COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

NOVEMBER 2004

NOVEMBER 2 AND BEYOND

INSIDE - THE PROGRESSIVE STRATEGY FOR VICTORY:

ELECTIONS MATTER, BUT THE WORK DOESN'T END NOVEMBER 3 ..... Pg 3

OCTOBER SURPRISE ..... Pg 4

MEASURE Z ..... Pg 5

VOTE GREEN ..... Pg 6

WHICH FUTURE ..... Pg 7

THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ENDORSEMENT GRID ..... Pg 8 & 9

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, Diane Scott, Janet Slagter, Richard Stone, Pam Whalen, Floyd Harris, Eduardo Stanley

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 11 by Dan Waterhouse
Page 4 & 15 by Mike Rhodes
Page 15 photo of Ken Hudson by Jordan Burns

Letter to the Editor

The time has come for the American people to realize how the economy works and just how the Federal debt relates to them as individuals. The Federal debt now amounts to 7 trillion dollars that means that as one American your share of that debt is now $25,000 dollars. For a family of four that is $100,000 dollars. To pay off that debt with interest it will take $40,000 dollars to pay off $25,000 dollars of debt.

Let us see just how that huge debt occurred. In the 200 years history of the US the national debt amounted to 680 billion dollars. Now, just 25 years later that debt is 7 trillion. In the Reagan and first Bush administrations deficit spending increased that national debt to 5 trillion dollars. When Clinton took over the deficit was running about 350 billion dollars a year. After eight years of the Clinton administration there was a 235 billion a year surplus. A 585 billion turn around. Bush took over with a 235 billion surplus and turned it into a 480 billion dollar deficit. A 715 billion dollar turn around.

What all of this means is that 90% (nine out of ten dollars) of the national debt accumulated under just 16 years of Republican administrations. When you realize that only labor creates value or wealth, if this debt is ever paid off, it will only be done by the working people of America. While debt is being paid off it will be taking money out of the economy. With less money to spend it will mean a down turn in the economy, making it more difficult to survive. Everyone knows that when you are paying off a debt, there are other things you have to do without. We should expect hardships, sacrifices, and taxes to survive the consequences of that debt. What we don't need is four more years of the same. Like the war in Iraq, the Republicans got us into this mess, but don't trust them to get us out. As you can see the Republicans harp on raising taxes but do not mind spending. They just object paying the bills.

Jason C. Hubbart

Editorial

from the *Community Alliance* Editorial Board

Our October front page story—Kevin Hall's article opposing Measure Z, the zoo tax—raised outcries from the "Yes on Z" Committee as well as a subscriber or two. We felt that it was important to get out the Save Roeding Park information, because the Yes on Z group had a lock on the corporate media. Other than mentioning that the Roeding family was opposed to Z, the opposition was ignored. The print, radio, and TV media in this community were able to determine the parameters of the debate on Measure Z.

It was independent media, both radio station KFCF 88.1 FM and the *Community Alliance* magazine, that brought the Save Roeding Park story to the community. After our October issue appeared and Kevin Hall was interviewed on several KFCF programs, the story could no longer be ignored and the corporate media had to admit that the future of the park was an issue. This is the power of alternative/independent media.

The day the *Community Alliance* article appeared, we were contacted by the Yes on Z campaign, saying they wanted us to print their side. We requested that they respond directly to Kevin's argument. We are printing their comments that do respond to Kevin's article, as well as Kevin's response on page 5.

We appreciate that the "Yes on Z" response indicates concern for the integrity of Roeding Park, the benefit of patrons, and the value of public input. Still, we must conclude that their recommendations are too little, too late. The language of the initiative leaves all real power for decision-making in the hands of unknown political appointees—an arrangement that we've seen utterly abused in the implementation of the original transportation tax. Public input needs to be used to develop an initiative. Major directives for use of funds need to be included in the initiative. Here they are merely recommendations that can be easily ignored.

We highly value the Chaffee Zoo and want it to succeed. Measure Z is not the way to ensure this outcome. We urge our readers to vote NO on Measure Z.

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/>.

Elections Matter, But the Work Doesn't End November 3

by Medea Benjamin and Jason Mark

As the pundits keep telling us, this fall's presidential election is one of the most important political contests in a generation. With the electorate sharply divided and the country facing many tough issues from the chaos in Iraq to the spiraling budget deficits, the upcoming election is nothing short of a referendum on the future of the United States.

This article by Medea Benjamin and Jason Mark appeared in the Fall Global Exchange newsletter. For more information see: http://www.globalexchange.org/

True enough. And yet . . . Real social change—the kind of change envisioned by those of us committed to peace, justice, and environmental sustainability—will not come with one election. The victory or defeat of a single individual will not decide our fate. History is not made by "great men." It is made by ordinary people, by social movements struggling—not for any candidate of the right or left—but for the very ideals of right against wrong.

We have an important decision to make on election day. But the real test of our resolve will come the morning after, when we will be challenged to recommit ourselves to the better world we know is possible.

In a sense, neither Mr. Bush nor Mr. Kerry is the issue: Rather, the *issues* are the issue. The biggest question is not who will win the White House, but how We the People will continue to demand peace and social justice regardless of who finishes first in the presidential race.

To the dismay of many progressives, it is clear that on a range of crucial issues there is not much difference between Bush and Kerry.

In the foreign policy realm the positions of the Democrat and the Republican mostly converge. While Bush shows no interest in admitting the huge mistakes involved with the invasion and occupation of Iraq, Kerry has been startlingly reluctant to challenge the basic logic behind the war, saying that he would have attacked Iraq even had he known there were no weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, Kerry has failed to offer a concrete plan for withdrawing the U.S. military from the country. When it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Bush has been an unconditional supporter of Ariel Sharon, at the expense of finding a just solution to the violence. Here too Kerry has shown little vision; the senator is, for example, a supporter of Israel's cruel separation wall, which international courts have condemned. Kerry has also failed to distinguish himself from Bush on South American policies. He is a supporter of the short-sighted Plan Colombia, and he has been every bit as hostile to the Chavez government in Venezuela as Bush has.

It is difficult to see how a "regime change" in the U.S. will make much of a difference for people living in the poor neighborhoods of Baghdad, the alleyways of Gaza, or the jungles of Colombia.

The major party candidates also agree about so-called "free trade" agreements. The Bush White House continues to push for expanding the WTO and launching the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) despite growing public hostility to these pacts. Although Kerry has expressed opposition to the FTAA in its current form, he is an avowed "free trader" who voted for the creation of both NAFTA and the WTO. Being as close as he is to the corporate wing of the Democratic Party, one can expect more of the same from a Kerry administration when it comes to trade policies.

There are, of course, differences between the two candidates, especially when it comes to domestic policies. Kerry is a consistent supporter of reproductive rights. He calls for protecting Social Security and expanding health care coverage. He has a strong environmental record and his campaign has offered a plan for reducing the U.S.'s dependence on oil. On a range of pressing issues a Kerry administration would be less dangerous than another four years of Bush.

And yet . . . The very model of the cautious politician, Kerry is unlikely to become a champion for progressive causes. Kerry's limitations reveal the folly of following a leader simply because he is a smidgen better than his opponent. As defenders of peace and justice we must remain—not partisans of any single candidate—put partisans of peace and justice themselves.

It is dangerous for social movements to be led by politicians. We do not want to be like a water skier, pulled behind a candidate without any input as to where the boat is headed. We want to create our own waves, swells of passion so large that the politicians will be forced to surf our energy.

