

Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan

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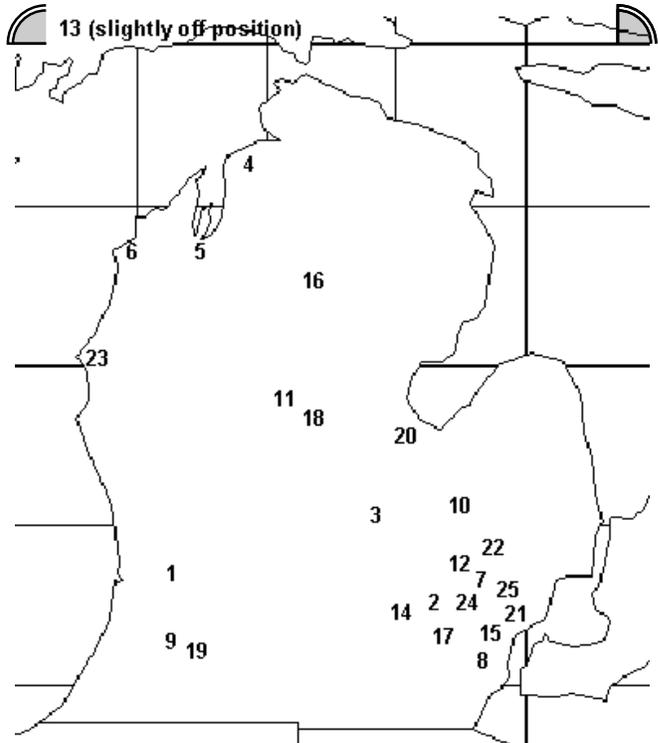


In this issue:

FEC Recognizes GPUS – Elections Won and Lost – Northwest Passage Open – Civil Rights Endangered – New Green Organizations – GPUSA Self Destructs – US influences Nicaragua – And More ...

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Drain the Swamp

Last Tuesday at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld mentioned an old saying: when you're up to your ass in alligators, it's hard to remember that the original plan was to drain the swamp. Capturing Osama bin Laden would still leave lots of alligators around, Rumsfeld concluded; what we really need to do is drain the swamp.

He's right. *We need to drain the swamp*: the environment, the set of conditions, where terrorists thrive. What are those conditions? Poverty, inequity, injustice, and un-democracy are among the main reasons some people choose to lead lives of noisier desperation than Thoreau wrote about.

For too many years, we've marched deeper and deeper into that swamp. Our government is defying the alligator it sees now, but we can't deny all the allegations. There are too many other plausible reasons – whether or not they're entirely true, or entirely our fault – for other people and nations to hate and fear US. It's not just our lifestyle, but what we've done to maintain it – how dirty our boots have gotten in the swamp, and whose homes we've tracked mud into:

- We've sold arms to anyone not currently our enemies – sometimes even giving away the money to buy them.
- We've trained people worldwide to be assassins, anti-superpower guerrillas, jackbooted thugs for dictators ... and dictators themselves.
- We've raised most of the world's mega-corporations – on subsidies, in an atmosphere of economics as if people don't matter – teaching them to maximize profits and minimize responsibility.
- Worse yet, we've muddied our own principles – democracy, inalienable human rights, domestic tranquillity, common defense, general welfare, liberty and justice for all.

Restoring those principles – defending them from terrorists, without sacrificing essential liberty to gain temporary security – is the most urgent matter of national security facing us today.

Martin Luther King Jr. told us, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." If we want true peace – not just a temporary absence of tension, a lull between rounds of revenge – we must make justice manifestly present everywhere ... now and forever ... legal, social, cultural, economic justice ... for all.

Justice *now* includes a fair trial for all alleged alligators. If the Taliban's show-us-the-evidence

stance is a bluff, perhaps we should call that bluff, let our facts be submitted to a candid world, prove our case – and live up to our democratic principles. Those bent on war should remember: the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.

Justice *forever* means we need to drain the swamp – so that the world environment no longer has a niche for alligator terrorists to be nurtured, grow to maturity, and come forth hungry to snap at societies they despise.

- Drain short-sighted fiscal and military support away from oppressive governments, and we drain away the hypocrisy on which terrorism feeds.
- Drain profit out of sweatshops, and we deny those alligators the resentment that is their lifeblood.
- Drain tacit approval away from corporate trampling of human rights, and we dry up the constant drizzle that keeps the swamp a dank, dismal breeding ground for discontent.
- Drain the subsidies for agribusiness to raise profits and market control rather than crops, and we can help family farms grow food for the hungry around the world.
- Drain the money buying "free" trade and "free" elections, and we can have fair weather ... and fair trade and fair elections, too.

Channel all the stagnant water in that swamp into washing our world clean again. Then justice will flow like water, and uprightness like a never-failing stream.

"Drain the swamp" is just another way of saying, "Care about the poverty and injustice and dictatorial environments over so much of the world. Pay attention." In a swamp, you have to look where you're going. If you don't, your next step could put you up to your ass in alligators ... or neck-deep in a new Big Muddy.

We must all work together, see clearly, and use our nation's resources wisely if we are to drain the swamp. Careful, responsible capture of alligators proven dangerous can help clear the way for our work; injudicious headhunting for trophies leaves the swamp there to breed more alligators.

We need to drain the swamp.

John Anthony La Pietra
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September 23-24, 2001

Federal Election Commission Recognizes the Green Party

The Green Party celebrates the FEC decision announced November 8, as the party grows and strong Green candidates challenge two-party dominance across the U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Federal Election Commission (FEC) issued a unanimous opinion recognizing the Green Party of the United States as the National Committee of the Green Party. The decision, in response to a request to the FEC from the Green Party in August, follows the Green Party's ground-breaking 2000 campaigns, including the national campaigns of Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke for President and Vice President.

"The decision of the FEC adds to the enormous momentum the Green Party now enjoys," said Dean Myerson, Green Party Political Coordinator. "We are running more candidates, electing more candidates, gaining more members and support."

During the party's annual meeting in Santa Barbara, California last July, Green delegates voted to establish a national party and to apply to the FEC for national committee status. Delegates also approved growth plans that include opening an office in Washington, D.C. and hiring a team of field organizers for the mid-term election season.



"National Committee status is a tremendous accomplishment for the young party, one that acknowledges its place as the leading and fastest growing political alternative in the United States," added David Cobb, General Counsel for the Green Party of the United States. "It will help increase the numbers of voters who recognize us as the party of change, a serious contender on the political landscape."

National Committee status will permit the Green

Party to accept contributions up to \$20,000 per year from individuals, but internal Green Party rules cap such donations at \$10,000 per year. The party and its candidates also refuse contributions from corporations.

"The Green Party is the only political party to oppose the big money that is corrupting politics in America," said Steve Schmidt, chair of the party's Platform Committee. "We're the only party that chooses to regulate itself more strictly than the federal government."

The Green Party has called for a measured and just response to the September 11 attacks, demanding that the U.S. avoid further civilian deaths and continue to protect civil liberties and our constitutional rights of dissent, free assembly, privacy, due process, and mobility. The Republican and Democratic Parties continue to retreat from supporting such protections.

"The attacks were a crime against humanity, and Greens call for the culprits to be brought to justice in an appropriate international court of law," said Annie Goeke, a Pennsylvania Green and chair of the International Committee of the Green Party of the United States. "The current war mentality threatens to undermine our rights and cause needless deaths, abroad and possibly even here in the U.S. It will prove ineffective in stopping terrorism."

