

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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**FRESNO'S 10,000
HOMECARE WORKERS
WIN FIRST
CONTRACT!**



see story on page 10

The **Community Alliance** is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly magazine is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental, & economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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Letters to the Editor

I appreciated the recent article on the torture at Abu Ghraib. According to Seymour Hersh's articles in *The New Yorker*, General Taguba had provided detailed reports on the torture taking place long before the torture was revealed to the public. Rumsfeld then claimed that, even though the Taguba report contained extensive details, he didn't realize the extent of the torture until the pictures were revealed. Apparently, graphic details of sodomy by electrodes were not enough to pique Rumsfeld's concern. Of course, Rumsfeld seemed angrier at those who released the pictures to the public than those who had actually tortured the Iraqi civilian prisoners.

Clearly, the Bush Administration has no qualms about lying flat-out, hoping that if it repeats the mantra long enough, it will become truth. Those who deviate in any way from the mantra, like former insiders Richard Clarke and Paul O'Neill, are expelled from the club. The right-wing punditry is only too happy to parrot the mantra across the radio waves. I am shocked and appalled by this

Administration's ignorance and lack of scruples, and the American public's willingness to be led like blind sheep.

Luke Jamison

I am Austrian born. I was six years old when the Austrian Adolf Hitler was elected by the German people. I was eleven years old when Austria's misbegotten son returned to take Austria in 1938. I was eighteen years old when the war ended and I learned of the atrocities in some faraway concentration camps and the murder of 11 million people, 6 million of them being Jews from all over Europe. And the Americans came with lofty and noble words to the war crime trials in Nuremberg, Germany.

Today, June 8, 2004, I read in the *Fresno Bee* that the US courts have ruled that President Bush is within his legal rights, as commander of the armed forces, to allow or order the torture of prisoners if that would be in the interest of our national security.

Maybe Nazi Germany's courts gave Hitler that authority? I am not an expert on Nazi Germany's jurisprudence, but I am an expert in being a *mensch*. And man's inhumanity to man is no longer an aberration but a tolerated part of our social fabric. Can God forgive us?

Isabell Lawson

If you sleep with dogs, expect to wake up with fleas. If you feed with pigs, expect to smell like one. If you emulate terrorists, as some of our troops have done in Iraq, you have become a terrorist. If you approve of or excuse their actions, as some pundits, cartoonists, Bush apologists and letter writers to the *Fresno Bee* have done, you have become an accessory to the crime. These criminal efforts to extract information from prisoners is disturbingly reminiscent of crimes committed by Nazi and Soviet interrogators and, most ironically, by Saddam Hussein, the one from whom we allegedly have tried to liberate the Iraqi people.

Those who carried out these inquisition-like practices and the higher-ups who set the tone of the whole enterprise, that is, President Bush and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, have managed to give aid and comfort to the enemy who now uses the published images to incite hatred of our country well beyond the Middle East. And, worst of all, these actions by Americans endanger the very lives of American soldiers who may be taken prisoner by terrorists.

Arrogance and incompetence, both displayed by our civilian leadership in the Iraq war, is a dangerous mix. The mix has made us enemies throughout the

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Harper's Index

* Incarceration rates in Josef Stalin's U.S.S.R. in 1950:
1,423 per 100,000

* Rate in George W. Bush's America in 2002:
2,298 per 100,000

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Poor, Black, White, and Brown, Together We Will Overcome

By Mike Rhodes

The Rev. Floyd Harris, who organized the march for peace in West Fresno on May 22, 2004, said, "We are here today because it is time for people to take their community back. We feel that all of the money that is being spent in Iraq could be spent here for education in our own community." Gloria Hernandez and Pollo Chavez of the group El Comité No Nos Vamos led the march in chanting, "The people united will never be defeated" and "Poor, black, white and brown, together we will overcome" as they marched through the streets of West Fresno. West Fresno is a part of Fresno where mostly African Americans, Latinos, and South East Asians live. The May 22 march included a significant number of allies from the Anglo community.

When the march arrived at the Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene, the first speaker was Minister Daryl Mohammad, from the Nation of Islam. Minister Mohammad called for unity and called on those present to take responsibility for their actions and to bring peace to the neighborhood.

The Rev. Bryan Jessup from the Unitarian Universalist Church said that "every community has to look at where the violence is happening in their community. They have to hold their people accountable—but I'm sorry to say that it is my people (Anglos) in the White House and I want to hold them accountable and I want to say: How can you talk about peace in the world if you don't practice it?" The Rev. Jessup said that he was there to join the marchers in West Fresno to end the violence and injustice both in Fresno and the world.

Loretta Kensinger spoke on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She started her talk by saying that she is "a fan of music and thinks that the world would be a much safer place if the artists had more funding than the militaries of this world." She spoke of her fears and her hopes in these dangerous times. "It is a mean time when, as one report notes, the number of people in prison, those in jail, and on parole increased threefold between 1980 and 2000 to more than 6 million humans."

The building of a movement for peace and social justice was advanced May 22 by this march in West Fresno. The Rev. Harris and the National Action Network can be contacted by phone at (559) 265-3652 or e-mail at xyfloyd@aol.com.



The march included a casket, to symbolize killings that take place from Fresno to Baghdad.



Minister Daryl Mohammad calls for unity.



Loretta Kensinger spoke on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The Rev. Bryan Jessup from the Unitarian Universalist Church



The Rev. Floyd D. Harris, Jr., California State President of the National Action Network of Fresno, started the march from the Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene.



The march went through this West Fresno neighborhood.

The *Community Alliance* asked the following question to political activists and readers of this magazine:

Why do you think gas prices are so high and what should we do about it?

Here are some of the responses:

Why are gas prices so high? Because our government/corporation complex is doing what it does best: maximizing profits for the elite few who have the power over the resources. What can we do about it? At first, all I could think of was drive less, boycott the biggest companies, ride bikes, buy hybrid cars, write letters insisting on requirements for high mileage cars and mass transit, etc., but of course the thing we must do is get rid of Bush. We also have to let Kerry know why he is getting our support and make system changes, which will give more voice and power to the people who have no way to compete with the big money and corruption that now buy elections.

Nancy Waidtlow

Prices are high because corporate America, especially the oil companies, are in partnership with the politicians, especially the Bush Administration. This partnership has decided to increase the price of gas in order for the companies to make more money than they need (greed) and for the Administration to get the public to believe we need to be in Iraq and the Middle East and so therefore we need to re-elect Bush.

We need to take away corporate personhood, have full public election-campaign financing, improve Security Exchange Commission, Federal Trade Commission and other accounting disclosures and rules. We need more independent media with the same access to the public airwaves as corporate media, true and full democracy, among other things—nothing short of a nonviolent revolution.

OPEC price increases may be part of the problem, but the people at OPEC are probably just paying back the West for the harm we have done to them by treating them as second-rate humans with our white privilege and empire-like mentality.

Vickie Fouts

Yes, gas prices are too high! It's forcing us to use transportation alternatives, and that's a blessing. The answer: inexpensive hybrids that are truly clean-burning. This is reaching a bit, but maybe the Bush camp and their friends, the Saudi royal family, are creating this price spike to be able to successfully and dramatically make a deal to lower prices just before the election, thus making Bush look like an oil savior!!

Jean Hays

One reason I think that gas prices are high is because, rightly, gas is an item of limited quantity in the world. Because our supply and demand economy has been co-opted by subsidizing petroleum corporations while converting all products and production to petroleum, and transportation is entirely based on petro-

leum, we now are in a bind, and beholden to international production of oil. The only response can be to take over the oil resource source by war, to maintain the environment in which we live. Because corporations have the status of an individual, we have mistakenly allowed control of the many by the few, and restricted development of alternatives to energy and production. Not that I have an opinion.

Edie Jessup

Here are some thoughts: We are using huge quantities of gas and oil for the war and the war machine. Also, we should have started addressing the problem of fossil fuel scarcity *long ago*. We're overdue for addressing this problem. In 1966, I had a professor at C.O.S. who harped on this and the fact that we were ignoring the problem.