If Bush wins, we will have to rededicate ourselves to our causes and remain determined to hold the administration accountable for its policies that inflict harm. If Kerry wins, we will have to do the same thing. In the event of a Kerry victory, the challenge will be, as author Jim Hightower puts it, to build "the people's John Kerry," to flex our grassroots muscles and demand fair trade, a sane and humane foreign policy, and a decisive turn toward environmental sustainability.

No matter who carries the most votes, we will still face the task of building the kind of creative, bold, and impassioned social movement capable of making our vision of justice a reality.

Regardless of what happens on November 2, the hard work is not over. In fact, it will just be beginning anew.

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:

NOVEMBER 2004

7	"Facing Down Fascism and Fear" - Rev. Bryan Jessup
14	"Let Not Young Souls Be Smothered Out" - Rev. Bryan Jessup
21	"So Many Reasons for Thanks" - Rev. Bryan Jessup
28	A Sunday Services Sunday

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

Nursery care Available

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

October Surprise: Pelco diverts corporate media attention from NoZey's campaign finances

By Kevin Hall, Chairman
Save Roeding Park/NO on Z

The first Tuesday in November is election day, but the first Tuesday in October is campaign contribution reporting day. And a stunning report was submitted on that day, October 5, by the pro–Measure Z campaign. Z is the Fresno County ballot proposal that would raise $95 million through a new sales tax to fix a $2 million problem at the Fresno zoo and expand the zoo pens and parking during the next decade to well over half of Roeding Park; the long-term plan calls for zoo control and development of more than 90 percent of the park.

The 145-page "Recipient Committee Campaign Statement" reveals the birth of a privately housed campaign machine the likes of which has never been seen before in Fresno County or the San Joaquin Valley. This new conservative powerhouse has muted most of the typically vocal opposition from the ranks of its leader's fellow anti-tax, small-government Republicans. Political observers suggest that the zoo tax is largely a publicity effort to raise campaign chair David McDonald's profile in preparation for a run for the U.S. House of Representatives in Rep. George Radanovich's seat.

The day the financial report was due, the campaign chose to release a seemingly significant proposal (see related story). It was not. However, through their ongoing strategy of positioning the sales tax effort as beneficial by framing it as a child-oriented proposal, the campaign successfully drew media attention away from financial substance to feel-good fluff reporting.

As of September 30 with a full month to go before the election, the "Save Our Zoo" committee reported more than $1.1 million received in three months of fundraising and campaign spending of more than $1.2 million. This is an unprecedented amount of money for a mere county-wide tax measure. By comparison, the 2002 renewal effort for the Measure C transportation sales tax spent approximately $500,000 (nearly half of which was a publicly funded "educational" effort). This year's Measure B library tax renewal has raised just $50,000 thus far.

Kevin Hall, speaking at the Central Valley Progressive PAC forum

Astroturf Campaign

The campaign is headquartered inside Pelco, the Clovis-based manufacturer of video surveillance equipment. Campaign chairman McDonald, CEO and president of the privately held company, is perhaps best known for his personal "memorial" to the attacks of 9/11, located on company grounds.

According to the *Fresno Bee* of August 1, 17 Pelco employees are working on the campaign effort. An unconfirmed report from inside Pelco is that McDonald is offering an all-expenses-paid, two-week trip to Hawaii for two people, plus spending cash, to the employee who puts in the most campaign hours on or off the job. (I had the somewhat surreal experience of debating a pair of Pelco employees at the Sanger Rotary Club where they described themselves as volunteers, despite their being there on paid company time.)

As much as the media would love to portray the campaign as a grassroots movement that emerged spontaneously following one little girl's letter to the editor and a $1 donation to the zoo (yes, Virginia, there is an expansion clause), the campaign report reveals a carefully orchestrated, well-financed astroturf campaign drawing monetary support from throughout the country.

Pelco estimates its in-kind donations of employee time at $157,000 thus far plus expenses of $52,000. The campaign has spent another $76,000 reimbursing Pelco for temporary help hired through Select Personnel Services of Fresno. Another $52,000 is shown as campaign debt for additional temporary workers' wages. This equates to $337,000 in campaign salaries and operating expenses from July 2 through September 30.

The big winners in the campaign spending spree of $700,000 in cash have been a trio of local printers who have captured 75 percent of the money. They've generated mountains of campaign materials, most notably a reported 95,000 miniaturized Disneyesque pachyderms. The three Fresno companies to have received a combined $523,000 are Quick Signs at $245,000, followed by ProScreen Inc. at $192,000 and DuMont Printing at $86,000.

Fresno public relations and advertising firm Panagraph garnered an even $100,000 for ad production (and presumably placement). Univision Channel 21 estimates the value of its donated effort toward "presentation production" at $117,000. Another $7,000 per month is being paid to Catherine Lew, Esq.-Lloyd A. Edwards of Oakland as campaign consultants, and $6,000 per month is being paid for ongoing voter surveys to Fairbank, Maslin, Maulin & Associates in Santa Monica.

Throw in $14,250 for a "Bulldog Sponsorship,"$7,200 on inflatable elephants and another $30,000 on everything from T-shirts to sign installation, and you've got a campaign that will roll out faster than outdoor carpeting on cement.

Cash Box

So where's all the money coming from?

Of the $1.1 million raised by the campaign, approximately $700,000 is straight cash contributions. Another $100,000 has been loaned by United Security Bank at a kindly 4.15% interest rate and secured by the Fresno Zoological Society. $320,000 has come in the form of nonmonetary contributions.

Of the $700,000 in cash, nearly $125,000 has come from companies located outside of the San Joaquin Valley and in most cases outside of California. The elephant's share of the money has come from the nearly 150 local businesses who have donated more than half a million dollars. The list of leading donors reads like a who's who of Fresno's leading developer, construction, and related companies.

First in line at the watering hole with a $50,000 donation is Howe Electric, matched by a pair of $25,000 donations from River Park Properties II and Fancher Creek Properties LLC. Not to be left out, Granville Homes is right behind at $25,000. The second-tier $10,000 donors are New England Sheet Metal, Johanson Transportation, Kasco Fab, Donald Burgess Contracting, Dan Gamel Inc., Harris Construction, Fowler Packing and Charles McMurray Co. The largest out-of-state campaign donations are $20,000 from Gunster Yoakley of West Palm Beach, Fla., and $10,000 from Leader's Edge Magazine (Productivity Plus Inc.) in Washington, D.C. (See <www.saveroedingpark.com> for a complete list of donors).

Endorsements

In the past few weeks the Save Roeding Park/NO on Z campaign has made numerous presentations around the area. As of press time, organizations that are officially on record in opposition to Measure Z include Fresno Area Congregations Together, National Action Network, the Green Party, the Black Political Council, and the NAACP. The Democratic Central Committee, which had endorsed Measure Z in August, rescinded its endorsement in early October.

Corrections

The "Save Roeding Park" article should have described the private nonprofit corporation's board of directors as a nine-member board that will be appointed three-each by the city council, board of supervisors and yet-to-be-formed zoo society. In addition, the county counsel's office recently released a revised estimate of the annual tax revenue that would be generated by passage of Measure Z. It is now estimated that the tax would raise $95 million during the next 10 years; the original estimate was $80 million.

The day the Community Alliance October magazine was printed, we were contacted by the Yes on Z/Save our Zoo committee. They wanted to respond to the article Kevin Hall, chairperson of the Save Roeding Park/NO on Z group had written. We agreed to give them space to respond to that article, but did not agree to print information that was non-responsive to the original article. Since the Yes on Z committee has unlimited open access to Fresno's corporate media to promote their cause, the editorial board of the Community Alliance magazine decided that it was not necessary to repeat their entire public relations spin on these pages. We have stated before and will say it again - the Community Alliance magazine does not give equal space to all points of view. We do not, for example, allow the Bush Administration and the Republican Party to spin their war in Iraq on these pages. We are a publication with a mission - to build a progressive movement for social change. See page 2 for our mission statement.