The Green Party of the United States is the national political organization of the Greens, in which 33 states are represented, with other states' memberships pending. It organized the Green National Convention in Denver in June, 2000, at which Ralph Nader was nominated to run for President, and is recognized among Green Parties around the world.

To contact the Green Party of Michigan, visit <http://www.migreens.org> To find additional state Green Parties, visit the Green Party of the United States web site <http://gp.us.org> and follow the links to the state parties and their contacts and web sites.

For more information:

The Green Party of the United States

<http://gp.us.org>

Federal Election Commission

<http://www.fec.gov>

Green Party statement on the September 11 attacks http://gp.us.org/articles/9_11_01.html

Election Issues in the News - 4 Wins for Our Side

In Huntington Woods, a small residential community in Oakland County immediately north of the Detroit Zoo, they have a human rights ordinance. It bans discrimination in housing, employment, public services and public accommodations based on sexual orientation, race, religion, and other traditional factors. There are exemptions for religious institutions, private clubs, and rentals such as a room in the landlord's house.

The city commission unanimously passed the measure this April. For the most part, the ordinance was simply accepted by the residents of the city. However, there were opponents in the city, and with assistance from the Mississippi-based American Family Association, sufficient petition signatures were gathered to place the issue on the ballot. Every home in Huntington Woods got letters describing terrible consequences if this ordinance were upheld.

Last year in Ferndale, a small city between Detroit and Huntington Woods, the American Family Association was successful in opposing a similar ballot issue. Earlier this year, they were also successful in nearby Royal Oak. This time, they were opposed by an organized group, Fair and Informed Residents of Huntington Woods. This time, the voters of Huntington Woods upheld the ordinance, by a decisive vote of 1.982 to 986.

In Traverse City, the voters decided a slightly different ballot issue. There, the proposal was to prohibit city officials from passing any measures to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination. Traverse City defeated the proposal by 58 to 42 percent. Kalamazoo had on its ballot a proposal very similar to Traverse City's. The voters of Kalamazoo defeated it by a narrower margin, 54 to 46 percent.

That makes three wins out of three contests for human rights in Michigan this year. The story is that local organizing can overcome a well-financed campaign of distortions and scare tactics.

In Maine, there was an even better example of

grassroots organizing versus money, in this case corporate money. The issue in Maine was an advisory referendum for universal health care in the city of Portland.

On one side was the Campaign for Universal Health Care, a coalition including the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, the Maine Council of Senior Citizens, the League of Women Voters, the Portland City Democratic Committee, the Maine AFL-CIO, the Maine State Nurses Association, the Maine People's Alliance, Physicians for a National Health Plan, the Labor Party of Southern Maine, the Portland Independent Green Party, and several other organizations. All together, they raised and spent about \$25,000 on this campaign.

The opposition was primarily financed by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which gave \$381,803 to Citizens for Affordable Health Care. A single-payer system would force higher taxes and rationed, lower-quality care, the group said, and they said it on numerous paid advertisements. The voters of Portland, or more accurately 52 percent of the voters of Portland, refused to have their votes bought off or scared off. The referendum passed, in the face of opponents spending at least 15 times as much as supporters. The difference was organizing.

"I have done dozens of presentations across Maine to groups as diverse as the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce to unions. There is near unanimity that our health care system is broken and has to be changed. A universal single payer system is the only solution," said Janet Houghton, a registered nurse and chair of the Maine People's Alliance Health Care Coordinating Committee.

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Amber Waves of Green, published quarterly, is the official publication of the Green Party of Michigan. It is written by members and friends of the party and assembled by Linda Manning Myatt. Aside from celebrating spacious skies, and purple mountain majesty, it serves to promote the Ten Key Values of the Greens: Ecological Wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Community Economics, Decentralization, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus. Submission of articles by E mail or disc is preferred: almmyatt@earthlink.net. Snail mail can be sent to 50 Woodward Heights, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069. The Green Party of Michigan can be contacted at: Green Party of Michigan, 548 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or phone (734) 663-3555. On the Web, visit <http://www.migreens.org>, where there is a feedback form, or send E mail to migreens-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Getting Down to the Grassroots

By Jim Moreno

Mt. Pleasant City Commissioner Elect

It all started in August when an article in the local paper announced that two openings were up for grabs on the Mt. Pleasant City Commission. I decided that I would run in this non-partisan race. The first step was to go down to the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Rob Flynn is the City Clerk in Mt. Pleasant and as this is a small town, I had known him since junior high school. He was very helpful. My first task was to go door to door and collect signatures. Between fifty and eighty signatures were required.

It was a little stressful because there was a time deadline and I had decided pretty late in the game to go for this. At any rate I just went door to door in my neighborhood meeting my neighbors and asking them to sign. I ended up getting 65 signatures and meeting a lot of nice people. Most people were very willing to sign. Next a lot of my friends signed and that step was taken care of.

After the signatures were checked to make sure the people that signed lived in the city of Mt. Pleasant I was given a packet of forms to fill out from the City Clerks office. These included an Affidavit of Identity establishing my identity and what office I was running for. I also got a receipt of nomination petitions filed. At the Isabella County Clerk's office I had to file a Statement of Organization for Candidate Committees. The option I checked on this document was #10 the reporting waiver saying that I did not expect to receive or expend more than \$1000.

I also had to file an application for Employer Identification Number so I could set up a business account at the Isabella Community Credit Union called the Committee to Elect James Moreno to accept contributions and spend money for the campaign. I also needed a Business Registration Certificate, Person Conducting Business under Assumed Name or Partnership. I got this at the County Clerks office and it cost \$10. I remember hating paper work when I was younger but I guess it really turned out to be worth it in the end.

After this initial activity I didn't do much about this till about October. I did let my friends and the CMU Campus Greens know about my running. They were very encouraging and offered their help. In addition to being a member of the Green Party of Michigan I am in several community organizations.

I belong to Mt. Pleasant Area Diversity Group which deals with discrimination issues of all kinds as well as putting on Peace, Justice and Unity conferences for middle school students from throughout Michigan. I am on the Board of Trustees of Hospice of Central Michigan and the Green Tree Cooperative. I started letting the people in these organizations know I was running.

Because of the September 11 catastrophe there wasn't much campaigning. I didn't get lawn signs, and the signs I did use were only out for about two days. I didn't make flyers. I sent a letter to the editor that was printed in "CMLife," the Central Michigan University campus paper that reaches a lot of people in this community. Also I participated in a forum put on by the League of Women Voters here in late October. It was videotaped and many people in town including my mother saw it and commented about it to me.

I also was invited to participate in a SWAN forum. This is a neighborhood organization that had just arranged with the city and Central Michigan University to have a special deer bow hunting event in the city because of the damage the deer were doing to the neighborhood.

At these forums I expressed my endorsement of grassroots democracy, a healthy environment, a healthy local economy, and coalition building. (I am the first person of color on the commission.) I also mentioned that I had been elected as an at-large member of the SCC of the Green Part of Michigan for a term. These forums really made me realize just what it was I stood for and what it is that citizens want from city government.

I found very useful in this campaign the Green Party of Kent County Local Issues Platform which can be found at <http://wmgreens.iwarp.com>. People were very responsive at the forums to these ideas.

On November 6th in a four person race with, unfortunately, only a four percent voter turnout, I came in second with 215 votes. I won the seat by 13 votes.