Some ideas about what to do: (1) A concerted nationwide plan for *everyone* possible to not buy gas on certain days of the week: Maybe a no-gas Wednesday, for example. This would take a huge, coordinated effort, however. (2) Groups get together and contract with car companies to buy hybrid cars in large quantities to get discounts. (3) Elect new US leadership, committed to alternatives to gas consumption. Thanks for the questions.

Dixie Salazar

Gasoline prices are high; because Americans are traveling primarily by car, there is a lack of refining capacity relative to demand for gasoline, and because of the uncertainty in the oil market caused by the Iraq war. Solutions: travel by bus and train and pressure the Democrats to get American troops out of Iraq.

If we amortize the \$200 billion for the Iraq/Afghanistan war effort over 30 years, my guess is the true cost of gasoline right now is likely more than \$4 per gallon.

Phil Erro

The hike in gas prices is due to a combination of factors, but the contribution of each varies:

- Perception of scarcity
- Middlemen taking advantage of the situation
- Greed of a few
- Increases in costs because of wartime hazardous conditions
- California's additional requirements, etc.

We should

- *not* dip into the national oil reserves
- press our politicians and leaders for responsible leadership in the areas of oversight of energy acquisition, distribution, and handling, both domestically and abroad.
- take advantage of this forewarning of eventual scarcity of this nonrenewable energy source by publicizing the threat of global warming and investing in research and development of alternative, more environmentally clean, energy sources.

Margaret McLane de Jovel, RN, MPH

Gasoline prices have risen, and they stay high for two reasons. The oil-producing countries have reduced output, thereby driving up costs. It's a logical busi-

CVPPAC and Hope for the Future

By Mike Rhodes



Community Alliance editor Mike Rhodes speaks at CVPPAC Open House

Fresno has had the reputation of being a wide-open town: Mark Arax's book, *In My Father's Name*, tells of a time not long ago when corrupt elements within the Fresno Police department ran the prostitution, gambling, and drug trade in this city. It was so corrupt that the chief of police married the biggest madam in town. Ten years ago, developers and builders freely bribed local City Council members to get votes for their projects. Operation Rezone caught a number of them in the act of selling us out—one City Council member sold a vote for a set of tires for his car. Another gave his vote in trade for a new suit.

Today the corruption is not as obvious, but the legacy lives on. Urban sprawl is out of control; we do not have a viable mass transportation system; we have had double-digit unemployment for decades; our local school district (Fresno Unified) has a high-school dropout rate of 23%; and we have the worst air in the nation. Elections and elected officials continue to be strongly influenced by builders, developers, and other big business interests. All of that is about to change.

Enter the Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee (CVPPAC). The goal of the CVPPAC is to increase voter participation, empower groups and individuals with a progressive political agenda, and elect progressive candidates to office. The CVPPAC will accomplish this by choosing candidates who support these core values:

- a living wage for all workers
- clean air
- affordable housing
- adequate public transportation and bike paths
- police accountability
- improved public education
- health care for all.

CVPPAC wants everyone who cares about this community to become a member and work together to improve life in Fresno and the Central Valley. If you have ever complained about politics, the environment, or government, now is the time to do something more than talk. You can be a member of the CVPPAC for \$8.33 a month, or \$100 a year. You can join by sending your dues to CVPPAC at PO Box 5845, Fresno, CA 93755.



Patience Milrod, Marcie and Mikiko Masumoto at CVPPAC open house

But wait! The CVPPAC is about more than just raising money to counter the influence of the builders and developers. In order to run a viable campaign for political office, it is essential to have enough money to get your message out to the voters—but CVPPAC organizers know that it is going to take more than money to win political power in this community. Simply throwing money at the political process would probably just result in more expensive campaigns. The CVPPAC's advantage lies in its ability to mobilize grassroots volunteers in the election process. There are a lot more of us than there are builders and developers. If you combine the money, candidates who support the core values of the



Some of the 75+ participants at the first CVPPAC public event

progressive community, and a grassroots that is determined to hold Get Out the Vote campaigns, you have the ability to win elections at the local level. That is what the CVPPAC is all about.

The CVPPAC has been described as a three-legged stool. Each leg is essential to the success of the project. The money, which will be raised through dues, is the first leg. Finding good candidates who support the core values of the progressive community is the second leg. CVPPAC organizers believe that good candidates will come forward when the infrastructure to run a viable campaign is in place. The third leg of the stool is the voter registration and get out the vote campaigns, which will be carried out by grassroots volunteers.



CVPPAC treasurer and Fresno NAACP member Ed C. Bailey tells why he is involved with the project

Did you know that only 26% of eligible voters bothered to participate in the last Fresno County elections? If the CVPPAC can mobilize more voters by giving them hope and inspiration for a better community through their participation in the democratic process, everything can be possible. Electing progressive local representatives to the School Board, City Council, and Board of Supervisors will impact our education system, affect our air quality, make it possible for workers to earn a living wage, create affordable housing, and so much more.

The CVPPAC has not decided which races to focus on first. There is discussion about the Fresno Unified School Board elections coming up this November and the City Council/Board of Supervisor races in 2006. These are questions that CVPPAC members will discuss and decide upon soon. Want to be a part of the discussion? Join the CVPPAC.

The first fundraiser for the CVPPAC will be held on Thursday, July 22, from 6 PM to 8 PM at the home of Howard and Chris Watkins, 1785 W Dovewood Lane, Fresno (near Bullard and West). The cost is \$20 for members of the CVPPAC and \$30 for nonmembers. For more information about the CVPPAC go to <www.cvppac.org>, call (559) 226-1416, or e-mail info@cvppac.org.



Cary Catalano and Gail Gaston at the open house

Books Not Bombs

By Tara Dorabji
Outreach Director
Tri-Valley CAREs
www.trivalleycares.org

The U.S. government is developing new, earth-penetrating nuclear bombs, each with the explosive power of scores of Hiroshimas, for use in its open-ended "war on terror." Simultaneously, the government is researching so-called "mini-nukes," with yields of less than 5 kilotons.

The Bush Administration's "nuclear posture review" and "National Security Strategy of the United States" promulgate the policy underpinnings for new weapons: preventive war, wherein fortress America will preemptively bomb anywhere, any time, with any weapon (including nuclear) and for any reason of its own choosing.

But, where does nuclear policy become operationalized? One of the critical areas is in the San Francisco Bay Area, at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Every nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal was developed at Livermore Lab, 45 miles east of San Francisco, or at the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico. Both are managed by the University of California. Today, Livermore Lab is busy developing the B83 nuclear "lay-down" bomb to give it earth-penetrating capability. The B83, with a top yield of more than one megaton, is the most powerful nuclear weapon in the current U.S. stockpile.

Plans For New Weapons Programs Revealed

In February 2004, the Dept. of Energy released a plan, more than 2000 pages long, revealing new proposals for Livermore Lab in a Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS). This document is aimed at operationalizing the Bush Administration's dangerous nuclear posture review. The proposal includes plans to:

- * More than double the plutonium storage limit at Livermore Lab, from 1540 pounds to 3300 pounds, enough for more than 300 nuclear bombs.

- * Make Livermore Lab the place to design and test new technologies for producing plutonium bomb cores for a future "Modern Pit Facility," capable of turning out up to 450 new plutonium pits per year (or 900 if run on double shifts, which would approximate the combined nuclear arsenals of France and China—every year).

- * Prepare for a return to full-scale underground nuclear testing in Nevada by developing new diagnostics at Livermore Lab to enhance U.S. "readiness" to conduct these tests, which were halted in 1992.

Retired LLNL staff scientist Marion Fulk warns of impending health and environmental damage if these programs are not stopped. "I know firsthand that Livermore Lab has not been able to keep its contamination inside the fence line," he said. "Today, it's already a Superfund cleanup site. If these programs go forward, there will be more accidents, spills, and releases of plutonium, tritium, and other radioactive ma-

terials into the environment," he concluded. "Cancer is only the tip of the iceberg. Many illnesses will result."

Nuclear Weapons Economy

The effects of nuclear weapons development go way beyond the fences surrounding the sites, and way beyond the local communities that bear much of the environmental and health risks. Nuclear weapons threaten global security and serve to enforce U.S. military and economic policies abroad, while they drain funds for needed domestic programs.

In tight economic times, nuclear weapons are a gross example of government-funded violence. In 2004, \$6.6 billion is requested for nuclear-weapons activities: more than during the cold war.