Here is the abbreviated article Stacey Aus, Save Our Zoo Executive Committee Member, submitted:

Save Our Zoo – YES on "Z"

by Stacey Aus

The Save Our Zoo – YES on Measure "Z" campaign has been working for four months to educate residents of Fresno County of the importance of saving Chaffee Zoo. Now we are faced with claims that this is somehow a campaign to destroy Roeding Park. Nothing could be further from the truth and I hope you will take the time to review the following facts about Measure "Z" and what is actually being proposed before you vote in November.

With the passage of Measure "Z," the Zoo will be under new management. The City will no longer operate the Zoo, and the Zoo Society will be dissolved. A new non-profit corporation will be formed with nine unpaid citizen directors, appointed equally by the County Board of Supervisors, the Zoo Society, and the City. The County Board of Supervisors – through its Fresno County Zoo Authority – will control the distribution of Measure "Z" funds to the Zoo's new citizen board and oversee the money's use with capital expenditure approval and annual CPA audits.

The Save Our Zoo Campaign Executive Committee prepared the following specific proposals for the new non-profit board:

New Independent Restoration Plan. Urge the Zoo's new management to carefully develop their own new, independent restoration and spending plans after diligently considering input from all interested parties, without any obligation to prior studies or previous plans.

Restoration Priorities. Recommend the Zoo's new Restoration Plan reflect the following general priorities:

1. Immediately begin work on the $3-5 million in urgently needed repairs, with particular focus on the items affecting animal welfare and AZA accreditation.

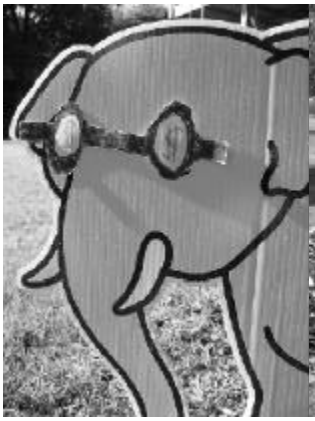
2. Rebuild or replace all deficient infrastructure systems such as fresh water supply, drainage, power, sewage, water treatment and filtration, and lighting.

3. Repair, restore, or replace all existing facilities and buildings necessary; including animal habitats, walkways, animal holding areas, educational facilities, Zoo maintenance areas, fencing, signage, food service areas, restrooms, and other visitor access areas.

4. Implement a plan to improve Zoo visitor access – most likely with a more efficient dedicated Zoo entrance from Olive Avenue. Restore to park space (grass/landscaping) existing Zoo access roadways not needed for park visitors. Add necessary additional parking space – which should be centrally located for both park and Zoo visitors.

5. Apply the remainder of Measure "Z" available funds towards building new animal exhibits/habitats. Emphasis should be on exhibits that will bring back previously lost large animals, support the Species Survival Plan, and those that have the greatest visitor appeal. All restored and new exhibits should exceed current AZA animal welfare standards.

Space and Growth. The initial lease of Zoo property to the new non-profit corporation will be for the Zoo's existing space only. The Executive Committee recommends that the Zoo's total acreage should be limited to no more than twenty-five percent of Roeding Park's total acreage. Very importantly, this limitation will keep the Zoo's total size to less than the forty acres of Roeding Park.



Save our Park - Response to Yes on Z

RELATED STORY

In response to last month's cover story, "Save Roeding Park: Tax Measure's Zoo Expansion Will Destroy Inner City Treasure," the Yes on Z campaign offered to submit a direct rebuttal to the points made. Instead, the campaign released an entirely new budget proposal that was released to all media. Developed by the campaign behind closed doors, the release has not been presented to the Fresno City Council or the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, and no public hearings have been held.

Revealingly, the campaign press release states, "The (Chaffee Zoo) Executive Committee further recommends that the Zoo's new management carefully develop their own new, independent restoration and spending plans after diligently considering input from all interested parties; without any obligation relative to prior studies or previous plans."

In other words, the campaign and zoo committee are one, and they're now saying that all of the public process that has occurred to bring this measure to the ballot does not matter. From the presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on July 13 where the expansion plan maps were used, to the Fresno City Council's endorsement of the Chaffee Zoo Committee Report and Recommendations on July 27 and its earlier acceptance of the report in April, none of that matters to the private interests that seek to control the zoo and Roeding Park.

The campaign does now officially acknowledge that it wishes to expand into Roeding Park's northwest picnic areas with parking lots and across the southern half of the park with the Wild Africa and Australian Outback exhibits. They do not include the parking lot and exclusive new driveway acreage in their calculations of destroyed parklands.

In an Orwellian turn of phrase, Mayor Alan Autry was quoted in the *Bee* on October 12 saying, "There will not be any development of the zoo that compromises the integrity of the open space we have now." Note the mayor does not say the zoo will not expand. It appears his definition of open space includes zoo exhibits. One can almost see the lion creeping silently through the tall grass toward the unsuspecting picnic-goers.

Voting for the "Green Team" on November 2

By Mark Stout

Tired of the "serial press conferences" that the corporate media calls "Major Party" debates? The Green Party is doubling in size and organization with each election cycle. We ask you to join us in the electoral arm of the growing movement for peace, racial and economic justice, environmental protection, and real democracy. How can you help? Volunteer with Green campaigns, register and vote Green, and donate some Green to our campaigns!

Cobb/LaMarche for President/Vice President

The Cobb/LaMarche campaign is committed to building a strong and vibrant Green Party, to offer voters an ongoing alternative to the two-party system. David Cobb and Patricia LaMarche support the hundreds of greens running for local office. They consistently advocate instant runoff voting (IRV) as the best solution to the "spoiler" problem.

David's mid-August visit to the Central Valley generated an impressive amount of media attention. Search <cagreens.org/news> for: David Cobb Fresno

Cobb/LaMarche are in favor of:

- Universal, single-payer health care
- A living wage for all workers
- Energy independence—slowing global warming, creating jobs
- An end to the racist War on Drugs
- The repeal of the Patriot Act

David had a successful law practice until early 2000, when Ralph Nader asked him to manage the Green Party effort in Texas. He coordinated the ballot access drive in Texas that collected more than 76,000 signatures in 75 days. He served as the general counsel for the Green Party of the United States until declaring his candidacy and was the Green Party of Texas (GPTX) candidate for Attorney General in 2002.

In 1996 Patricia was the first and only female host at the venerated heritage talk radio station, WGAN. She soon became known for her liberal views and was approached to run for governor of the state of Maine in 1998 on the Green Independent Party ticket. Despite a grassroots campaign, the death of her mother midway through, and raising her two children as a single mother, LaMarche led a successful campaign that generated seven percent of the vote from a budget of just $20,000. She became the first woman in the history of the state of Maine to gain ballot access for a political party due to her campaign.

Cobb/LaMarche 2004: <www.votecobb.org> (*Donations Needed!*), (559) 233–5907 (Mark)

Larry Mullen for Congress, District 19

Meet Larry Mullen—a veteran, a welder by trade and an educator by profession, and a 34-year teachers union member. He's running as the Green Party candidate for the House of Representatives in the 19th Congressional District. You will be represented fairly and equitably. Your interests as Americans will not be compromised by global corporations. ***He's not for sale!***

Incumbent George Radanovich broke his word on term limits. He gave up his constitutional power to declare war. He sent American jobs to foreign countries by fast-tracking NAFTA and supporting the outsourcing. He is for the WTO. His contempt for public input was exposed by his vindictive and punitive treatment of the Yosemite Plan. Larry loves his country too much to allow these actions to go unchallenged.