What I will strive for now that I have been elected is to foster cooperation, communication, and, I hope, understanding between the city, the university, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian tribe (where I work) in meeting the future challenges of our city's rapid growth and development. The rapid development here in Mt. Pleasant is inevitable but

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Green Party Candidate in City Council Race

By Christie Nowak
Campaign Manager

On July 31, 2001 the Green Party of Michigan's Ann Arbor city caucus nominated Michael Nowak to run for city council in the 4th Ward against the Republican incumbent. Mike has lived in Ann Arbor for 30 years, attended Tappan Middle School and Pioneer High School, and received both his undergraduate degree in Computer Engineering and his master's degree in Library Studies from the University of Michigan. He is a researcher programmer at the University of Michigan Cancer Center. In his speech before the nominating caucus, Mike expressed his strong commitment to supporting the Green Party's four pillars and to bringing the ten key values to bear in city government. In doing this, he planned to make local traffic, instant run-off voting, affordable housing, and improving council member's interactions with their constituents his primary issues in this his campaign.

A beautiful city but with limited car parking, Ann Arbor should be one of the best biking cities in the world. The city's strong commitment to bike commuting has already been demonstrated to a degree with its many bike paths, and newly available bike racks on buses. But much more could be done in the areas of bike parking, biking safety, and driver/rider respect.

To insure that everyone's voice is heard in an election, Ann Arbor should restore Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) to its charter. Instead of voting for just one candidate out of three or more, voters would have the opportunity to rank the candidates in the order of their preference. If no one wins a majority, the run off begins instantly, and continues until one candidate wins a majority. Thus the selection of that candidate more accurately reflects the will of the voters. This system is currently used in hundreds of professional organizations and was once used in Ann Arbor to elect its first and only African American mayor.

To help the downtown grow as a community and to reduce urban sprawl, Ann Arbor should stop nibbling at the edges of the affordable housing problem and consider more radical solutions such as zoning changes to allow accessory apartments, or a millage to support affordable housing. Where there is lack of support and concern from the citizens regarding their property values, a few pilot projects could be initiated to allay fears and study the benefits

of some alternatives.

To better understand the needs of the community, council members should reach out more to the people they represent. In 7 years of living in the 4th ward of Ann Arbor, Mike has never witnessed his council members coming out to the neighborhoods to listen to peoples' concerns. He believes that if they did, they would naturally see the need for traffic calming measures, improved evening bus service, zoning for affordable housing, and more. Instead of focusing exclusively on budgets and rezoning requests, which is certainly important work, council members ought to broaden their view to include the dreams of the people living in this city.

Additional issues that came up during the campaign were:

- Establishment of a civilian review board for the Ann Arbor Police Department
- Establishment of an urban growth boundary with the townships to concentrate growth in the city
- Making the city budget report more readily available to residents, and
- Studying and seriously questioning the benefits and drawbacks, to the Ann Arbor community, of tax abatements to businesses, such as Pfizer, with a view toward Green values.

The Committee to Elect Mike Nowak (Dawn Wolfe, Peter Schermerhorn, Suzie Zick, Justin Palk, Christie Nowak, and Mike Nowak) implemented a threefold campaign strategy. This consisted of creating a unifying slogan, spreading the word about the candidacy, and demonstrating Mike's ideals through campaign events.

The first element, creating a slogan, was discovered at a Committee brainstorming session. Thanks to Dawn Wolfe's innocent question, "What moved you to run for Council?" a unifying theme was born. The resultant slogan: "What Moves You?" expressed in different ways both Mike's interest in the biking issue, as well as his commitment to communication between elected officials and their constituents. This slogan was used in various ways in all campaign literature.

The Committee then implemented the second phase of the campaign strategy, spreading the word. During the two and a half months of campaigning, Mike maintained a dedicated Web site and phone line for distributing and gathering information. Advertisements were run in the *Agenda*, a local, alternative

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The Northwest Passage in 2001

*By Art Myatt
Metro Detroit Greens*

Even before September 11, so far as the Bush Administration was concerned, the Kyoto Protocol was dead. Sure, some European governments were attempting to continue negotiations among themselves. Some even entertain hopes of getting Bush and Cheney to listen. If they are expecting to shame these oil men appointed to the offices of President and Vice-President by the Supreme Court, they are mistaken. Before September 11, a few Democrats were indicating that global warming ought to be taken seriously. In another year, even Al Gore might have been ready to say something on the subject.

The twin towers of the World Trade Center have been destroyed, and all appearance of opposition from the Democrats has crumbled to dust and blown away. As though he were ready and waiting for the excuse, Bush declared his "War on Terrorism," and got a blank check from Congress the next day to conduct it however he wishes. Al Gore is now preparing for his next run at the Presidency by advising Democrats to unite behind Bush at this time of crisis.

If nobody in Congress will raise the issues of global warming, and no European countries will, and nobody in the corporate press of America will, then Bush does not have to address this issue at all. He doesn't even have to deny that it exists. It doesn't appear that dealing with global warming will contribute to his war effort. Neither will it help rev up a stuttering economy. Therefore, the issue just drops off the lists of priorities drawn up in Washington.

September 11 may have changed the political landscape but, contrary to the popular saying, it did not change everything. There was an AIDS epidemic on September 10, and there still is. Racism in American society stood in the way of liberty and justice for all, and it still does, though it may have shifted its attention slightly from Blacks and Mexicans to Arabs. On September 10, automobile engines and coal-fired power plants pumped heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and they still do.

The world is, in fits and starts, still getting warmer. Some things changed even before September 11. For instance, the Northwest Passage was open this year.

Merchants planning commerce between Europe and Asia can fly a great circle route that goes near the North Pole, but this does not work for sailing ships, the cheapest way to deliver heavy cargoes. Ships are looking at a trip of 12,600 or so nautical miles - if they can fit through the Panama Canal. If not, they are going to have to sail thousands more miles north and south to get around Cape Horn (at the southern tip of South America), and will probably hit some very rough seas in the bargain. If only they could sail the Arctic Ocean, going over the top of Canada, the length of the voyage would only be 8,000 nautical miles or so.

The potential savings of such a short route are so great that many people have died in the attempt to find the route, leaving sensible people to conclude for centuries that the Northwest Passage is myth. Back in 1845, a very well-equipped expedition of two ships and 128 men from England attempted to make the voyage, but disappeared in the pack ice without a trace. In 1906, Roald Amundsen did complete the trip, but not in a way that would encourage commerce. His ship and crew survived two winters trapped in the ice by learning to hunt seals. It was 1954 before another ship made it through.

This year, a private yacht owned by Gary Comer, the 73-year old founder of the Lands' End mail-order company, made the passage on a pleasure cruise. His vessel, the *Turmoil*, is a 152-foot ship of the trawler class; it is not an icebreaker, nor was it accompanied by an icebreaker. It took *Turmoil* only 16 days and 8 hours to get from Baffin Bay (an arm of the Atlantic between Greenland and Canada) to the Beaufort Sea (an arm of the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska, the Yukon, and Canada's Northwest Territories). From the Beaufort Sea, the path to Japan and China is clear in August, if you can dodge the occasional iceberg. The passengers were the owner, several members of his family including his 8-month old granddaughter, and various guests. No hardships were experienced.