Everywhere you look, school budgets are cut, libraries closed, and social programs gutted—yet, against a major deficit and budget crunch, funding for nuclear weapons continues to rise. For example, in Livermore two schools will close, while at the same time funding for nuclear weapons increases at the nearby Livermore nuclear weapons lab!

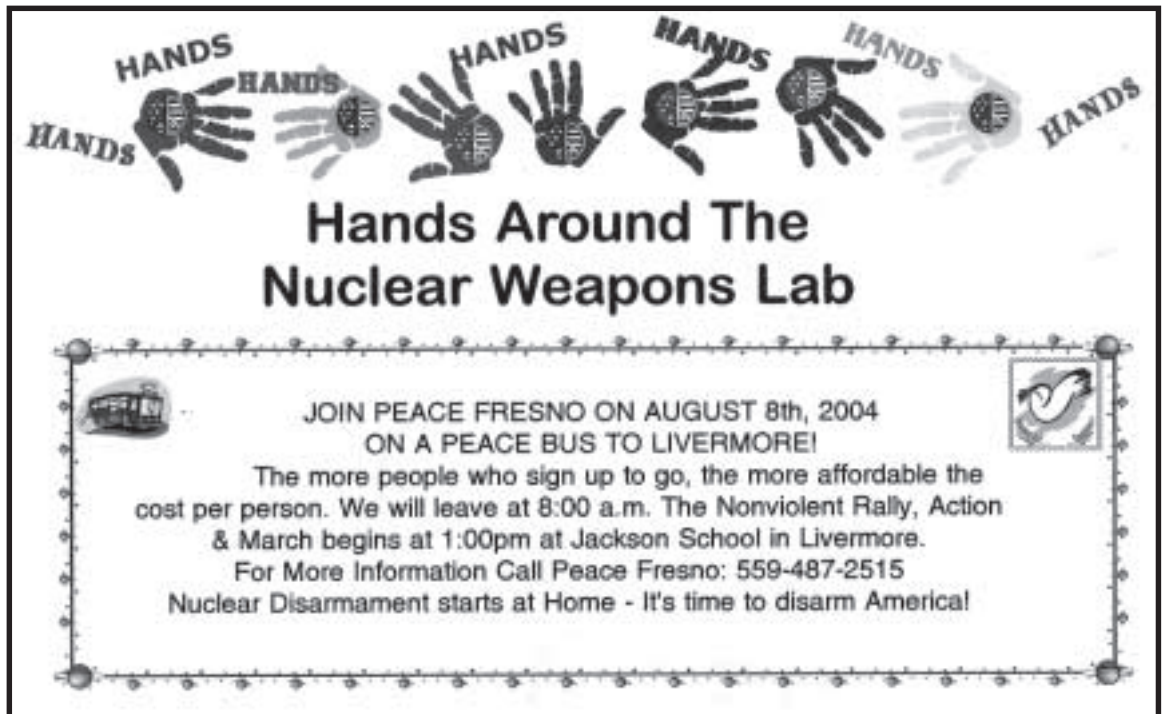
What You Can Do

On August 8, 2004, to mark the 59th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there will be a major rally in Livermore demanding "Books Not Bombs." The action, at one of the primary facilities for nuclear weapons in the world, will be part of an international series of actions from August 6 through August 12 to oppose U.S. nuclear policy and demand the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Stopping the infrastructure that enables the creation of new and modified nuclear weapons in Livermore is essential to prevent rampant global proliferation!

Join with thousands around the world to say NO to nuclear weapons and U.S. nuclear policy. The "Books Not Bombs" rally will be on Sunday, August 8, at 1 PM at Jackson Elementary School in Livermore, California. The rally will be followed by a march to Livermore nuclear weapons lab. This year we are demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons; the demilitarization of education; an end to a war economy that funds bombs over schoolbooks for our children.

For more information please contact Tara at (925) 443-7148 or tara@trivalleycares.org, or see www.trivalleycares.org.



A poster titled "Hands Around The Nuclear Weapons Lab" featuring a row of hands holding a globe. The text on the poster reads: "HANDS HANDS HANDS HANDS HANDS HANDS HANDS HANDS HANDS". Below the hands, it says "Hands Around The Nuclear Weapons Lab". At the bottom, it says "JOIN PEACE FRESNO ON AUGUST 8th, 2004 ON A PEACE BUS TO LIVERMORE! The more people who sign up to go, the more affordable the cost per person. We will leave at 8:00 a.m. The Nonviolent Rally, Action & March begins at 1:00pm at Jackson School in Livermore. For More Information Call Peace Fresno: 559-487-2515 Nuclear Disarmament starts at Home - It's time to disarm America!"

In Memory of Michael Mitchell

Genie Baranoff, President of Peace Fresno



On Memorial Day, May 31, 2004, Peace Fresno had an event to honor people who have died in the Iraqi war and occupation. The featured speaker was Bill Mitchell, whose son Michael died in Sadr City, Iraq, on April 4, 2004.

Michael grew up in Porterville, raised by his father Bill. Mike graduated from Monache High School in Porterville. He loved track and field, cross-country, wrestling, bodybuilding, snowboarding, martial arts, fishing, camping, hiking, backpacking,

and reading.

He had been in Iraq for 11 months and had served for seven years as part of the 1st Armored Division. He had just seven days left in his one-year tour of duty, when he volunteered to go out on patrol with his unit. He had planned to marry Bianca Liebl in August of this year. Bill had participated at antiwar protests in San Luis Obispo, holding a sign saying "Bring My Son Home From Iraq." He said, "I should have added the word *alive*."

His father had a prepared speech but instead spoke straight from his broken heart. His words were wrenching. His world is devastated because of a future abruptly ended. So many of Bill's activities are too painful now, because Mike is not there to share them.

Peace Fresno decided that the Memorial Day event be basically non-political. Our focus was not our usual antiwar rhetoric. Speaking volumes without saying a word was a 15-foot mural composed of photos of 907 dead "coalition" forces, and posters detailing the names of Iraqi civilians confirmed dead. It is estimated that there have been 9,000 Iraqi civilians killed, almost 16,000 seriously injured.

Also speaking that day were Larry Levy, a physician and a veteran; Bryan Jessup, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno; and Lisa Solomon, a college instructor and the daughter of a veteran of the Korean war. The focus was on honoring the fallen, the effects of war on the lives of families, and the effects of war on our shared community. The band Coyote 5 sang songs of peace. Sixty-eight people sat in rapt attention at the plaza at River Park. Shoppers' reactions ranged from curiosity to avoidance. At the end, Dan Yaseen read the names of the Iraqi dead, and Judie Michael and Monique Levy read the names of the coalition dead.

Peace Fresno displayed a poster with a collage of newspaper ads hawking Memorial Day sales next to photos of wounded Iraqi children. The juxtaposition of, on the one hand, Mike's senseless death and the heinous statistics of 30,000 Afghans seriously wounded, 11,000 Afghans dead, 4500 American wounded, (6300 other medical evacuations, including 1000 for psychiatric reasons) with, on the other hand, shoppers hurrying by to take advantage of a "Memorial Day Sale" was almost unbearable. What was it like for Bill Mitchell to stand up at River Park and tell us about his beloved Mike? What was it like for him to watch other men walk

by with their sons? Shoppers who were oblivious, avoidant, or critical of our event walked by almost in a state of sleep, mesmerized by the pursuit of material goods.

Unfortunately, the *Fresno Bee* did not send a reporter and instead wrote the following: "Bustamante amplified the message about freedom and diversity by quoting author Charles Province: 'It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn that flag.' As if to prove the point, shortly before Bustamante spoke, the anti-war group Peace Fresno drew several dozen people to an outdoor observance at the River Park shopping center in memory of casualties from the Iraq war— including both Iraqis and those from the U.S.-led coalition."

Let me clarify, Peace Fresno did not burn a flag (literally or figuratively), and we do not appreciate the *Bee's* inference. We could have "proved" many "points" that day, but we chose to be dignified, solemn, respectful and loving.

But while we are on the subject, it is peaceful activists who are working to safeguard our civil liberties so that protest and dissent remain a cherished part of the American way of life. Let us remember *all* who have sacrificed so much, and *all* who have fallen.