In contrast, as your 'Citizen Legislator' Larry supports:

- Creating jobs, not exporting them.
- Fair trade—not "free" trade.
- Protecting our sacred freedoms in the Bill of Rights.
- Foreign policy not driven by oil.
- Bringing home the troops soon with honor. He will work for peace.
- Eliminate government waste. Audit the books!
- Single payer healthcare reform.

In your heart, you know what's right for the American people. Together, we can create an economy where everyone shares in the prosperity of America. Where our freedoms are preserved and elections are fair. Where the environment is protected. That's the America we deserve! Larry appreciates the generous financial and volunteer support his campaign has inspired and now asks for your vote on November 2.

Mullen for Congress: <www.4Mullen.org> (559) 222–VOTE

John Crockford for Assembly, District 29

John Crockford, a frequent contributor to the *Community Alliance*, has been a tireless advocate for increasing education funding, universal health care, a woman's right to choose, reforming "Three Strikes," and ending the War on Drugs by supporting medical marijuana. He supports the ability of all persons residing in the State of California to get a driver's license, regardless of their immigration status.

John has been a resident of Clovis for 17 years, arriving from Texas with his family in November of 1986. He currently owns his own Web design and development business and operates several Web sites, including a commercial endeavor promoting "Old Town Clovis."

John Crockford for Assembly: <john.crockford.org>

We are planning serious "get out the vote" activities leading right up to election day, making sure we get Greens to the polls to vote for Green candidates, better access to health care, and protecting our precious open space. We can use your help!

To get involved: (559) 233–5907 (Mark), <fresnogreens.org>

Mark Stout is the San Joaquin Valley Coordinator for the Cobb/LaMarche 2004 campaign, cofounder of the Fresno County Green Party, and works as a computer networking/sustainable energy consultant. He joins the Green Party of California in urging a Yes Vote on Prop 66, fix 3 Strikes:<voteyeson66.org>

Wonder Women Writers rally for Cobb amidst sunflowers at a local fundraiser in the Tower District.

WHICH FUTURE?

By Diane Scott

There seem to be at least three directions for us to choose in the upcoming election. We can vote to keep what we've had for the last four years or we can vote for change. The three options, as I see them, are 1. Vote for Bush, 2. Vote for Kerry, 3. Vote for a libertarian, an American Independent, a Peace and Freedom party, or Green candidate.

1. A vote for Bush will see a continued war in Iraq even though Bush has declared victory. Already 1,000 American military personnel have died and 5,542 have been wounded and maimed, and there will be more casualties. Has this war made you feel any safer?

What about jobs? 2.4 million jobs have been eliminated in the last four years. And the ones left are mostly minimum-wage jobs, whose workers are kept below the poverty level.

Health care for families has declined: 44 million Americans have none. Meanwhile, taxes have been cut for the top 2% of Americans.

And the Patriot Act, far from catching terrorists, has taken away many of our constitutional rights.

2. A vote for John Kerry will replace the current administration with people we can hope and expect to restore jobs with decent wages, health care for all of us, and return our standing in the world and even stop the fighting in Iraq. We will all still need to pay attention to government and let our representatives all over the country know what we want but, perhaps, we will have more of a chance of getting our wants and needs met. At least with Kerry there's a chance things will improve.

3. A vote for one of the other candidates, as enticing as that might seem, would not increase the chance for a Bush defeat but could help do the opposite. And this speaks to a profound problem with our system of voting.

Most important though, no matter what the outcome of the election, our voting system must be changed. We the people cannot just sit back and tune in to the latest reality show on TV. That would just continue the same problems in our voting system that we have right now.

If we are truly to be a government of, by, and for the people, we need to begin to fix our system of voting before we lose the ability to interact with our government entirely. Some of these problems we've had from the beginning—such as the electoral college. It simply stands between the people's vote and the choosing of the president. We could either attempt to reform the electoral college system by changing the method of allocating electoral votes or eliminate the electoral college altogether. However, elimination would call for a constitutional amendment which could take seven years or more to ratify.

Another problem we have is with the two-party, winner-take-all system. It leaves many of us without any representation of our views, needs, or hopes. One system, called proportional representation, has been used briefly in this country in the past but not on a national level. This system is used in other countries also, Canada being one. In this system, a constituency or party that receives, for instance, 10% of the vote wins 10% of the seats. This system is reported to increase diversity of representation. There are other benefits also and a good explanation is given in the Green Party Web site <cagreens.org/platform/democrac.htm>.

Other ways of improving our system might be to require national votes on national issues. Now that computers are present in homes, schools, and many other places, and since online voting is taking place already on many different issues by various groups on the Internet, a national vote could be easily handled.

Also, campaign finance reform is badly needed; and stripping corporations of their "personhood" status would prevent them from giving unending amounts of money to candidates who, when elected, are always in hock to the corporations that funded them.

I'm sure there are many more ways and ideas all of you have, but change will not happen without people coming together, proposing changes, and working to make them come about.

Let's look at this election as a starting point for making our country really work for all of us.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC makes the following recommendations in the November 2, 2004 elections:

FUSD Trustee in the Roosevelt District: Manuel Nunez

Measure B: Support

Measure Z: Oppose

State Proposition 72: Support

Endorsements required at least a two-thirds vote of the members attending the CVPPAC's endorsement meeting.

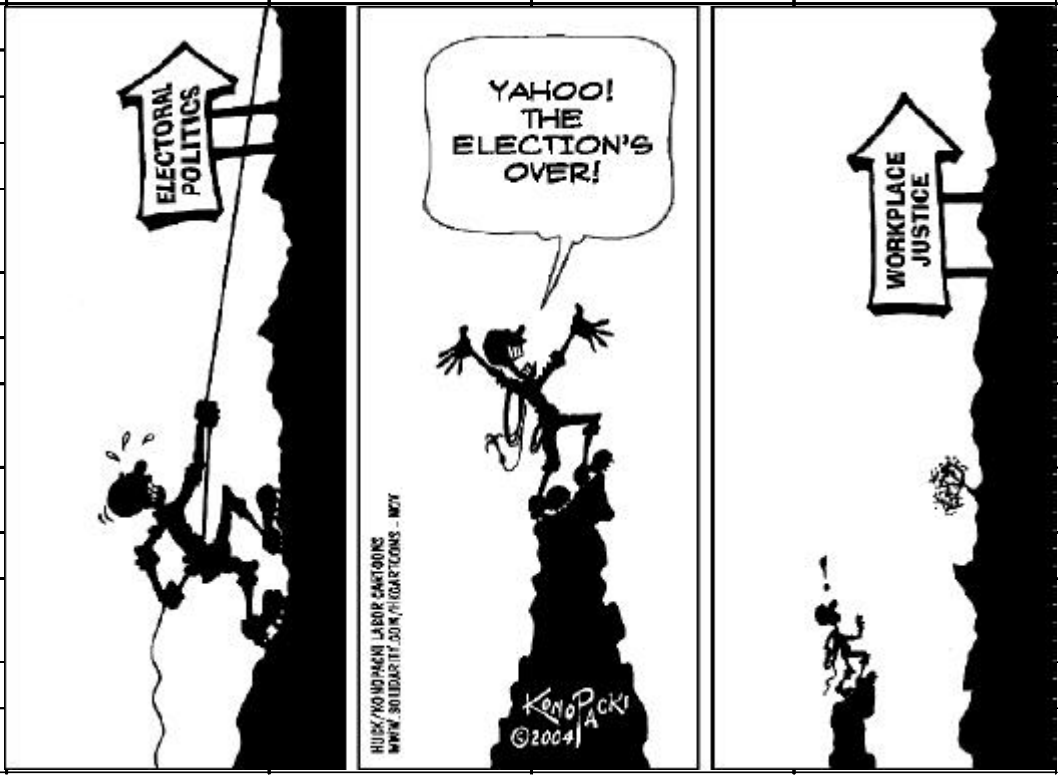
The purpose of the CVPPAC organization is to promote the human and civil rights of all Central Valley residents. This is to be accomplished through education and action. The CVPPAC will advocate and or lobby elected officials relative to the concerns/core values of Central Valley residents. The CVPPAC will also recruit, endorse and support candidates for office who are committed to the concerns/core values of Central Valley residents as expressed (presented) by the CVPPAC. These concerns/core values include, but are not limited to: a living wage for all workers, clean air, affordable housing, adequate public transportation and bike paths, public safety, police accountability, improved public education and health care for all. The CVPPAC is dedicated to enhancing (improving) the participation of Central Valley residents in the election of governmental officials by sponsoring "Get Out the Vote" campaigns.