In future years, as this opening becomes more regular, cargo ships can be expected to use it. Barrow may never become the Piraeus of the north coast of Alaska, but it will see some sailors who are not hauling oil or hunting walrus.

Opening of the Northwest Passage may be the most dramatic example of climate change to date, but it is hardly the only one. Naturalists are finding more plant growth at higher altitudes in the Rockies. Migratory birds are returning to Michigan's

Upper Peninsula weeks earlier than they did in the 1940s. The glaciers in Glacier National Park are now melting at a rate which will cause them to disappear by 2050. The oceans are saltier in the tropics than they used to be, probably because of an increased rate of evaporation. They are less salty in the vicinity of the poles, because of increased precipitation or ice sheets melting from the bottom or both. In Alaska, roads built on permafrost buckle and collapse; patches of trees formerly standing straight exhibit "drunken forest syndrome"; and meadows turn into fresh bogs called thermokarst as the frost - not so permanent after all - melts.

The various computer models that tell us what the future of our climate is with greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere do not agree on how much the average temperature will change by a given date, but they do tell us to look for the earliest and strongest effects in the extreme northern and southern latitudes. That's just what we are seeing.

The detailed predictions for the future effects of climate change are indeed uncertain. Politicians who, like the current administration, would prefer to take no action to minimize climate change, will use this uncertainty as an excuse to do nothing. All of the possibilities for the future of our climate do not fall between the current climate and the predictions of warming. A far more drastic warming, if somehow a few of the pools of methane hydrate trapped at the bottom of the oceans are released by the initial warming of the deep oceans, is also possible. There are some indications this has happened in the distant past. This, too, is uncertain.

There is a great deal of exact science behind the prediction of global warming. Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases allow most solar radiation to pass through, but they absorb radiation in the infra-red region of the electromagnetic spectrum, where the surface of the earth radiates. This traps heat at or near the surface, like a greenhouse traps solar heat inside the glass. Now that industry has so increased the levels of those gases in the

atmosphere, this absorption interferes with the ability of the earth's surface to balance its heat budget. The Earth takes in heat from the sun during the day, but is not as able dump that heat into outer space as it was. How, exactly, this affects the weather is uncertain, but logically, it has to have an effect.

The basic chemistry and physics of carbon dioxide are rock solid, based on measurements accurate to parts per million. Enough was known a century and more ago that a prediction of global warming was made in 1896 (by Svante Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist), based on the fact that industrial activities were burning coal at a surprising rate. More than a century of scientific development since then has refined, not contradicted, that idea.

There is little point in pretending that political and economic policies affecting global warming could be determined solely by scientific fact and theory. The important thing at some point is not the science, but the context in which it is understood to operate. Two people - we can call them Daddy Warbucks and Annie Greene, just to pick a couple of random names - can agree on the scientific uncertainties and the known facts about global warming and yet come to entirely opposite conclusions as to what can or should be done about it.



Los Angeles in the 1920s

Mr Warbucks may be a member of some organized religion, or perhaps not; but what he really worships is the free market. The free market, he believes, is the best, the fairest, the most efficient way of allocating goods among the members of a society, and also the best at determining the use of productive resources such as land or minerals or labor. Further, he thinks unfettered operation of a free market is the necessary foundation for individual freedom; the invisible hand of the market inevitably points to the maximum of well-being for each individual and for the society as a whole. He rails against politicians proposing to regulate an industry as though regulation is wilful sin. And so on, and on, as long as the listener can bear it.

If these propositions are believed with such fervor that they cannot be questioned or tested, then they have become elements of a secular religion. This religion sometimes combines with a more spiritual variety and sometimes competes with it. In any case, true believers in this faith will interpret facts about global warming, or about anything else, within the limits of what they consider to be possible and practical and right.

An absolute purist within this religion will say that the government need do nothing about global warming; that whatever needs to be done will be taken care of by the operations of the market. A more practical sort like Warbucks says that a political policy to deal with global warming is OK, so long as it relies on market mechanisms to achieve its goals, and so long as it has either a neutral or a stimulative effect on economic growth - and any other needed adjustments will be taken care of by the operations of the market.

This is the full range of policy options imaginable by believers in the religion of the marketplace. Uncertainty about the timing or extent of the effects of global warming in this context serves to justify keeping the response to global warming modest and limited.. Such a severely constrained policy is all that is lost with the passing of the Kyoto Protocol, so there is little reason to mourn its passing.

Annie looks at things differently. She finds her essential point of view well-expressed by the "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity." This says, in part:

Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Human activities inflict harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment and on critical resources. If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal

kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know. Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about. ...

The earth is finite. Its ability to absorb wastes and destructive effluent is finite. Its ability to provide food and energy is finite. Its ability to provide for growing numbers of people is finite. And we are fast approaching many of the earth's limits. Current economic practices which damage the environment, in both developed and underdeveloped nations, cannot be continued without the risk that vital global systems will be damaged beyond repair.

The response to global warming that seems sensible to Annie Greene is far outside the boundaries laid down by Mr Warbucks. The government and the public should insist on fuel-efficient vehicles, by market mechanisms and by direct regulation. In addition, public transportation should replace private vehicles, as rapidly as possible. Smaller, more fuel-efficient homes located close to work should replace suburban sprawl, with all the zoning and taxing powers of government employed to encourage this development. World-wide tourism should be discouraged in favor of a more modest, local and even human-powered type of travel. The use of coal for producing any type of energy should be heavily taxed, both to discourage the burning of coal and to subsidize the construction of wind power plants. And if this and similar policies cause the economy to contract, then jobs and incomes will have to be reorganized on a basis of fairness and equality.

Uncertainty about the timing and effects of global warming hardly matters, from Annie's perspective. All the policies that minimize global warming also lessen our chemical and biological assault on the environment in other ways, and promote the development of community and equality. If, to get from here to there, we have to break the grip of corporate and personal greed on the power of the government and restore democracy, so much the better, says Annie Greene.

Here we have two irreconcilable ideas. Either the normal operations of the current economic system will fix the problem of global warming (and all other problems that are fixable) or - the normal operations of the current economic system are causing irreversible damage to irreplaceable resources, and this economic system must be stopped before it kills us all. Either we must protect a healthy and growing

economy which generates wealth and supports the society, or we must protect the environment that supports life, and makes the society and the economy possible.

The Earth Policy Institute (earth-policy.org) is just now publishing a new book, *Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth* by Lester R. Brown, which focuses on exactly this issue. Their press release says, in part:

In 1543 Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus challenged the view that the Sun revolved around the earth, arguing instead that the earth revolved around the Sun. His alternative model led to a revolution in thinking, to a new worldview.

Today we need a similar shift in our worldview. The issue is whether the environment is part of the economy or the economy is part of the environment.

Economists typically see the environment as a subset of the economy. This has helped create an economy that is out of sync with the earth's ecosystem.

Ecologists, on the other hand, see the economy as a subset of the environment. The environment can exist without the economy, but the economy cannot exist without the environment.

To be sure, Mr. Warbucks and Ms. Greene are both cartoon characters, so to speak. They illustrate the poles of opposed attitudes about the economy and the environment, not the complexity of actual human beings. Any resemblance to real oil company executives or tree-huggers is purely coincidental. A real Warbucks still needs to breathe clean air and eat food with less than toxic levels of mercury and pesticides included. A real Greene still needs a job, even if it means working for a corporation whose purpose is profit. It is ordinary human beings in the midst of their imperfect lives that have to struggle with these issues.