Bill Mitchell said to me, "Will anyone remember Mike in a year?" Peace Fresno promised to remember him always. I hope you will too.

Legal Update: Peace Fresno secretary Ken Hudson's defense continues in the case involving his arrest at Peace Fresno's "Bring the Troops Home Now" rally on March 20, as reported in the May issue of Community Alliance. While the arraignment had been set for June 15, the District Attorney's office had not filed charges by that date, resulting in a postponement until the filing occurs. The statute of limitations is one year. Meanwhile, the legal team led by Bill Boyce has been processing declarations by witnesses of the arrest. Anyone who witnessed the arrest who has not been contacted is urged to call Stephen Malm at (559) 264-9122.

Mike Mitchell Memorial Fund

A memorial fund has been established for SSG Michael William Mitchell. Mike was killed in combat in Sadr City (suburb of Baghdad) on April 4, 2004 during the first day of Shiite riots that were instigated by Muqtada al-Sadr. We are deeply saddened and we wish to make this world a better place with the generous contributions of those who loved Mike and all others who have been moved by our story.

All donations whether large or small may be made in Mike's memory to the ongoing Mike Mitchell Memorial Fund at:

Santa Lucia Bank
7480 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422

For further information, please contact Bill Mitchell at (805)466-3076 or by email at joker4penguin@excite.com

Your continued love and support is greatly appreciated!



Peace and Dignity Journeys

By Jessie Hernandez

On May 1, hundreds of runners began a journey from Chickaloon, Alaska. The run will continue southward through the United States, to be joined with another tributary of runners coming from the Eastern United States that began its journey in Tennessee. They will continue through Mexico and Central America to their final destination of Kuna Nation, Panama.



In 1990 in Quito, Ecuador, more than 200 representatives of indigenous nations from throughout the western hemisphere had met for the first time when they witnessed the unfolding prophecy of the Eagle and a Condor flying together above them. It was a sign that Mother Earth and its inhabitants needed healing and that all indigenous nations from throughout this continent needed to reunite and reclaim dignity for themselves through their traditions.

Peace and Dignity Journeys was the inspiration of the elders, and the first run was held in 1992 and takes place every four years. Peace and Dignity Journeys is a nonprofit organization based out of Tempe, Arizona, with several chapters throughout the United States.

In 2000, a chapter was established in Fresno, California, by Hector Cerda, the only runner from the Central Valley. The runners are expected to run through Fresno in mid-July. If you would like an e-mail with the exact date of arrival, send an e-mail to jhndz2000@yahoo.com.

The run takes six months to complete and the organization is in need of monetary donations that provide food, auto repairs, gasoline, and medical expenses for the runners.

For more information or donations please call or write:

Peace and Dignity Journeys
2350 E. Yale • Fresno, CA 93703 • (559) 228-0733

and ask for Jessie Hernandez, assistant coordinator. Your donations are tax-deductible. Visit our website www.peaceanddignityjourneys.com.

La Cucaracha Banned by the Fresno Bee

La Cucaracha, the first nationally syndicated daily political comic strip by a Latino, and the first to deeply explore Latino themes of politics, culture, and humor, has been dropped by the *Fresno Bee*. Lalo's strip is a platform for farmworkers, teachers, Latino kids, immigrants, and people of color from coast to coast, and it is a shame that a voice of this magnitude is being silenced. If there is enough response to this removal, the *Fresno Bee* may be convinced to bring back the strip. Previously, the paper has said it received most complaints from Hispanics, so please help tip the balance from a few conservative Latinos who called in to complain about the strip. (For more info on the strip, go to www.cartoonista.com/).

Lalo just received a proclamation from Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, the 2004 Latino Spirit Award from the California Latino Legislative Caucus, and additional proclamations from the City of Los Angeles and Congresswoman Hilda Solis, which was entered into the permanent US Congressional Record.

Please call the features editor, Rich Marshall, and ask politely that the comic strip *La Cucaracha* by Lalo Alcaraz be restored to the *Fresno Bee* comics page: (559) 441-6443. You may also e-mail Mr. Marshall at rmarshall@fresnobee.com.

YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO CONTACT:

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Here are some of last month's "controversial" comic strips that the *Fresno Bee* refused to print about the Latino high school dropout rate. Contact the *Fresno Bee* and ask, "Why don't you want us to see these?" *These are not controversial or offensive!*





HOMECARE VICTORY AT LAST

On Thursday June 24, 2004 the Board of Supervisors approved the first Fresno County homecare contract, after several years of difficult negotiations. The homecare workers, represented by SEIU 250, the largest health-care workers' union in the western United States, became one of the largest bargaining units in all of North America to secure a first contract this year. In the long fight, Fresno County homecare workers rallied, marched, picketed, and pressured county supervisors to adopt standards that called for better wages, medical insurance, and access to job training.

"We welcome our 10,000 new sisters and brothers into SEIU 250, and we celebrate the bravery, perseverance, and many actions of solidarity among IHSS providers who have led this first contract victory," said SEIU 250 President Sal Rosselli. "Our negotiating committee won a health insurance plan and wage increases that will change the lives of thousands of deserving workers who provide care to more than 12,000 elderly and people with disabilities in Fresno County."

This first contract will raise the homecare salaries from \$7.50 an hour to \$7.75 an hour on July 1, to \$8.00 on Jan 1, 2005, and \$8.15 in July 2005.

Homecare providers will soon receive application forms for the Kaiser Health





insurance benefits the union won. Kaiser insurance includes full medical coverage and prescriptions for IHSS providers who work at least 80 hours a month.

The agreement also calls for the establishment of a registry to help connect homecare providers with clients and more hours of work and to provide free training for homecare workers who want it.

“We fought for years to win this contract,” said Florine Furlow, a Fresno homecare provider who was involved in the contract campaign from the start. “We finally won. With the improvement in benefits and wages, we’ll hopefully be able to get more folks interested in working as homecare providers. Then, the clients will benefit as well from having more homecare workers on hand to meet the requests for services.”

With more than 90,000 members, SEIU 250 is the largest and fastest-growing healthcare union in the western United States. Representing every type of healthcare worker, including nursing, professional, technical, paramedic, and service classifications. SEIU 250’s mission is to achieve high-quality health care for all.



PEACE and SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR July 2004

Friday, July 2 • 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Peace Fresno anti-war demonstration at the Peace Corner, SE corner of Shaw/Blackstone. First Friday of every month.

Saturday, July 3 • 10 AM

Care-Giving, Nourishing Recipes' ~ Demonstrations and lecture on using herb plants that can soothe and comfort, helping ourselves and the ones we love and take care of. Garden Theater, Tour & Tastings at the Squaw Valley Herb Gardens. Advance Reservations - Rosemary (800) 579-8043 www.SquawValleyHerbGardens.com This event will be repeated on Sunday, July 4, at 2 PM.

Sunday, July 4 • 11 AM - 2 PM

The 7th Annual 4th of July Celebration of our Diversity Brunch will be held at O'Neill Park on the CSUF campus (Barstow between Maple and Chestnut streets). See details on page 18.

Sunday, July 4 • 1 - 3 PM

Peace is Patriotic!

The South Valley Peace Center will hold a peace demonstration at the northwest corner of Mooney Boulevard and Walnut Avenue in Visalia, Calif. on Sunday, July 4, 1-3 p.m. The SVPC holds a peace demonstration on the first Sunday of the month at this time at the same location. Information: (559) 734-2784, (559) 562-5770 or www.svpc.info

Friday, July 9 • 7:30 PM

Nights in the Plaza at Arte Americas with Lila Downs. Arte Americas is located at 1630 Van Ness Ave in downtown Fresno. For more information call 266-2623 or visit their website at www.arteamericas.org

Friday, July 9 • 5PM and 8PM

Fresno Filmworks presents *The Barbarian Invasions* at the Tower Theatre. Winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film and five Genie Awards in Canada, Denys Arcand's sequel to *The Decline of the American Empire* is a moving, witty story about the pains and pleasures of life in troubled times. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office, 815 E. Olive Ave., The Movies, 1435 N. Van Ness Ave., the Fig Garden Bookstore in Fig Garden Village, and at the door. Tickets are \$9.00; \$7.00, for students and seniors. For more information call the FFW info line, 221-0755, or go to www.fresnofilmworks.org

Saturday, July 10 • 2 PM

Community Alliance magazine meeting at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (Southeast corner of McKinley and Van Ness). This meeting is open to everyone who works on and supports the magazine.