The Community Alliance Political

Offices	Fresno County Green Party	Democratic Party	Service Emplyoyee International Union	Fresno-Madera-Tulare--Kings County Central Labor Council	United Farm Workers Union
President	David Cobb	John Kerry	John Kerry	John Kerry	John Kerry
U.S. Senate		Barbara Boxer	Barbara Boxer	Barbara Boxer	Barbara Boxer
Congress					
18th Congressional District		Dennis Cardoza			
19th Congressional District	Larry Mullen	Bufford			
20th Congressional District		Jim Costa		Jim Costa	
21th Congressional District		Davis			
					State
29th District	John Crockford	Macias			
30th District		Nicole Parra	Nicole Parra	Nicole Parra	
31st District		Juan Arambula	Juan Arambula	Juan Arambula	Juan Arambula
Board of Supervisors				Sal Quintero	Henry Perea
					Fresno Unifi
Roosevelt			Manuel Nunez	Manuel Nunez	
Sunnyside					
Fresno High			Carol Mills	Carol Mills	
Hoover			Michael O'Hare	Michael O'Hare	
					Fresno Co
B	Yes			Yes	
J	No			Yes	
Z	No				
					State P
1A: Protection of Local Government Revenues		Yes			
59: Public Records, Open Meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
60: Election Rights of Political Parties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
60A: Surplus Property		Yes	No	No	
61: Bonds for Children's Hospitals	No	Yes		Yes	
62: Election Primaries	No	No	No	No	No
63: Mental Health Services Expansion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
64: Limits on Private Enforcement of Unfair Business Competition Laws	No	No	No	No	No
65: Local Government Funds, Revenues, State Mandates	Yes		No	No	
66: Limitations on "Three Strikes Law"	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
67: Emergency Medical Services, Funding, Telephone Surcharge -	No	No			
68: Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion	No	No	Yes	No	No
69: DNA Samples, Collection, Database	No	No	No	No	
70: Tribal Gaming Compacts, Exclusive Gaming Rights, Contributions to State		No	No	No	No
71: Bonds for Stem Cell Research	No	Yes			
72: Healthcare Coverage Requirements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Endorsement Grid • November 2004

s	Black Political Council	Central Valley Progressive PAC	Fresno Teachers Association	Fresno Area Congregations Together	Planned Parenthood	Sierra Club
	John Kerry				John Kerry	John Kerry
	Barbara Boxer				Barbara Boxer	Barbara Boxer
					Dennis Cardoza	
	Jim Costa				Jim Costa	
Assembly						
					Nicole Parra	
	Juan Arambula					Juan Arambula
	Sal Quintero					Henry Perea
ed School Board						
		Manuel Nunez		Manuel Nunez		
	Valerie Davis		Valerie Davis			
	Carol Mills		Carol Mills			
	Sean Radbill		Bill Brewster			
unty Measures						
	Yes	Yes				
	Yes					
	No	No		No		
ropositions						
	Yes					
	Yes					
	Yes					
	Yes					
	Yes					
	No					
	Yes					
	No					
	No					
	Yes					
	No					
	No					
	No					
	No					
	Yes					
	Yes	Yes				



October 1- November 30
Photo Exhibit in the Arte Américas Library Gallery. Beyond Borders/Transnational Working Communities by David Bacon. Arte Américas will present the work of renowned social documentary photographer, David Bacon. The project looks at the lives of people, the ties that bind them together, their relation to work and the pursuit of work, the nature and scope of their poverty, and how they struggle for a better life, both individually and as a community. It looks at migrants from Mexican, Guatemalan and U.S. perspectives, through first-hand accounts of people themselves.

Arte Américas is located at 1630 Van Ness Ave in downtown Fresno. For more information call (559) 266-2623 or visit their website at www.arteamericas.org**Tuesday, October 26 • 3 PM**
The Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the GOTV Video Series, Unpresidented , North Gym 144.

Wednesday, October 27 • 4 PM
The Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the GOTV Video Series, Outfoxed, North Gym 144.

Wednesday, October 27 • 12 noon and 7:30 PM
Unprecedented: 2000 Presidential Elections. The controversy surrounding the Bush/Gore election. Explores various aspects of corruption and deception surrounding the 2000 Presidential Election, including the dangling chads, the erroneous, racially discriminative elimination of thousands of voters by the state of Florida, and other key issues. Duration 50 minutes.

Discussions follow evening events. Admission: free but donations gratefully accepted. The film showing will be held at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Avenue, 559-237-3223 fcnv@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, October 27 • 6 PM
Take Back The Night is a gathering and march that will be held at the Fresno State Peace Garden. It is an international event that made its first US debut in San Francisco in 1978. Now, it is celebrated all over the US, with the essence of making the night safer for everyone, especially women. Take Back the Night is sponsored by the Women's Alliance and the Women's Resource Center. For more information, please call the Fresno State Women's Resource Center at 278-4435.

Thursday, October 28 • 1 PM
The Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the GOTV Video Series, featuring No on Z and Green Party candidates, Free Speech Platform.

Thursday, October 28 • 4 PM
The Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the GOTV Video Series, Iraq Uncovered, North Gym

Friday, October 29 • 6 PM
The Central California Alliance is sponsoring a Screening and Discussion of Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11. Cost is $9 for CCA Members, and $11 for Non-Members. It will be held at 846 E. Fairmont (SW corner of Maroa & Fairmont). Send payment to P.O. Box 16422, Fresno, CA 93755 or Online by PayPal: www.ccafresno.org

Friday, October 29 • 6:30-8:30 PM
The Reedley Peace Center presents a Town Hall Meeting: A discussion of the ballot initiatives by former-attorneys Ted Loewen and Jerry Linscheid.

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

Friday, October 29 • 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Peace Fresno Friday Night Protest at the northeast corner of Shaw and Cedar . Purpose: To oppose war and many of the Bush administration's foreign and domestic policies. Street protests are a way to get that message out to the public. We want everyone in Fresno to know there is an active peace movement in our community.

Friday, October 29 • 7 PM
War Victim Memorial Procession and Vigil in Visalia. The South Valley Peace Center will lead a procession down the Main Street sidewalk to remember the men, women, and children killed and wounded in Iraq. The procession will start at 7 p.m. at the northeast corner of Main and West Streets and end with a vigil at Main and Garden Streets (about a 1/3-mile walk). At the vigil, people are encouraged to make statements, read poetry, etc. Participants are encouraged to wear black and carry a flashlight shielded with a paper cone to simulate a candle. Details: www.svpc.info info@svpc.info , Graciela Martinez 733-4844

Monday, November 1 • TBA
The Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the GOTV Video Series, Farenheit 911, TBA.