At first, the idea that a growing economy is not a healthy or beneficial one may seem, well, heretical. (Note how well theological terminology fits secular worship of the economy.) For three decades - the 1940s, '50s and 60s - an expanding economy in America meant increased prosperity for the whole society. The standard of living of the middle class and of hourly workers increased as the economy grew. At this time, the idea that economic growth is good for everybody became established as a political dogma.

In the 1970s, the decade of oil shocks caused by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC), the linkage between growth and living standards was somehow broken. The standard of living, generally measured by "real wages" in economists' charts, peaked in the 1970s. Then it declined and never quite recovered. Economic growth in the 1980s and '90s did not mean prosperity for all. It is long past the time when we should expect growth of the globalized economy to benefit anything except corporate profits.

Throughout the entire 20th Century, it is fair to say that American economic growth has been dependent on cheap oil. In the 1970s when cheap oil was temporarily and artificially replaced on the world market by expensive oil, a great deal of economic and social turmoil resulted. Within the next decade, we can expect to see the permanent end of cheap oil. This will not be the end of oil altogether, just the end of cheap oil.

In his new book, *Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage*, Kenneth S Deffeyes (Princeton University Press, 2001) explains the how, the when, and the why of his subject. He is a geologist who grew up as the son of a petroleum engineer in Oklahoma and was employed by Shell Oil before he became a professor at Princeton, so he has all the relevant facts down cold.

The Hubbert of "Hubbert's Peak" is M. King Hubbert. While working as a geologist for Shell Oil, he predicted in 1956 that oil production in the United States would peak in the early 1970s and would then irreversibly decline. He based this prediction on his analysis of historical data from oil fields known in the 1950s. In a typical oil field, production increases rapidly after the region is first brought into production, then grows steadily for a while until the easily recovered oil is pumped out. After this, further production becomes more expensive and the rate of production slows, levels off, and drops. In the decades since Hubbert first made this observation, many more oil fields have followed this pattern. Alaska's North Slope and Britain's North Sea fields, both brought into production since 1956, are already declining.

Hubbert based his prediction for the US on reasonably accurate estimates of proved reserves throughout the US, and on the fact that the rate of new oil field discoveries in the US had dropped off significantly as exploration had few new areas to examine. Paul Raeburn, reviewing Deffeyes' book (in *Scientific American*, October, 2001), put it this way:

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Civil Rights on the War Bonfire

By Joe Lockard

As war begins, the lawlessness of the terrorist attacks is being met by governmental lawlessness. But where the World Trade Center / Pentagon terrorists began and ended their deeds in lawlessness, the Bush administration is leading the U.S. government from lawfulness into lawlessness. If the purpose of law is to expand human freedom, the current legal direction lies in diminution of freedom. Lawlessness is arriving as a domestic and foreign assault on legal ideas that endorse freedom and human rights.

Domestically, the U.S. stands poised to adopt a drastically dismissive policy towards civil liberties. A vague criminal standard of "terrorism" is emerging, rather than the specification of named crimes or conspiracy to commit those crimes. Under Department of Justice proposals incorporated in the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001, which will likely be enacted by a supine Congress, an array of new measures will come into force.

Wiretapping orders will become available on demand for government investigators, based on no evidence beyond a claim of terrorist association. The probable cause standard for obtaining wiretap orders that presently holds in criminal cases will become history, replaced by a new standard of relevance to a criminal investigation. The judicial function of authorization for wiretapping will be marginalized; government investigators themselves increasingly will decide themselves what is relevant.

Investigators will not even need to bother with the courts to obtain business records: an administrative subpoena will suffice. The Internet is already being saddled up with Carnivore monitoring software, an invasion of free speech and privacy for which its proponents now have a national security excuse. This is only part of a new culture of personal invasion. The Anti-Terrorism Act would create a new category of secret searches where government agents conduct furtive searches without providing notice or presenting a warrant.

Under Bush administration proposals, fear of foreigners and foreign-ness is finding legal endorsement. Immigration law will now permit indefinite detentions of non-citizens without trial on the Attorney-General's order, together with summary administrative deportations. Non-citizens will not

have access to the U.S. courts to defend themselves against the charges on which they are being deported: the bill explicitly denies habeas corpus to non-citizens. The bill would retroactively punish with deportation all non-citizens who made contributions to what the government now decides are terror-linked organizations, even though such contributions were legal under U.S. law and contributors did not know of any underground connection with a terror group.

The INS will be able to have access to and use the intelligence files of foreign intelligence agencies to process U.S. immigration applications, creating substantial jeopardy for political refugees who fled because they opposed their governments. This means that repressive governments participating in the new U.S.-led grand coalition against terrorism will be able to obtain political payback against dissidents who have fled to the United States. For example: Kurds applying for political asylum in the United States will have to not only supply the facts of their application, but also contend with Turkish intelligence files. Repressive governments will gain an officially-sponsored voice against their own exiled dissidents.

Such demands for an integration of security mechanisms are globalizing the homeland in "homeland security." EU governments are duplicating many of the above initiatives by "streamlining" and "fast-tracking" due process throughout Europe and opening new information monitoring initiatives. Global labor flows, already severely limited, will be further conditioned by official suspicion of prevalent political opinion within an immigrant group.

In the U.S., educational institutions -- whose seminar rooms are about the last conceivable refuge for terrorists planning the *lucha armada* -- will receive special attention. New legal authorization will be given to any federal officer, as authorized by the Attorney-General, to obtain, use and disseminate confidential student records. There will be no requirement for court authorization or notification, and records may be accessed "upon determining that so doing can reasonably be expected to assist in investigating or preventing a Federal terrorism offense." In short, educational privacy will end.

This is only a first list of demands. There is every reason to anticipate that the Bush administration will continue to bulldoze through civil liberties. Attempts to control terrorism through targeted legislation

produce their own rising dynamic, as the history of the Emergency Regulations in British colonies showed, beginning in Ireland. There is no act of terror that does not fit existing definitions of criminal acts: the new definition of a "Federal terrorism offense" is simply a list of existing federal crimes. Rather, 'terror' is a political name that describes a political effect. An expanding rubric of 'terror' targets suspect ethnicities and tangential groups pursuing legal activities. A culture of terror suspicion takes on a life of its own, searching for the next source of identifiable suspicion and demanding new police powers.

The new Office of Homeland Security will be a major beneficiary of these expanded legal powers and culture of anti-terror. This is the first cabinet-level office in U.S. history to be established with such amorphous purposes. The Orwellian term "homeland security" has emerged from a murky recent origin in right-wing think-tank circles. As a reactionary and repressive ideology, it speaks a language of control and anti-subversion, not social justice. Within this ideology, the function of legislation and the legal system is to enable investigation, uncover signs of suspicious deviance, and create Damoclean legal threats for targeted political associations. A Thermidorean bureaucracy of "homeland security" experts promotes this ideology and its legislative means, patriotically embracing American capitalism as the best of all possible systems and demanding the constriction of civil liberties as a small price to pay for American freedom.

All of this is reminiscent of the Palmer era in U.S. legal history. A. Mitchell Palmer, the Wilson administration attorney-general who wreaked havoc against civil rights during World War One and after, was a man who spoke with love-it-or-leave-it patriotism, a grim small-mindedness, an evangelical passion against social tolerance, and blinkered cultural xenophobia. A nativist and anti-Reds rhetoric of hatred shaped Palmer's assaults against civil liberties during World War One and afterwards.