Monday, July 12 • 5:30 PM

The West Fresno Democratic Club will be meeting on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is at the Serious Seafood Restaurant 841 F street in Chinatown. It is at the corner of F and Kern, two blocks west of Grizzly Stadium. This meeting will be a planning and organization meeting. For more information contact 226-3717 or email ckrugman@sbcglobal.net

Monday, July 12 • 6 PM

The Fresno County Democratic Chicano/Latino Caucus is now meeting on the second MONDAY of the month. This will be a dinner meeting at Bobby Salazar's 2839 N. Blackstone Avenue. Call Jose Luis Barraza for information at 252-9625 or 276-6777

Tuesday, July 13

11:30 AM: Lunch and Rally at Machinists Hall, 544 W. Olive , Fresno

1:00 PM: Rally at Sen. Feinstein's Fresno Office, 1130 O Street, Suite 2446

Day of Action to Save Medicare

Blow the Whistle on Dianne Feinstein!

Say No to Privatization of Medicare.

Say Yes to Real Prescription Drug Benefits!

See the insert in the July issue of the Community Alliance magazine for more details.

Wednesday, July 14 • 7 PM

Discussion: "Whites Looking at White Privilege", eighth in a series of discussions in which whites will be challenged to examine the benefits received from centuries of racism. Contact Richard Stone to enroll: 266-2559. This event will be held at the Center for nonviolence.

Thursday, July 15 • 10 PM

The film "Thirst", revealing plans by multinational corporations to privatize the world's supply of drinking water, including privatization plans for cities in the San Joaquin Valley will be shown on the PBS series P.O.V.. Check local listings to see if and when KVPT (broadcast ch 18 and cable ch 8) will be showing this film.

Saturday, July 17 • 11 AM - 2 PM

Take Back America - Regime Change. Candidates Faire Picnic at O'Neil Park at CSU-Fresno. Hot Dogs, Watermelon, Music, Small Talk, Raffle and more. A Happy Democratic Party Family Day.

Sunday, July 18 • 5 - 7 PM

Fresno Center for Nonviolence Twelfth Anniversary celebration at Margaret Hudson's, 4247 N Thorne, North of Ashlan. Poetry of Freedom, Light Refreshments, Way of Peace Awards. Call (559) 237-3223 for more information

Thursday, July 22 • 6 - 8 PM

The Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee (CVPPAC) will hold a fund raiser at the home of Howard and Chris Watkins, 1785 W Dovewood Lane (near Bullard & West) in Fresno. \$20 for members of the CVPPAC and \$30 for non members. For more information call (559) 978-4502 or email info@cvppac.org Also see: <http://www.cvppac.org/>

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS

Every Sunday

Food Not Bombs serves free food to anyone who is hungry. Anyone who'd like to help, call miriam at (559) 442-0966 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 and Thursday (starting June 2004) • 7 - 9 PM

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker serves a meal to the homeless, working poor, and visitors and released inmates in front of Fresno County Jail (corner of Fresno and M streets). Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meals. For more information contact Liza Apper at (559) 229-6410 liza.apper@sbcw.org or visit their web site at: www.sbcw.org

Every Tuesday

An ANTI-WAR Demonstration every Tuesday S E corner of White Lane and South H st. Bakersfield California. For info: call (661)366-9003

Every Tuesday • 7 PM

Peace Fresno meets at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence at 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. 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 other Wednesday • 3 and 7 PM

Video Series at CSU Fresno sponsored by Campus Peace and Civil Liberties Coalition and Peace Fresno, will include videos on the Iraq War, Women's Rights, Mother Earth among others. There will be two showings, one at 3pm in the Student Union Rm. 309, the other at 7pm in McLaine 161. They are free and open to the public. For more information call Shawn or Khara at 224-1218

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 • 7 PM

Reedley Peace Center, holds it weekly peace meeting at the Fellowship Hall at Reedley's First Mennonite Church 1208 "L" Street, Reedley, Ca ... Programs vary but the focus is always on peace issues local, state, national, international....the contact is Carol Kraebel 559-637-9098 or email krabel@cvip.net . The meeting is free and open to the public and handicapped accessible.

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/>

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.

Calendar Continued

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, fresnofreebikeclinic@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.

3rd Sunday of every month • 10 AM to 12 noon

World Meditation Day is observed to promote peace within and harmony in the world and is held at 7319 N. Fourth St., Fresno. Program includes guided meditation followed by discussion and light refreshments. Call Veena Kapoor at (559) 435-2212 for more information.

3rd Sunday of every month • 1 PM

Humanists of the San Joaquin Valley meet at the Discovery Center, 1197 N. Winery. For info call June @ 645 1719 or visit their website at <http://fresno.humanists.net>

1st Monday of every month • 7:00 PM

FresCAMP (Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticide) meets at The BIG Community building behind the house at 4230 N Arthur. 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 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information email vmfout1@sti.net

1st Tuesday of every month • 6 PM

The San Joaquin Valley Coalition for Immigrant Rights meeting. For more information call (559) 498-6033.

2nd Tuesday of every month • 7 PM

Fresno Stonewall Democrats meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Kingsmen Cafe, 1495 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno. The diner hour is from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. followed by the meeting which is open to the public. The Cafe is a faith based business that employs youth dealing with substance abuse issues. They offer inexpensive sandwiches and salads and fair trade coffee. Fresno Stonewall Democrat's focus is on social and political issues of interest to progressives in general and progressive and liberal Democrats in particular. For more information contact Jay Hubbell at (559) 292-4905 e-mail kucinich2004@comcast.net or visit the website <http://www.mangen.com/stonewall/>

3rd 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, email kfcf@kfcf.org , or visit www.kfcf.org

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 Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

2nd Thursday of every month • 5:00 PM

The Human Relations Commission meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings are usually scheduled on the Second Thursday of each month in Meeting Room 2165N of City Hall. Any person who wants to place an issue before the Commission should first contact the HRC staff at 621-7770.

2nd Thursday of every month • 6:00 PM

Fresno County Democratic Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Committee meets at the Democratic Party Office, 255 N. Fulton, #104. Call 486-5422 for more information. Activists are encouraged to get involved in this very worthwhile effort. They NEED volunteers!

2nd Thursday of every month • 7:00 PM

Monthly meeting of the Fresno County Green Party, County Council at the California State Building in downtown Fresno. The address is 2550 Mariposa Ave., and is located between O and P St. and Fresno and Tulare Ave. Enter through the main door along the pedestrian mall just off P Street. Call (559) 265-3647 or go to www.cagreens.org/fresno for more information.

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.

4th Thursday of every month • 6:30 PM

Organizing meeting to protest the Republican National convention which will be held in New York City in August 2004. For meeting location call (559) 213-2042. Security arrangements will be in place to prevent infiltration by Homeland Security/JTTF. If you're sick of the Bush fiasco and would like to tell the Neo-Cons as much in person, join them. email: email@rancor.info

1st Friday of every month • 4:30 PM

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

2nd Friday of every month • 7 PM

Vigil to protest the murder of immigrants at the border and by the police in this country. This vigil is organized by El Comite No Nos Vamos. 328 N Fresno Street. Call (559) 498-6033 or 497-0206 for more information.

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 Divisidero. Call 439-8140 for more information. <http://home.att.net/~barbarapyle/kennedy/kennedy.htm>

1st Saturday of every month • 3 - 5 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 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. 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).

Death Penalty Focus — next meeting time & place TBA

Support Group will Continue to be Available If Help Is Needed, Or For Referrals, Please Phone Donna @ 275-4974, Maria @ 255-9492, Toni @ 251-0169

For more information contact Maria Telesco at: (559) 255-9492 maria.telesco@worldnet.att.net

REVIEW OF **INCARNATION: COMING TO LIFE IN MIND AND BODY, BY RICHARD STONE**

By SuRay

The author refers to it as “stumbling attempts to clarify the working that makes up my life, the living that goes through the work.” Richard Stone’s *Incarnation: Coming to Life in Mind and Body* is a sparkling collage that leaps, dances, and yes, stumbles through the events of one man’s life, and his earnest, sometimes clumsy, and always heroic efforts to discern their most profound meanings.

