessary funding to meet the needs of the state. ADAP continues to have financial shortfalls because people with AIDS are living longer and staying in the program longer; the campaigns urging people to be tested for HIV have contributed to an increase in new applicants for aid. If ADAP is not fully funded, it will be unable to meet the growing need, and it is expected that whole classes of life-sustaining drugs currently on the formulary will be removed.

HIV prevention, according to Dennis, is the best hope for fighting the epidemic. New cases are outpacing funds for prevention, and a 10% decrease in prevention dollars is expected in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

For every dollar spent on effective HIV prevention strategies, \$2.70 in treatment costs is saved.

In California, more than 130,000 people live with HIV/AIDS. The populations most affected are women, youth, communities of color, the heterosexual community, the transgendered community, drug users, and the incarcerated.

Funding allocations for prevention continue to be a low priority. Dollars are linked to "positivity rates" instead of "prevention efforts" by percentages, in accordance with population.

Dennis said the Central California CHAANGE chapter started locally two years ago in Merced. Chapter co-chair Jean Kennedy then partnered with the Living Room to move the chapter office to Fresno. After the Living Room sold to Westcare, CHAANGE decided to establish the first free-standing chapter office in the state.

"When the chapter was set up, we worked in cooperation with the Living Room and the Lighthouse community-based programs," Dennis said. "When Westcare bought

the Living Room, there was no longer a community-based organization here, so we set up the office at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence."

The Center for Nonviolence is partnering with CHAANGE in the new space at 1584 North Van Ness, across from Fresno City College.

Kennedy described plans for prevention efforts in the Fresno African-American community. That community has been particularly hard-hit by HIV and AIDS. Homosexuality and bisexuality in the community are generally not acknowledged because of strong religious views. Gay and bisexual African-American men quite often have unprotected sex with other men, become infected, and pass HIV on to their wives or girlfriends.

"We look at the new case reporting the county does," Kennedy said. "New cases are reported statistically by zip code. There are a large number of cases in the 93706 zip code, and there've been no prevention or education activities in that geographic area before."

"There are two major players in HIV and AIDS locally—the County and Westcare," Dennis said. "Westcare's focus is on alcohol- and drug-dependent clients. The only community of color Westcare is working with is the Latino."

The 93706 zip code is generally the area south of Whites Bridge Road west of Highway 99 halfway out to Kerman—Southwest Fresno.

"We're partnering with faith-based organizations in that community that are open to doing HIV prevention and education," Kennedy said.

Dennis said there is no real forum here for community discussion.

"We think the new center on Van Ness will end up serving this purpose, of providing a place for people to come and talk about what's going on with HIV and AIDS here," Dennis said. He added that more community involvement is needed.

"Very few people show up for the Planning Council or the consumers' group meetings," Dennis said. "Typically, five or seven people are at the consumers' meeting, and three or four are from the County or University Medical Center. More consumers and people affected by HIV or AIDS should get involved."

Although CHAANGE does not do case management, it works to empower consumers and can advocate for them until they're able to speak for themselves. "We go where government can't," Kennedy said.

Besides Fresno, CHAANGE has chapters in the San Francisco/Oakland metropolitan area, Los Angeles, Marin County, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Bernardino.

Any questions? Want to help? CHAANGE can be reached at 237-3223 locally, or in Sacramento at (916) 442-3520. Their website, <www.chaange.org>, has a ton of information available.

Dan Waterhouse is a columnist for NewsLink, Central California's only gblt news source. He pens the monthly *Waterhouse Report*, which is far-ranging, occasionally provocative, and highly opinionated.