Tuesday, November 2 • ELECTION DAY

Wednesday, November 3 • 7 - 9 PM
Reflections of the Mind, presented by CSUF Poetry Jam. CSUF Coffee House & Pub Open Mic, Beginning & Experienced Poets Welcome. Free & open to public
http://lennon.csufresno.edu/~marylee/poetryinmotion.html

Thursday, November 4 • Noon
Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) presents the My Lai Veterans Peace Park, USU 317.

Thursday, November 4 • 7 pm
Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition meeting.

Friday, November 5 • 6:30-8:30 PM
The Reedley Peace Center presents Mike Boehm of Madison Quakers, Inc. presents a slide presentation entitled HOPE RISES FROM THE ASHES OF MY LAI. Veteran of the American war in Vietnam Boehm first returned to Vietnam in 1992 to help build a medical clinic. While there he began to come to terms with his own experiences there and to understand the tremendous capacity of people-to-people projects for building peace and reconciliation between our two societies.

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

Friday, November 5 • 8 pm
Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition invites you to support Local Music – Zambra Live @ Full Circle Brewery.

Saturday, November 6 • 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.

Thursday, November 11 • 8 pm
Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the Speakers Series, Free Speech Platform.

Friday, November 12 • 5 PM and 8 PM
Fresno Filmworks presents *Intimate Strangers* at the Tower Theatre. Veteran director Patrice Leconte's newest take on love and desire is a playful thriller with nods to Hitchcock. The film is co-sponsored by *L'Alliance française de Fresno*. 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, November 13 • 2 PM
The Central Valley Progressive PAC will meet at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness, south of McKinley. For more information call (559) 978-4502 or email info@cvppac.org Also see: http://www.cvppac.org/

Thursday, November 18 • 5 PM
Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the Middle East Forums, "The Palestine Peace Process and It's Failures" PB 191.

Friday, November 19 • 3 PM
Campus Peace & Civil Liberties Coalition (CSUF) invites you to the Middle East Forums, "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East" UC 200

Friday, November 26 • National Buy Nothing Day.
For more information go to: http://adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd

National Coming Out Day Event at Fresno City Hall

By Dan Waterhouse

More than a hundred members of the glbt community and allies gathered on Sunday, October 10, on the Fresno City Hall plaza to celebrate National Coming Out Day.

And the homophobes stayed away.

There were no counter-protesters—there had been rumors there might be—and the day was beautiful and perfect.

One of the speakers, past Central California Alliance president Robin McGehee, made it plain how she felt to a cheering crowd—quoting from the movie *Network*: "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

She outlined several actions she'd like the glbt community and its supporters to take.

They included visiting or calling Mayor Alan Autry to let him know that his "actions are as violent as those" of hate crimes against the glbt community.

Other actions included sending Autry a month's worth of receipts with the sales tax circled and with the note "gay money that supports this city," talking to one non-glbt person about some of the issues important to the community, and protesting the Focus on the Family's "ex"-gay event at Peoples' Church on November 6.

Baltimore Gonzalez and Robert Flanagan of Marriage Equality California being interviewed by Channel 30

She concluded by saying, "I'm a human being and my life has value, regardless of what Alan Autry believes!"

The Coming Out Day event was organized by a group that included Baltimore Gonzalez and Robert Flanagan of Marriage Equality California and Jason Scott of Fresno Pride.

Gonzalez said above all, he wanted the larger community to "see us out supporting those wanting to come out."

Two weeks earlier, Gonzalez asked Autry to sign a proclamation acknowledging National Coming Out Day.

According to Gonzalez, when he sent the draft proclamation to Autry's office on September 26, he "offered to change the wording in any way possible to make it comfortable" for Autry to sign.

Autry refused to either edit the draft proclamation or sign it. Gonzalez said Autry then refused to say why he wouldn't.

In a written statement released to the *Fresno Bee*, Autry said "whether a person comes out or not is solely up to each individual. A city proclamation serves no useful purpose in the deeply private and personal decision."

Gonzalez said he submitted the following text for the proclamation (with the Whereases removed): "National Coming Out day is a day to accept ourselves as who we are, live a healthy life of honesty and openness about being a part of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender communities and/or a supporter of civil rights and equality for all communities; and this is a day to share our stories with those who love and support us, and sometimes to educate those who may want or need to learn more about these issues. It is commonly believed that the invisibility of this minority group allows for perpetuation of discrimination and hatred against men and women on the basis of sexual orientation; National Coming Out Day has become a symbol of celebration and remembrance of those individuals who challenged us, inspired us, fought for equal civil and human rights, educated the general public by combating stereotypes and myths; the City of Fresno is committed to fairness and the recognition of the full rights and responsibilities of citizenship and contributions of all Fresno residents, including the GLBT Community. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, _____ of the City of Fresno, do hereby proclaim, October 11th, 2004, to be: "NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY" in the City of Fresno, and recognize the contributions of all people, including the GLBT Community of Fresno."

Autry then told organizers he would never sign a proclamation acknowledging the glbt community. Autry told representatives of CCA and Community Link on August 9 he would sign a proclamation acknowledging a "glbt awareness day." He also offered to speak at any glbt event at the City Hall plaza. Autry was nowhere in sight on October 10.

Gonzalez urged the crowd to take the time to find out who the glbt community's true friends are. He reported that no member of the Fresno City Council would sign the proclamation. Gonzalez said he did get a response from the county Board of Supervisors.

Gonzalez presented the proclamation to the crowd, saying, "We are proclaiming this ourselves. We the people should sign this; we don't need anyone else to do this."

After Gonzalez made brief remarks, several speakers followed. They included the Rev. Bryan Jessup of the Unitarian Universalist church, CCA president Sue Stone, Mike Martinez of QueerFresno, Chris Esqueda of United Student Pride, Flanagan, and McGehee.

Martinez reminded the crowd of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk (who was the first openly gay man elected to the board there) and mentioned that Milk believed "the number one enemy of the glbt community at any time was invisibility."

Martinez said he's 33 and came out at 28. The first few years he kept silent and said nothing as friends made anti-gay jokes. He remarked at first the only place in public he'd show outward affection toward his boyfriend was the Tower District. He said he finally realized the longer he kept silent about who he truly was, the longer he helped "keep the foot of our oppressors on our necks."

He is silent no longer.

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

CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

PAIRS PROJECT LAUNCH: The Pairs Project, matching people across significant boundaries (race, religion, etc.) will be officially begun with an orientation meeting at the Center on Sunday, November 7, at 3 PM. Those interested in participating can obtain information and applications at the Center, even after the November 7. (P.S. The invitation to Mayor Autry to be my partner has not yet been responded to. I will persist till I get an answer.)

PEACE CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH: Our 5th annual program of mini-grants for projects by youth is now open for applications, funded by the Whitney Foundation. Supervised groups of 3 or more youngsters (under 18 years old and living in Fresno County) can apply for grants up to $200 for activities to "Make It Better" in their social milieu. Application forms, with simple instructions, are available from the Center, and (soon) online at our Web site.

MOVIE DAY/NIGHT: We continue our film series with showings on the second Wednesday of the month (November 10) at 12 noon and 7:30 PM. We are hoping to show *Thirst,* the documentary about the politics of water in the Valley, but we have not confirmed its availability as of press time. For up-to-date information call our 24-hour information line.

WHITE PRIVILEGE: The group that meets to discuss issues related to racism and the unrecognized benefits of "whiteness" will resume meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (November 17) at 7 PM. The scheduled guest speaker will be Michael Blackbull, professor of American Indian studies at Fresno City College. The public is welcome.