Substitute "terrorists" for "Reds" and the rhetoric of

Palmer and John Ashcroft read as near-identical screeds against evil. Ashcroft now proposes to do the same damage to civil rights in the United States as Palmer once did in his raids and deportations of wrong-thinking aliens. With Ashcroft's new legislative initiatives on board a Congressional express train, civil liberties in this country have faced few bleaker prospects than at present.

Such domestic disregard for the protective function of law finds its mirror in the increasingly disarrayed state of international law. One of the most profound ideas to emerge from World War Two was the emergence of an international human rights culture and legal system. Although regularly and thoroughly violated by nearly all nations, it has represented one of the great hopes to emerge from the twentieth century. International law and human rights enactments set a threshold standard of respect towards the rights of individuals, minority groups, and nations.

In its unleashed rage, nothing could be further from the mind and policy of the Bush administration. It is far more interested in international war coalitions than international law. Although the Taliban government is a despicable pack of theo-fascists that violates its citizens' human rights as a matter of daily practice, it is fully within reason for them to ask for evidence upon which to honor an

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It's the Law – And It's Spreading

On October 26th the USA Patriot Act (H.R. 3162) was signed into law. It passed with no amendments.

In the Senate, Russ Feingold (D-WI) was the only no vote. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) did not vote. The 98 other senators voted to pass the bill.

In the House of Representatives, the bill passed 357-66, with nine representatives, Michigan's Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick among them, not voting. David Bonior, John Conyers, John Dingell, and Lynn Rivers were Michigan Representatives voting against the Bill.

Canada is now considering a similar bill – C-36 – which defines terrorism as an act inside or outside of Canada that "is taken or threatened for political, religious or ideological purposes and threatens the public or national security" – including economic security. It does exclude "lawful advocacy, protest, dissent, or stoppage of work" that doesn't seriously harm or kill people.

Linda Manning Myatt, Ed.

Campus Greens Hold Founding Convention

By Rob Haug
University of Michigan Ann Arbor Greens

During the 2000 election cycle, the Green Party won a major victory. This victory was won in every state and on every level of electoral politics. It was a victory of ideology and idealism over apathy. It was a victory that not only led to electoral successes in 2000, but also promised to lead to electoral success for generations to come.

This victory was the mobilization of the youth vote. Across the country, university and high school students turned out to campaign and then vote for Green candidates. In numbers unseen by other parties, the youth of this nation became a driving force in Green politics. This August, these same students came together to make a commitment to continuing this work by creating one of the nation's largest student activist groups, the Campus Greens.

The Campus Greens are a relatively new organization. After the 2000 elections, a number of organizers who had worked with Green student groups across the nation met to unite these diverse groups into one national organization. About six months later, a founding convention was held in Chicago on the campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago, and the Campus Greens were born. I attended the founding convention as the delegate from the University of Michigan and these are some of my reflections on the proceedings.

A great deal of work went into making this convention happen. A four day gathering bringing people together from every part of the nation is not easy to coordinate. Doing this within the contexts of an organization that will not even exist until after the fact adds to the organizers' burden.

In addition, the people coming together were students on their summer break and living on student budgets. Car pools and group rate flights and buses were arranged as well as cheap housing in local hostels and a neighborhood church. The priciest housing option for the entire convention was cheaper than one night in a Chicago hotel. The number of meetings, conference calls, and e-mails involving transportation and lodging are uncountable. The end result was hundreds of students getting together from forty-eight states and Canada and about one hundred different high schools and universities.

The convention began Thursday, August 9th with orientation sessions, a performance of beat poetry by Drew Dellinger, and a keynote address by Mike

Feinstein, Green Mayor of Santa Monica, CA. The mood of the weekend was set: we are the young blood of a young movement, and we can channel this into victory.

Mike Feinstein reminded us repeatedly that you can become part of the system without losing yourself and your ideals. He became mayor of a large city without having to change his hairstyle. After taking office, he passed the first living wage ordinance to affect private businesses *without* government contracts in the nation. He told us that it was a long hard fight to get there, but there are people ready to help and the goal is reachable.

Another theme that was first impressed upon us during the opening day of the convention was building regional coalitions both within and without the Greens. Plans were begun to devise state and regional structures within the Campus Greens. Delegates from the University of Michigan, Northern Michigan University, and Central Michigan University held a caucus to begin organizing a state coalition. The ways in which the Campus Greens can work with non-campus Green and non-Green, but "green," activist groups were addressed by members of the Green Party and other allied organizations.

These ideas all came together the following day as workshops and plenary sessions began in earnest. The themes of student-based electoral campaigns and coalition building were found in every workshop and lecture.

As a delegate, most of my time after the first day was occupied by plenary sessions. Here delegates from every represented school came together to write the vision statement and bylaws of the Campus Greens, develop resource committees, and elect steering committee members. The resulting vision statement consists of the ten key values, what they mean to the Campus Greens as a student based organization, and the general goals of the Campus Greens in conjunction with each of the values.

The bylaws, as can be expected, engendered much debate. We, as a group, tried to write a framework through consensus that allowed for organization without losing the democratic principles of the group. Discussions covered the size and authority of the steering committee, the use of a plenary with one vote per school over votes by

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Labor Greens Define Role

By Paul Felton

Corporate greed is devastating working and poor people in America - and all over the world. It is responsible for the poisoning of our air, water, and food; for the epidemic of union-busting; for the loss of decent paying union jobs in America and sweatshop conditions overseas; for the obscene disparity of wealth between multimillionaire CEOs and the growing number of children in poverty. It is responsible for the so-called Free Trade agreements that take away our democratic rights and give corporations free reign to plunder the world's resources and exploit the world's people.

While the Green Party is best known as supporters of the environment, there are ten principles basic to the Party. The Detroit Labor Greens will bring Social Justice to the forefront, with a labor focus.

The labor movement is more than a mechanism to improve wages and working conditions for the union members. It is also a movement for social justice throughout the society. In fact, it will be more effective in achieving wage and working condition improvements if it also builds a powerful social and political movement on behalf of all poor, oppressed and working people.

Recent history has proven that labor needs a new political alternative. The Democratic and Republican Parties, from the highest level, are dominated by corporate cash, corporate lobbyists, and corporate ideology. The anti-worker Reagan/Bush years were followed by the Clinton/Gore administration that gave us NAFTA, the WTO and welfare reform. The rich got richer, and everyone else suffered. Now that the Republicans are back in power, the Democrats stand as an ineffective opposition, as the Republicans implement a more extreme version of the same anti-worker, anti-human policies.

The Green Party is the dynamic political alternative to the two major parties. We are the largest party that is not dominated by corporate America. And we bring energy, idealism and enthusiasm to the fight for social justice.

But to grow from a significant third party into a major contender for political power, the Green Party must recruit and involve working class, poor people, and people of color to join with the students,

LaborFest

The Labor Greens is a grouping that would like to help get the Green Party message out to working people and to help integrate working-class concerns into the Green Party. This year we sponsored a table at the Labor Day LaborFest. We put up the Green Party banner and prioritized having materials that were printed in a union printshop (and therefore displayed the union "bug") on the table: *Amber Waves of Green* and the state party brochure were two pieces of literature we passed out.

We talked with a number of people who were glad to see us at the LaborFest - and some told us they had heard Ralph Nader speak the year before. Next year we'd like to have some event or activity to which we could invite folks who come by our table and perhaps print up ballons with a Green Party message.