Recording and understanding the complex process of living is Richard’s goal and his god. Stay with him, and he will lead you on a tortuous, magical journey into the heart of life’s truth. His life. Your life. All life. The last chapters, brief reflections on some of his unique experiences (including being assumed a mental patient and getting to know Jeffrey Dahmer’s mother) are in my opinion the best, and well worth the effort to stay with him for the entire journey.

From graceful poetry

“The day is for itself alone
The morning’s work is evening’s meal
Life is the living, not the waiting
And everything is life.”

to ironic insight

“You won’t yet be in charge of your life, but at least it will be unpredictable.”

to mind-boggling conceptualizations

“They give me an unarticulated introduction to what Grindler later called [in one translation] ‘unfolding Life,’ a unified understanding of living as a relating in time-and-space that is at once spontaneous and universal,” - This book has it all.

And I love it! Through every page flows the intensity of our human yearning: to understand our roots that we may create wings to fly far beyond their limits, to learn the lessons of experience in order to transmute them into caring and effective action in a complex world. Richard’s sharing his journey provides the rest of us a glimpse into our own that I found accurate and insightful, perhaps because so many of his issues are mine: religious heritage, compulsion to learn through new and improbable experiences, and an analytical mind that craves understanding of what it all might possibly mean.

I found the treatment of his relationship with Judith, the woman he calls his “Fateful Other,” an especially insight-



ful roadmap for anyone seeking to understand the impact on their development of a very powerful person or event. Richard helps us untangle and value the unique, co-creative dance that emerges from the meeting of two separate, equally valuable beings. It is enlightening to apply this map to dramatic events that also change our image of self and our life direction.

Incarnation leads us beyond personality to the conscious awareness of self and other that is always with us and seldom so well documented as in this little gem of a book! Its deep honesty, purity of intention, and clarity of thought and expression will bless anyone who picks it up. Thanks Richard, you’ve shown me your deepest self and in so doing, freed me to understand and share more of mine.

SuRay is a writer and teacher from Monterey County who serves locally on the Sun Mt. Board of Directors.

July Take-Action Report

By Vickie Fouts

Recently I changed my e-mail and was astonished to see how many **Take Action** e-mails and newsletters I am signed up for. Since some of the action items depend on timely action and may not get into my monthly Take-Action Report, I thought I would share the lists I am on. This way you can decide if you want to sign up for any in order to take immediate action when needed. Next month I will list local listservs you can sign up for. If you have any Take-Action lists that you think I should use in my monthly report, you can contact me at socialjustice@sti.net or (559) 658-8260.

Anti-War, Anti-Administration:

A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism): www.internationalanswer.org; Moveon.org: www.moveon.org; Vote No War: www.votenowar.org; Vote to Impeach Beach: www.votetoimpeach.org; Code Pink: www.codepink4peace.org

Diversity: Interfaith Alliance: www.interfaithalliance.org; Muslim Public Affairs Council News: www.mpac.org; American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee: www.adc.org; NAACP: www.naacp.org; Black Commentator newsletter: www.BlackCommentator.com

Environment: Save Our Environment: www.saveourenvironment.org/action; Council for a Livable World: www.clw.org; Environmental Defense: www.edf.org; Biodemocracy-Organic Consumers Association: www.organicconsumers.org; Environment California: www.environmentcalifornia.org

Human Rights: Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org


Labor: UFW, Working Families – Union Voice: www.unionvoice.org/wfean/home.html; Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride: www.unionvoice.org/iwfr/home; American Rights at Work: www.americanrightsatwork.org; Workers Rights Watch-Eye on the NLRB: www.americanrightsatwork.org/workersrights; Jobs with Justice: www.jwj.org

LGBT Rights: Equality California: www.eqca.org

Local Media: Fight Big Media Meet-up: <http://fightbigmedia.meetup.com>

Misc: True Majority: www.truemajority.org; Nonviolent Peace Force: www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org; Working Assets Working for Change: www.workingforchange.com; Campaign for America’s Future: www.ourfuture.org; CauseNet-Common Cause: <http://causenet.commoncause.org>; Union of Concerned Scientists: www.ucsusa.org; Public Campaign: www.publiccampaign.org/; Public Citizen: www.citizen.org; Progressive Secretary: www.progressivesecretary.org; American Civil Liberties Union: www.aclu.org; Global Exchange: www.globalexchange.org; Nuclear Policy Research Institute: www.nuclearpolicy.org

Women’s Issues: Planned Parenthood: www.plannedparenthood.org; Women’s Edge: www.womensedge.org; MADRE: www.madre.org



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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

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

WILPF DATES

Wednesday, July 7, Noon: Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse breezeway

Monday, July 12, 7 PM: There will **NOT** be a WILPF board meeting, but instead a meeting addressing by-laws and consensus decision-making procedures. 1584 N Van Ness Ave.

Wednesday, July 28, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir It Up will be preempted for the live broadcast of the Democratic Convention. It will return in August.

WILPF Cluster Meeting: Vickie Fouts, Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, and Catherine Garoupa attended the Northern California WILPF Cluster Meeting on May 22 in San Jose. **Thanks** to Fresno WILPF for the \$100 donation to help pay for their expenses to attend. Sixty-eight people were in attendance, which I hear is very high for cluster meetings. There is a new branch in Humboldt County out of Arcata, and four of their members attended (and we thought we had a drive). The branch reports were very interesting. One thing was the same throughout: "We have 100+ members, and 5+ are active." Now I don't feel so bad and know that our low turnout at meetings and events may not be my entire fault but normal WILPF behavior. A copy of the Fresno Branch report and a full report of what our two interns have done this year is available by contacting Vickie Fouts. Some were really interested in our Women's Spirituality Panel and Book Club.

Intern Thank-You Party: A very nice day was had by all who attended the intern party. It was attended by eight members and five guests. **Thanks** to Sandra Iyall for the use of her beautiful yard. Next year we will remember to have a party at the beginning of the internship instead of at the end. You live and learn.

Peace Camp: This year's camp must be the most diverse of any camps we have had regarding both campers and volunteers. I see this as a big step for Fresno WILPF. Since at the writing of this article we are only into our second day I will share more with you about Peace Camp in the next issue.

Board Elections: Thanks to our nominating committee, Ellie Bluestein and Joan Poss, for their great candidate search. At the board meeting June 14, the following nominations for WILPF board members were presented: Vickie Fouts, President; Ruth Obel-Jorgensen, Secretary; Eve Hudson, Treasurer; Membership, Mary Perich; Newsletter & Publicity, Vickie Fouts; Legislative, Natasha Fouts; Volunteers, Ellie Bluestein; Members-At-Large, Ellie Bluestein, Jean Kennedy, Joan Poss, Camille Russell, Jan Slagter, Polly Victor. Positions still open are Literature, Telephone Tree, and Historian. If you are interested in any of the open positions, please contact the

nominating committee. We ask all members to attend our annual retreat in August (date, time, place to be announced) to approve the above slate.

Education Fund: At our May meeting it was agreed to give our intern Catherine Garoupa \$500 toward her trip to South Africa this summer with CSUF. Catherine will spend one week touring the country, one week learning about the country, and one week using her social-work skills in helping others. Lynn Jacobsson, the interns' faculty liaison, also gave Catherine a donation toward her trip through WILPF. Catherine **thanks** everyone who helped. Isn't it wonderful that WILPF can help its members learn more about social justice through our education fund? Donations such as this may lower our education fund balance, but the rewards in the end are surely worth it. What good is money if you can't spend it and receive something wonderful in the process?

Corporate Personhood: The award-winning documentary, *The Corporation*, a documentary film by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbot, and Joel Bakan, is sweeping the nation and turning on people everywhere to the ills of corporate domination. WILPF has partnered with the film's distributors to lead the organization of table activities in theater lobbies all over the United States. The movie has been endorsed by the Challenge Corporate Power: Assert the People's Rights Campaign of US WILPF. The film's distributors will provide promotional postcards, posters and lapel pins for use in promoting the film in each organizer's town. *The Corporation* is the first movie about corporate personhood! This is an amazing opportunity to capture audience members as they leave the theater with the overwhelming sense that something must be done. If and when the movie comes to Fresno, we will be asking for volunteers to table at theaters. See www.thecorporation.com to see if Fresno has been added to the list of cities or for more information.