MY LAI REVISITED: We are proud to sponsor the return to Fresno of Mike Boehm, a Vietnam vet who has been doing restitution work—building schools and peace parks, arranging loans for new micro-industries—in the country he helped ravage as a soldier. He was here last year and is a passionate advocate for peace and reconciliation. He will be speaking at Fresno City College and CSUF on Thursday and Friday, November 4–5. Call us for exact times and locations. He will also speak at the Reedley Peace Center Friday evening. He is well worth coming to hear.

GANDHI VIA MARKS (quotations contributed by Diane Marks): "I do not believe the spiritual law works on a field of its own. On the contrary, it expresses itself only through the ordinary activities of life. It thus affects the economic, the social, and the political fields." *Young India*, Sept. 1935

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

The Welch Report

Jack H. Welch, M.D.

CURRENT US IDOLS: EMPIRE AND SECURITY

We now live in a country with an administration that is unabashedly imperial and is obsessed with security. We choose to use our power to impose our will rather than serve the common good. It is urgent that we reconnect with what counts most and reorder our priorities.

ABOUT POWER

The threat to our and others' security is very real. But instead of addressing the central question about who hates us and why, and collaborating with the rest of the world to apprehend real perpetrators, our government has unleashed the full might of its military power in two wars, neither of which has yet achieved its objectives.

Power in itself is not evil, but "it becomes evil when a government spurns international opinion and sees its policies as divinely illumined and ordained, as though US rule were the manifestation of God's will for all of humanity. It becomes evil when it foregoes the path of reason and is exercised predominantly through armed force. The twin idols of empire and security become evil when they absorb such an amount of attention and funding that we either ignore or are unable to address so many other pressing needs, both here and abroad."

Imperial pretensions are obvious in the war against Iraq, a war to assert US hegemony in the Middle East, a war we pursed against the will of most of the world. This war is illegal and immoral. "According to the charter of the UN, which the US helped start, a nation can wage war only in its self-defense and only under the authority of the UN Security Council." The president and members of his Cabinet repeatedly distorted the truth in their zeal to carry out the war. The weapons of mass destruction—the "imminent threat"—turned out be nonexistent. Millions of people in the streets around the world denounced the war, "but the almost universal pleas and chants could not penetrate an administration whose messianic worldview divided the world into good guys and bad guys; if countries were not with us, they were against us."

The peace dividend following the fall of the Soviet Union and the hope for a more peaceful and just world have not materialized. Instead we have a unipolar world with the US, unrivaled, asserting its dominance and power. The Bush administration has virtually defied the rest of the world, exemplified by their withdrawal of the US signature of agreement with the World Court's authority—because nobody has the right to hold US officials or soldiers accountable!

The major justification for this assertion of US power is that we and the world are threatened by terrorists who, indeed, must be defeated. But the War on Terror threatens to bring us a world characterized by perpetual warfare in which are sacrificed truth, history, civil rights, and the bonds of human community. We now spend more on the military than the next 17 nations combined, including the squandering of billions of dollars on a missile defense program, which probably can never be made to work.

REORDERING PRIORITIES

In reordering our priorities the following question needs consideration: why do people around the world resent or hate the United States? This means looking at the patterns of self-interest in our foreign policy and committing ourselves to work more effectively to help meet the dire needs of poor countries so that desperation and revenge are diminished. We must redirect this country away from arrogant unilateralism back to cooperation with the UN and the international community. Our democracy is in trouble: "big money is clogging the heart of the US" and some of "the press have become the lapdog to power." A bold and persistent exposure of power, both in government and business, by the media is vital to restoring our endangered democracy. (Source: Article by Dan Onorato, *Stanislaus Connections,* July-August 2004)

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

WILPF DATES:

Wednesday, November 3, Noon: Women in Black, Fresno County Courthouse Breezeway

Thursday, November 4, 7 PM: WILPF General Membership Meeting. 1584 N Van Ness Ave. Consensus Building Workshop to be presented. See details below.

Monday, November 8, 7 PM: WILPF Business Meeting. 1584 N Van Ness Ave

Wednesday, November 24, 3:30 PM: WILPF Stir-It-Up. Hosted by Vickie Fouts

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

WILPF International Congress Report: Ellie Bluestein gave a report on her recent trip to the WILPF International Congress in Sweden to about a dozen members on September 19 at the home of WILPFer Nancy Waidtlow. Ellie had a lot of wonderful information to share with us. She was very enthused about the workshops she attended on the privatization and state of the world's water supply and the Israel/Palestine conflict. Ellie was also the guest on the WILPF Stir-It-Up radio show on September 22 and shared much the same information to a larger audience. **Thanks** to Nancy for being the hostess for Ellie's report. **Thanks** to Ellie for representing Fresno at the Congress and sharing her experience with all of us.

Women's Spirituality Panel: As part of the Building a Culture of Peace/Stop the Hate Week at CSUF, WILPF presented a Women's Spirituality Panel on September 29. The event was well attended by about 30 students and others in the audience. **Thanks** to WILPFer panelists Veena Kapoor, representing Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, and Morghan Young, president of CSUF's Buddhist Students for Peace Through Dialogue, representing Nichiren Buddhist. Other panelists were Susan Moran for the Jewish faith, Sarah Al-Hashimi from the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, and Mary Anne Isaak of the Mennonite Brethren Church representing Christianity. **Thanks** to the panelist for volunteering to participate and share their experiences on how they use their spirituality to build a culture of peace in their lives. Several in the audience signed up to be informed of upcoming panels and picked up literature about multi-faith/cultural groups in Fresno and the different faiths. The public seems to appreciate these panels, and we will continue to have them now and then. If you are interested in helping organizing future panels, please contact me.

Candidate Night: Our first membership meeting on October 7 was attended by five members. All candidates for the 29th Assembly District were invited to attend, but only John Crockford of the Green Party was there. We had a lively discussion on third-party politics and were able to hear John's stand on several issues. One thing John talked about that I felt was of high interest to WILPFers was information about California's State Militia or National Guard. Did you know that Bush was able to send California's National Guard troops to Iraq because we agreed to take federal monies for our Guard? If we refuse to take that money, the president is unable to order our Guard to take action outside of our state. That is something we should really look into for the future. What if all 50 states had that in place before the Iraq war? How many lives could have been saved? How soon would the war be over or never started if Bush didn't have those resources (bodies) available to him?

Racial Justice Week: Earlier this year WILPF signed onto Racism Watch 2004, which encourages local activists to take the initiative to bring issues related to racial justice into the political debate. They issued a Call to Action: Vote for Racial Justice Week, October 18-24 for groups to put on local actions and campaigns in support of racial justice. Our interns, Rick and Lupe, organized an event at CSUF on October 21, featuring music, poets, and speakers to address the issue. They also had handouts showing where six of the presidential candidates (where else do you hear from more than the two main parties?) stood on 12 issues around racial justice: race/class bias in the legal system, unequal resources for public schools, unemployment/human needs programs, drug use treated as a public health problem, the death penalty, reform of the voting system, repeal of the Patriot Act, immigrant rights, affirmative action and reparations, environmental justice, Native American sovereignty/treaty rights and a new, justice-based foreign policy. Check out the handout before you vote at <www.racismwatch.org/candidates.pdf>.

WILPFers also joined Peace Fresno at the corner on October 22 with signs calling attention to the election around racial justice issues.

Quote of the Month: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will." —Frederick Douglass

Consensus Building Workshop: As part of our by-law and policy & procedures committee work, Fresno WILPF has decided to use consensus decision making on major issues during our board meetings. Please join us November 4 at 7 PM (see above) to learn how to implement and use consensus decision making. The workshop will be facilitated by WILPFer Marilyn Shelton, who teaches peace-building at CSUF and has a wonderful understanding and knowledge of the subject. WILPF board members, as well as others, are *highly* encouraged to attend in order to be informed of the new process so our branch can be the best that it can be.