Dianne Feeley, Labor Greens (UAW Local 235)

intellectuals, and idealists who make up so much of its current membership. Working and poor people are the majority in this country, and they are crying out for social justice. The Green Party stands for social justice. The Detroit Labor Greens intends to make this vision a reality - to bring working and poor people into the Green Party, thus influencing the culture and emphasis of the Green Party, strengthening the Green Party, and turning it into a major force in American politics.

Quite simply, our local has a twofold purpose:

- Within the labor movement, and among working class and poor people, to organize support for the Green Party.
- Within the Green Party, to bring labor, working class and poor people's issues to the forefront.

Specifically, we envision three general types of activities:

- Specific campaigns on issues such as Living Wage, sweatshop labor, workplace safety, struggles against racism, strike support, etc.
- We will work in coalition with other organizations in these campaigns, while building an increased labor membership in the party and our local.
- Additionally, we will participate in any activity that builds/promotes the Labor Movement, the political needs of labor and the Green Party.

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G/GPUSA Self Destructs

"I don't think I've ever seen a meeting this bad without property damage." - Steve Herrick, former GPMI rep to G/GPUSA.

Greens/Green Party USA held its national congress for the year 2001 on the weekend of July 20-22 in Carbondale, Illinois. As a member state party, Michigan sent seven delegates to that meeting: Adrianna Buonarroti, Douglas Campbell, Carolyn Dulai, Craig Harvey, Steve Herrick, Marc Reichardt, and Juscha Robinson. What ensued was a demonstration of many of the problems that surround "Green politics" and a specific example of how G/GPUSA, in particular, had lost the vision with which it was founded in 1984.

The hosting site for the Congress was a facility called Touch of Nature. ToN is a campground of sorts, with several cabins, meeting halls, and recreational facilities. The location was ideal for a movement that finds itself most strongly identified with environmentalism. However, southern Illinois in late July is something of a challenge. The heat and humidity can only be described as oppressive and surely did nothing to mitigate the combative nature of the deliberations that marred the gathering.

The key issue at this meeting was the "Boston proposal." GPUSA and the current GP-US (formerly the Association of State Green Parties) had split from each other in 1996. Ever since that time, there have been elements of both groups working to reunite the two. As Michigan's representatives to both ASGP and GPUSA, Steve Herrick and I had been working toward that end for a year and a half prior to the meeting in Carbondale.

While there were several attempts at unity that failed in prior years, a team of negotiators from both groups had met in Boston in September 2000 to hammer out a proposal that would allow us to have one, national Green party in the US. That collection of conditions and modifications to the structure of both organizations was collectively known as the Boston proposal.

Despite its creation by "both sides," elements within GPUSA attacked the agreement almost from its inception. At a meeting of the Green National Committee in St. Louis in February 2001, accreditation of votes and voting procedure were manipulated in such a way as to forestall the implementation and acceptance of Boston, despite evidence that a majority of GPUSA members approved of the document. Those tactics were to be

duplicated in Carbondale.

The Congress began with what would be the most shocking event of the weekend, from a procedural and ethical perspective. When the Michigan delegation arrived on Friday, we discovered that there had been some heated debate over credentialing for voting rights at the Congress.

Votes are allocated in a proportional manner based on one of two factors: paid-up GPUSA members in the state and any affiliated locals or gross number of registered Greens in the state. As some states, like Michigan, do not use party registration, they basically have to accept whatever the state proffers. As a consequence, vote allocation by the latter method generally leaves one with fewer votes than the former method. Also, GPUSA members, in an unusual facet of the bylaws of the organization, are counted twice: once for being a member of the affiliated state party and once for being part of an affiliated local, which must have a minimum number of GPUSA members. In Michigan's case, only Huron Valley qualifies as an affiliated local.



"If you ain't got no dollar, you ain't got no vote."

Don Fitz, the chair of the Gateway Greens in St. Louis had done an analysis of the number of waiver members (i.e. low income) in each state a few weeks prior to the Congress. Michigan was singled out in that report for having a high number in that category. As I explained then and later in Carbondale, that was a result of the recruiting prowess of Kevin Henahan, who had signed up a number of students (who are often low income) on the west side of the state.

Don was a member of the accreditation committee, which was composed of four anti-Boston proposal people, and two pro-Boston. He declared that, in order to prevent "vote stacking" (i.e. signing up a bunch of people for free in order to influence voting at the Congress), all waiver members from all states and locals should not be counted for the 2001 Congress.

That fight stalled the committee for some time until John Stith (PA) and Kelly Riley (MA), the two pro-Bostons, decided that nothing was being

accomplished. They hoped that they could win some ground in other areas by conceding the point. Thus, GPUSA had just succeeded in disenfranchising everyone who did not have the means to pay membership dues. As I stated at the Congress on Saturday: "If you ain't got no dollar, you ain't got no vote."

The structural question of how the accreditation committee could change basic aspects of GPUSA policy without the approval of the Congress would also become an important issue. John and Kelly both stated later that the one decision, if any, that should have been changed was that of disenfranchisement. It violated some of the most basic values of the Green movement.

When I raised the issue before the committee during Michigan's accreditation, John essentially pleaded with me to take it to the floor of the Congress rather than try to change the committee's mind there and then. Michigan received four votes for the state (instead of six) and one vote for Huron Valley (instead of two).

In contrast, the Missouri Green Party received 15 votes for the state and 14 votes for the Gateway Greens. There was apparently a sharp increase in membership over the last few months in St. Louis, where close to 100 new Greens signed up, all within three days. They paid a lesser dues amount which was established in one of the disputed versions of the bylaws. The pertinent point is that MO, with 29 votes, had more votes than California, including all of the latter's locals.

Those of us who supported Boston held a meeting Friday night to discuss strategy. The decision was made at this meeting not to contest the waiver issue but to struggle on California, another sticking point in accreditation. Walt Sheasby (CA) (pro-Boston) had come forward with hard evidence of the number of locals and members he was representing, whereas Sue Nelson (CA) and Ed Shacklett (CA) (anti-Boston) had not done so well but were on Don's side of the argument. In the end, the committee granted seven state votes each to the three, which, of course, was ridiculous, since Sue and Ed always vote the same on every issue.

The rationale was that, with a working majority (although not the necessary super-majority) at the Congress and in the following GNC meeting, we could attempt to finish the Congress on Saturday and hold the GNC meeting on Sunday instead of Monday, because several delegates (notably Michigan and Wisconsin) were leaving Sunday night.

With a majority on the GNC, we would be able to

elect a new Coordinating Committee and pass the mail referendum on Boston even if we couldn't win the super-majority vote at the Congress. Thus, we wanted as few obstructions as possible. I was not pleased, but willing to accede to the majority. Despite this, I did raise the issue twice during the course of the Congress based on simple outrage, above and beyond internal politics of GPUSA.

However, Saturday turned into a complete disaster. There was a small list of procedural tasks to take care of in order to convene the Congress: choosing a facilitator, approving the accreditation committee report, and approving the agenda. A slate of candidates was presented for facilitator by Nancy Oden (ME) that was unanimously anti-Boston. Ben Manski (WI) countered with a slate that was unanimously pro-Boston. And the battle was joined.