WILPF-US National Campaigns for 2005-2008: Proposals for new Campaigns will be received at the National Office beginning May 2004 and running through September 10, 2004. **Two**, not four, National Campaigns will be selected by the membership from these proposals. The National Campaigns will officially launch at the WILPF-US Congress 2005 in San Francisco, with workshops and materials for involvement. See www.wilpf.org for details on how to get your proposals included or any other info on the new campaigns.

Quote of the Month: "Democracy, the modern world's holy cow, is in crisis. And the crisis is a profound one. Every kind of outrage is being committed in the name of democracy. It has become little more than a hollow word, a pretty shell, emptied of all content or meaning. It can be whatever you want it to be. Democracy is the Free World's whore, willing to dress up, dress down, willing to satisfy a whole range of taste, available to be used and abused at will."

—Arundhati Roy

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

BIRTHDAY NON-GALA: In celebration of the Center's 12th anniversary (and the Declaration of Independence's 228th) we're having a festive gathering for friends of the Center. Join us on July 18, 5-7 PM, at "Hudson Acres" (4247 N. Thorne, just north of Ashlan, behind Margaret Hudson's house). The event will feature poetry of peace and liberty read by the likes of Margaret herself, Francine Oputa, Vince Lavery, and me (Richard). The Center will also give out our annual Way of Peace awards for meritorious service to the cause of peace and justice. Light refreshments will be served. Ties and tails required only for dogs.

FINE ARTS FOR A FINE CAUSE: In conjunction with the anniversary, we are holding a fine arts raffle of works donated by notable local artists. There will be three prizes: "The Magic Pinata," a 20 x 24 fanciful, glowing giclee print by Enrique Lopez of the soon-to-open Art Box Gallery; "The Traveller," a table-size metal assemblage of junked machine parts connected and humanized by Polly Victor; and "Single Rose #7," a celebratory three-dimensional print by Margaret Hudson. No more than 150 tickets, at \$10 each, will be sold; they are available from Board members, at the Center during open hours, by phone, or (if any remain) at the anniversary event, where the winners will be chosen. We are most grateful for the talent and generosity of the donating artists.

FAIR IS FAIR: A reminder that we sell "Fair Trade" coffee, tea, and drinking and baking chocolate at the Center, with other peace-related items soon to be available. Check out our wares during open hours, or call to make an appointment.

TWO MORE REASONS WHY WE'RE HERE: The Center is now housing two more groups making important contributions to progressive causes: FACTS, which is working to reform the three-strikes law; and Marriage Equality of California (MECA), which is working on winning equal rights for all in domestic partnerships, are holding their monthly meetings at our premises. We welcome them and their valuable efforts.

PAIRS: Applications for the Pairs Project (which matches two people across lines of difference, to become acquainted with each other) are now available online via our website. We hope many of you will avail yourselves of the unique and vital opportunity to confront one or more of our crippling and pervasive -isms (racism, sexism, etc.). Applications are also available at the Center or by leaving your name and address on the answering machine.

GANDHI VIA MARKS: Another quote submitted by Diane Marks: "The best and quickest way of getting rid of the corroding and degrading Secret Service is for us to make a final effort to think everything aloud, have no privileged conversation with any soul on earth and cease to fear the spy. We must ignore his presence and treat everyone as a friend entitled to know all our thoughts and plans. Removal of secrecy brings about the full disappearance of the Secret Service without further effort." (*Young India*, Dec 22, 1920)

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

THE WELCH REPORT

Jack H. Welch, M.D.



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

"The US does not belong in Iraq. It is not our country. Our presence there is causing death, suffering, destruction, and so large sections of populations are rising against us." *

Amnesty International has reported the killing of scores of unarmed people due to excessive or unnecessary use of lethal force by coalition forces during public demonstrations, at checkpoints, and in house raids. Thousands of people have been detained, often under harsh conditions.

"The present US military occupation of Iraq is morally unacceptable" and therefore, "What do we do now?" Some suggest that we simply withdraw from Iraq; others believe that we must not cut and run but must stay the course—and if anything, provide additional forces.

"The history of military occupations of Third World countries is that they bring neither democracy nor security." The long US occupation of the Philippines, following a war in which US troops finally subdued the Filipino independence movement, did not lead to democracy but rather to a succession of dictatorships, ending with Fernando Marcos. The long US occupations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic led only to military rule and corruption in both countries.

AN INTERNATIONAL NONMILITARY PRESENCE

No one knows what will happen if the United States withdraws from Iraq. We face a choice between the present mayhem if we stay, and the uncertainty of what will follow a withdrawal. There is the possibility of reducing that uncertainty by replacing a US military presence with an international nonmilitary presence. The UN could arrange, as US forces leave, for a multinational team of peace-

keepers and negotiators, including people from the Arab countries. "Such a group might bring together Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds, and work out a solution for self-governance, which would give all three groups a share in political power." The UN should arrange for shipments of food and medicine to Iraq, as well as a corps of engineers to begin its reconstruction.

Those who worry about what will happen in Iraq after our troops leave, should consider the effect of having foreign troops there: "continued, escalating bloodshed, continued insecurity, increased hatred for the US in the entire Muslim world of over one billion people, and increased hostility everywhere." When the anger of an entire population has been inflamed, the breeding ground for terrorism is enlarged.

COSTS OF THE WAR

At home, this war is causing the diminution of our freedom of speech, the corruption of our electoral system, and the loss of Congressional and judicial checks on executive power. The costs of the war—the \$400 billion military budget, which John Kerry apparently won't consider lowering—make it inevitable that people in this country will suffer from lack of health care, a deteriorating school system, dirtier air and water; corporate power is unregulated."

Kerry may not understand "that he is giving away his strongest card against Bush, the growing disillusion with the war among the American public. . . . We do not need another war President. We need a peace President. And those of us in this country who feel this way should make our desire known in the strongest of ways to the man who may be our next occupant of the White House."

* (Sources: Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*; *The Progressive*, June 2004)

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SIGN THE PETITION PLEDGING TO BOYCOTT GALLO WINES!

Gallo of Sonoma workers need your immediate help! The next negotiation meeting is on August 4th. It is critical to demonstrate support for the workers at Gallo of Sonoma. The United Farm Workers Union has a goal for 25,000 people to sign the "Gallo Unfair" petition pledging to boycott Gallo wine if Matt and Gina Gallo continue to refuse to negotiate a fair and decent contract.

SIGN THE PETITION TODAY!

Go to

<www.unionvoice.org/campaign/GalloPetition>.

Fourth of July Celebration of Diversity

The 7th Annual Fourth of July Celebration of Our Diversity Brunch will be held at O'Neill Park on the CSUF campus (Barstow between Maple and Chestnut). This grand event, representing the pluralism that makes America great, features flags and entertainment from the variety of faith and cultural groups in the Fresno area. This year's brunch will be a Middle Eastern brunch. Join the celebration of the diversity of our country on Sunday, July 4, 11 AM-2 PM with the Interfaith Alliance of Central California. For further information call (559) 225-1438.

Suggested donation: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children under 12, with a maximum of \$15 per family. For tickets or further information, please call Edie or Bryan Jessup at (559) 255-1438. Tickets will be available at the brunch also. Last year more than 600 people enjoyed entertainment, brunch, and friendship celebrating America's pluralism.

Entertainment this year will include: Hmong dancers; Fresno Gumyo Taiko drummers; Adriana's Spanish dance; Tocanto Choro group; the Chicklettes; classical dance of India; Chinese lion dancers; and more!

The Fourth of July Diversity Celebration Committee includes Fr. Perry Kavookjian; Bryan and Edie Jessup; Babs and Saul Eskin; Ashraf Ibrahim; the Rev. Jennette Freeman; Dr. Mohinder Singh Poonia; J.P. Sethi; Ghassane Habib; and Ray Ensher.