My Lai Peace Project: Last year we celebrated Veterans Day with a presentation at CSUF with Mike Boehm of the My Lai Peace Project and other projects in Vietnam as part of Madison Quakers, Inc. Mike will be returning to Fresno November 4–5. Our interns will be working on setting up another presentation. Stay tuned for details.

Peace Community Crafts Faire: Join us on December 4, 10 AM to 4 PM at the First Congregational Church, 2131 Van Ness Blvd, for the yearly WILPF Peace Community Crafts Faire. Fun, food, music, and the best holiday gifts you can find will be available. This is our major fundraiser of the year and a great place to meet old and new friends who believe in PEACE. For more information, contact Ingrid Carmean or Vickie Fouts.

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

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.

OFF LINE

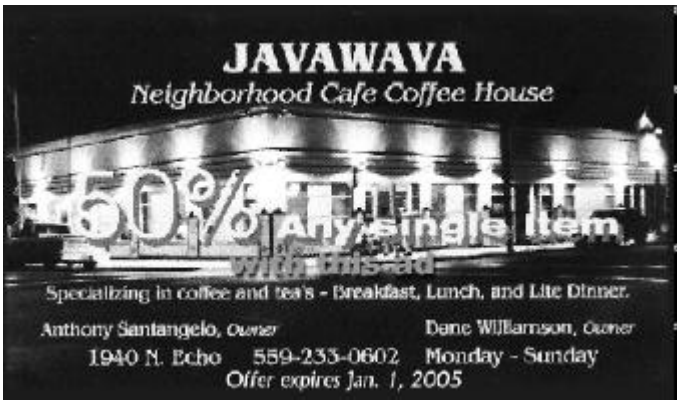
Offline Independent Energy Systems

PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN, INSTALLATION & SALES

21 years of inspired service

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

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



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

Jacob M. Weisberg

Attorney at Law

Law Office of
JACOB M. WEISBERG
844 N. Van Ness Ave.
Fresno, CA 93728

(559) 441-0201
FAX (559) 442-3164
Email: jmw@jweisberglaw.com

CHINATOWN Family Medicine and Midwifery
Medical Office

Chanah Cossman, CNM
Nurse-Midwife
Prenatal and Newborn Care

Enfermera Partera
Cuidado Prenatal y de Bebé

Hospital & Home Birth Services

829 F Street
Fresno, CA 93706

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

HUME
PRINTING & LITHOGRAPH, INC.
SERVING FRESNO SINCE 1911.

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@sbcglobal.net

PATIENCE MILROD
LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844
North Van Ness
Fresno, California
93728

559/442-3111
pm097@csufresno.edu

Sue Stone MD

Holistic & Integrative Family Medicine

559.435.1650
Fax: 559.435.1471
docsue@docsue.com

7415 N. Cedar Ave. Suite #101 • Fresno, CA 93720

QUAKERS

FRESNO FRIENDS MEETING

Silent Worship Sunday 10-11 AM

ALL WELCOME

2219 San Joaquin, Fresno • 237-4102

Trial Set for Peace Fresno's VP

Ken Hudson, Peace Fresno's vice president, is scheduled to receive a jury trial starting November 3 regarding his March 20, 2004, arrest at a Peace Fresno rally. The March 20 rally was held in solidarity with the Global Day of Action to "Bring the Troops Home NOW!" on the first anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Hudson is charged with delaying a peace officer in the course of his duty, a violation of PC 148(a). This is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for up to a year, a fine of up to $1,000, or both. The arrest occurred after Hudson requested the officer to move a short distance (Peace Fresno's banner was being obstructed). Hudson, along with many witnesses, maintains that the arrest by Officer Erich Garringer of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department was unwarranted.

The arrest raises a question of retaliation on the part of the arresting officer. The arrest occurred two weeks after Peace Fresno had filed a tort claim against the Sheriff's Department for infiltrating the group (as seen in *Fahrenheit 9-11*). Hudson was one of the organizers of the Peace Fresno event at the time of his arrest.

For more details of the arrest, see the story by Mike Rhodes in the May 2004 issue of the *Community Alliance.* The trial was originally scheduled for October 6, but the prosecutor then requested more time.

The trial will be held at the Fresno County Courthouse, Department 13 (on the bottom floor) at 1100 Van Ness in Downtown Fresno, beginning with jury selection at 1:30 p.m. Peace Fresno is encouraging community members to show their support at the trial but to refrain from displaying signs, particularly before the jury is selected.

There is always a possibility that the November 3 trial could be delayed or cancelled. Updates will be posted at <www.peacefresno.org> and on our phone message at (559) 487–2515.

HOWARD'S HOPEFULS

[Editor's Note: This voting recommendation list is by Howard K. Watkins, a local attorney and active community member, who paid for this insert. He notes some of his choices are clear, others are close calls. Whether you agree with all of them or not, he urges you to vote in the November 2nd general election.]

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL RACES		ST. PROPS.	
President	KERRY	1A	YES
U. S. Senate	BOXER	59	YES
18th Congress	CARDOZA	60	NO
19th Congress	BUFFORD	60A	YES
20th Congress	COSTA	61	YES
St. Assembly 29th	CROCKFORD	62	NO
St. Assembly 30th	PARRA	63	YES
St. Assembly 31st	ARAMBULA	64	NO
Bd. Of Supes 3rd	QUINTERO	65	YES
Bd. of Ed. #2	EISINGER	66	YES
Bd. of Ed. #5	CLYDE	67	YES
SCCC #2	SMITH	68	NO
SCCC #3	PAREDES	69	NO
SCCC #5	FORHAN	70	NO
SCCC #6	PATTERSON	71	YES
FUSD #2	NUNEZ	72	YES
FUSD #3	DAVIS		
FUSD #5	MILLS	**COUNTY MEASURES**	
FID #2	DANGERAN	A	YES
FID #5	BOSWELL	B	YES
KRCD	CEHRS	C	NO
NCFPD	SOUZA	J	YES
NCFPD	ABRAHAMIAN	Z	NO

(If helpful, you can take this when you vote.)

VOTE!

Jobs With Justice Local Group Works on Living Wage Ordinance

By Frances Sivak

United Food and Commercial Union is campaigning continent-wide to organize Wal-Mart's 1 million workers and recently made a breakthrough in Quebec. Workers at a Wal-Mart store in Jonquiere, Quebec, have won the right to a union. "The Quebec certification shows that when workers' rights are protected, the Wal-Mart workers will exercise those rights with a voice at work," said UFCW International President Joseph Hansen. "Our challenge is to make sure that governments protect workers' rights across Canada, the U.S., and around the world," he added.

Here in the States, Wal-Mart pulled out from building a "Super Center" in Chicago after the City Council delayed the store due to concerns raised by UFCW Local 881, JwJ, and other worker groups about Wal-Mart's below-market wages, bad working conditions, job discrimination, and lack of quality health-care benefits. Chicago has a new living-wage ordinance that applies to all big box retailers of 75,000 square feet or more. "It requires them to provide decent wages and benefits to their employees, while giving hiring preference to local residents," wrote Alderman Joseph Moore. A Wal-Mart spokesperson said, "It's not about a living-wage issue. It's about an ordinance that singles out some—not all—businesses in Chicago."

We can see that living-wage ordinances vary from city to city. Fresno's Living Wage Committee is still researching to formulate what best fits Fresno. At this point we are still preparing an ordinance that would direct City Council to include a living-wage provision for its contracted works. Our fledgling committee does need help. Please contact Frances Sivak with the Fresno Needs a Living Wage Committee at fsivak@msn.com if you are interested.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

BOX 5077 FRESNO CA 93755
[change service requested]

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fresno, CA
Permit # 02103

CA 1(