WE MARCH FOR DRIVER LICENSES & LEGALIZATION

Over 200 of us march in
Reedley to:

- pressure the California state legislature to pass SB1160, new driver license bill
 - for all immigrants and
 - for all our safety.

- pressure congress to pass S1645, a federal bill to legalize all working immigrants.

<http://www.sunmt.org/june14chron04.html>

HELP WANTED

The Community Alliance magazine has the following "Volunteer Opportunities" available:

- Someone to help us find more advertisers. More advertisers will bring financial stability to the publication and allow us to print/distribute more copies. (2-5 hours a month)
- Magazine distribution. We need people to help us distribute the magazine throughout the community. (2 hours a month)
- Grant writer (this could be a paid position)
- Someone to re-post the Peace and Social Justice calendar on the Internet (1 - 2 hours a week)

For more information call (559) 978-4502 or email AllianceEditor@Comcast.net

Letters continued from page 2

world; it has cost well over 1000 American casualties in dead and wounded as well as the lives of many innocent Iraqi civilians; and it has made neither Iraq nor the world safer from terrorists.

Is it still "Mission accomplished"?

Werner J. Lipton

Dear Mr. President:

You tell us things are getting better? Our air is getting worse, and our education systems are failing the poor. There are more poverty and homelessness, a continued increase in gas prices and deficits, and a need to feed the hungry. We might well have growth. GDP might go up, but GDP is utterly unrelated to the well-being of our communities.

Ray Ensher

CCI Political Fellow

Gas Prices continued from page 4

ness decision that anyone would make, given a limited commodity. The reason gasoline prices stay high is because the (very well connected) US companies, who we often forget supply half this nation's oil, also make fabulous profits when oil prices are high. The OPEC nations aren't the only ones who get filthy rich when oil prices skyrocket, so do Exxon-Mobil, Texaco, and others. Thereby, there is no political pressure from our government to do anything when friends are making fortunes.

Patrick Young

Gas prices have risen primarily because of simple economic factors. Specifically, we have come to the point of ever-growing demand and a diminishing supply. Progressives should seize this opportunity to educate others about the many positive benefits that shifting to renewable energy sources would have with regard to our health, our environment, and our economy.

Jeff Eisinger

I think that the gas prices are high for three reasons: (1) Some of the oil plants have been shut down so as not to use US resources. This tactic makes it easy to say that there is a shortage of oil. (2) The war in Iraq is consuming much oil for air attacks, surveillance, and all transportation by water and on land. (3) Oil companies seem always to find an excuse to raise the price of gasoline in order to make a greater profit. When taxpayers approved the pipeline to Alaska, the oil companies convinced the taxpayer that he or she would be paying less for gasoline. The prices never came down. I believe we need to demand alternative fuels and measures to protect the public.

Lydia Flores

Why: gas prices are high because of SUVs (like the ones the Governor drives) and because of greedy oil corporations.

What we should do: re-unelect George W. Bush!

Karla Zombro

Here's my take on this. The *Bee* continues to publish articles that make reference to "supply and demand."

While I agree "cutting gas taxes won't lower prices at the pump," I disagree with the *Bee's* portrayal of our "free-market" economy, subject to laws of supply and demand. Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (1776) describes two characteristics of free-market capitalism: private ownership and free competition. Competition would act as an "invisible hand," bringing profits to efficient producers and putting inefficient ones out of business. The *Bee's* recent editorial suggested that "anyone with a little business sense knows the only 'right' price balances supply and demand." The problem is, as Smith observed, two conditions render supply and demand ineffectual: monopoly and oligopoly markets. Large corporations dominate smaller companies, suppressing competition and supply and demand. Today, 2000 corporations, 0.1% of all companies in America, own 40% of all company assets and reap 88% of business income. Fortune 500 companies consistently account for two-thirds of sales and four-fifths of business profits. The question is not whether we have a free-market system, but what impact the current market conditions have on our lives. Oligopolies force higher prices on consumers by controlling production or through "price leadership," where one company raises prices and others follow. Oil refinery profits increased from 25¢ to 66¢ per gallon the last few years, while industry mergers resulted in Exxon-Mobil's control of 33% of all gas stations in America. Coincidental? No, "corporate capitalism" reigns.

Matt Jendian

Queer Eye . . .

By Dan Waterhouse

The 14th Annual Pride Parade and Festival, successful-in-spite-of-obstacles, Fresno Pride organizers are very pleased! Way more people than we expected turned out for the parade on June 5 and the festival, and everything went off well.



The police department was concerned about protesters turning up and disrupting things, which is why there was a more visible police presence this year. Only a very lonely husband and wife team showed up, who quietly held up signs in front of the Landmark restaurant.

A leader of the Dykes on Bikes contingent stopped, walked over, and laid a dollar bill on the picketers' blanket, then returned to her Harley and rode on. Neither protester touched the bill—probably afraid it was contaminated or something.

This year's Pride Parade and Festival was bigger than ever before with 37 marching contingents, 31 booths, and between 2500 and 3000 people in attendance.

Gay Straight Alliance student members from Clovis Unified School District were honored as parade Grand Marshals for their efforts and impact in making the district's high schools safer for GLBT youth.

In February 2002 the Clovis Unified School Board voted to allow the formation of the district's first GSA at Clovis High. Although not the first GSA in the Fresno area, the local and national media coverage surrounding the establishment of the GSA at Clovis High demonstrated the power and perseverance of Central Valley students to organize against enormous odds to insure safety and respect for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Since then a GSA has been established at Clovis East High School and students at the other two Clovis high schools continue their activism. Julie Silva and Ty Stuebner, orga-

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Queer Eye continued from page 19

nizers of the Clovis High GSA, were awarded the Grand Marshal plaque which honored them and their peers for “their support, leadership, and efforts on behalf of the GLBT community.”

Twenty students, carrying signs bearing the names of area schools where GSAs have been started, marched in the GSA Network contingent, and on the festival grounds the “Closet Project” was one of the most frequented displays.

Grand Marshals also included Central California Alliance president Robin McGehee (and her infant son Sebastian). McGehee was joined by her partner Kathy Adams. Fresno State graduate Raymundo Vizcarra and his partner Jeffrey Prang—the mayor of West Hollywood—were marshals also. Community elders Clyde Hedstrom and Larry Norton also were spotlighted.

Although the parade and festival went well, the previous 30 days were crisis-filled because of bad communication between the police department and organizers.

The crisis mode was triggered after organizers were told a permit was needed for the large canopies. Turned out it wasn’t the fire department that raised the issue, as the police department liaison first said—it was the liaison himself. Because the owner of Sequoia Brewery had been so angry at him about having to get a permit for his beer garden, the police liaison felt obligated to make Pride get one.

When organizers first spoke with Planning & Development, they (the Planning & Development department) had trouble figuring out how to fit a one-day community event into their permitting process, because the process is oriented toward site plan reviews and conditional use permits for businesses.



When Planning & Development denied the use of the vacant lot because of its zoning—you can’t have dancing and vendors on a lot zoned residential—they initially told organizers to come to the next director’s meeting to see if the zoning could be waived; later they said the



meeting would not be held after all.

“Okay,” organizers said. Then the meeting happened, nothing was said beforehand about the meeting happening, and the request for a waiver was denied without Pride having a chance to make a case in front of the department director.

Then came the permit snafu one week before the event.

First Business Licensing issued the permit, then the police department withdrew it, saying it should not have been issued. Next the cops demanded a list of vendors and others involved in the festival. Then came the 4 PM June 2 meeting with Lt. Dave Belluomini—a command perform-

ance to boot—to go over “new changes” to the permit.

When Jeff Robinson and I got in the meeting, we discovered even more miscommunication.

When the use of the large lot was denied, the permitting folks at City Hall asked Pride to just submit a new map showing where the festival would be happening. The police department representative never said they wanted a whole new permit application submitted.

“We did everything the permit people asked us to do,” Jeff Robinson said. “We were never told we had to submit all new paperwork.”

As for the list of names—it seems the cops were intelligence-gathering. They wanted to know whether organizers knew of any groups that might show up to disrupt the Parade. What a list of vendors and entertainers (who all would be gay-friendly) had to do with anti-gay protesters is beyond my comprehension.

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