Choosing a facilitator took over three hours as neither side was willing to give ground and, as usual with most Green meetings, the discussion went in circles. We were finally able to compromise on co-facilitators, one from each "side": Lionel Trepannier (IL, anti-Boston) and Amy Mondloch (WI, pro-Boston). Lionel and Amy were both viewed as favoring their respective sides, but also willing to be fair and straightforward in their facilitation. A list of alternates was also drawn up in case one or the other could not continue.

Then, we moved on to the accreditation report. There were actually two states in question, CA and New Jersey, as the latter had a problem with a disaffiliated local requesting part of the state's votes. The discussion once again grew quite contentious and dragged on for much of the day. By late afternoon, we realized two things: 1) This struggle was not going to end and we were accomplishing nothing. 2) We were in danger of forcing the GNC meeting back to Monday.

The key element in all of this, feeble protestations to the contrary, was, of course, Boston. The proposal sat like a shroud over every discussion and debate. Everything became framed by that overriding issue of the Congress. In the interest of frustrating the opposition, there were some among the anti-Boston lobby who attempted to push routine business forward under an illusion of "business as usual," despite the fact that Boston inevitably colored all business and prevented it from being in any way constructive.

With that in mind, John Stith moved to adjourn the Congress, as he realized that the political division in the group was killing any opportunity to do anything positive. The motion was meeting specific, and according to Robert's Rules of Order (the default

"guideline" for meeting procedure), needed only a simple majority and was not up for discussion. There should have been a vote there and then.

However, all kinds of obstructions were thrown up; lawyers were called from the group to interpret the bylaws; there was quite a bit of shouting, and chaos ensued. In the end, it took four hours, with an hour-long break for dinner, to come to a decision on whether or not to adjourn the Congress. When the vote finally came around, we lost by a slim margin.

On a side note, let me mention that John has been a dedicated member of GPUSA for over 10 years. He looked positively morose for much of the weekend as he witnessed the organization tearing itself to pieces. John brought that motion up to me before we even considered that there would have been an intrinsic benefit to our side for ending the Congress. He knew that the Congress and GPUSA were stuck in a morass that they could not escape.

By the same token, when I first saw Howie Hawkins (NY) on Friday, I asked him, "What do you think?"

He said, "I think we need to start over." This comes from a founding member of GPUSA who has spent 17 years with the organization.

So, the Congress that had never officially convened decided not to adjourn and, instead, recessed for the evening. The pro-Boston people met again that night and Howie made a suggestion for forming a new organization that would become what GPUSA should become were we to win the vote on Boston.

We discussed at length the purpose and focus of this new group and are in the process of rapidly getting it established. There is a listserv at www.yahogroups.com/groups/GreenMovement with almost 100 members on it from Massachusetts to Florida to California.

However, I think Holle Brian (MN) put it best in a recent email: "All along two things have driven me towards unity - a desire to honor our US Green history, and the belief that we need the radical fundi energy that exists in the G/GPUSA to inform and guide electoral Green Party politics. I have always seen the G/GPUSA as a resource that belongs to the Green Party movement, and have been discouraged that it has not been able to serve that movement better because of a lack of clarity about its mission. I really hope we can pull the positives - the history and the politics - out of the wreckage to build an organization that both provides historic continuity and a positive vision for the Greens."

In any case, our meeting that night ended with a

determination to let the accreditation issues pass without comment; to let Don have his version of the agenda which was quite similar to the official version decided upon by the Gathering Committee (of which Don was a member); and to insist on bringing Boston to the floor as soon as possible. If nothing else, at least we could claim the moral high ground by recording a majority position of the organization being rejected.

We also discussed the possibility of simply walking out if any obstruction to voting on Boston was presented. We decided that Howie would make a statement insisting on resolving Boston ASAP and if continued delays were inserted, we would stand en masse and leave the room to take the time to discuss our new organization.

So, on Sunday, we assembled for another go-round. After some dispute on facilitators again, we resolved that controversy: Mitchel Cohen (NY, anti-Boston) and the redoubtable Amy Mondloch; and the accreditation.

The agenda was a bit trickier, as it required the proposers of various amendments to the agenda to leave the room for about 15 minutes to come to a compromise on how to proceed. When they returned, they laid out a plan for how to continue, with the stipulation that Boston would be discussed. The discussion would be followed by a straw poll on Boston, and an immediate real vote on the Syracuse proposal, which implemented Boston.

There were committee, caucus, and state party reports to be done, which took up some time. There were also several action plans for various issues on the agenda that the Congress was supposed to approve and/or endorse. All of them were fairly straightforward and should not have required any lengthy discussion.

Howie stood up to suggest he would block going forward with them unless the Congress stipulated that we would heed the agenda and discuss and vote on Boston within one hour. This was where we came closest to the possible walkout. That agreement made, the Congress passed or tabled all of the action plans and almost met the hour deadline.

It was decided that there would be three initial speakers on Boston: one for, one against, one "renegotiate." Howie spoke for the proposal.

Don Fitz assumed the "renegotiate" position, which turned out to be a speech against the proposal, as all of us expected. He indicated in various ways how heinous the leaders of ASGP are; who would want to renegotiate with people like that?

Continued on page 29

US Helps Bolaños Defeat Ortega

By Steve Herrick

In the Nicaraguan elections held on November 4th, Liberal (read: neo-liberal) candidate Enrique Bolaños defeated National Convergence candidate Daniel Ortega by approximately thirteen points. The elections were totally peaceful, and there have been no accusations of fraud, at least not at the Presidential level.

That does not mean these were free and fair elections.

Background

Ortega is the same Sandinista President from the 1980's, when the Reagan administration illegally tried to overthrow Nicaragua's government. This election is the third in a row he has lost to neo-liberal opponents.

Bolaños is a wealthy business owner who had significant amounts of property confiscated by Ortega's administration. He was the Vice-President for close to five years, until he was required to step down to be able to run for President. While nearly everyone else in the current administration, from the President down, has been marinating in corruption, Bolaños has managed to maintain his image of honesty. The present President is nothing more than a crook, but Bolaños is a true right-wing ideologue.

Why did the Convergence lose?

The FSLN was able to pull together an impressive array of notable figures and forces in Nicaraguan society to form the National Convergence, including a number of prominent former contras. But at the end of the day, these forces were used to legitimate the candidacy of Daniel Ortega. In running Ortega as its candidate yet again, the FSLN led with its chin.

In Nicaragua, few individuals are loved--or hated--as much as Daniel Ortega. His actions in his four years as leader of the National Junta of Reconstruction and six more as President are fresh in living memory. Despite all the Convergence's efforts to run a clean, positive campaign, a majority of the public still associates Ortega with confiscations, war, and the draft. Even among Sandinistas, many people, including his own brother, refused to vote for Daniel yet again, for the top-down way he has run the FSLN.

Why did the Liberals win?

If the FSLN has historically based at least a part

of its identity on opposition to the policies of the United States government, then it is fair to say that at least a part of the Liberal mindset is identification with the United States. There is a list of reasons for this identification.

Most are historical reasons. The US government, of course, was a long-time supporter of the Somozas, who were also Liberals. However, no politician, not even present-day Liberals, would ever publicly link themselves to the Somozas. But that does not mean that the memories don't linger of quieter, more prosperous times, when troublemakers were summarily silenced. Those who benefitted from such times became contras during the 80's, and continued to receive aid from the US government, for which they remain grateful to this day.

Another historical reason is that a great many Nicaraguans fled to the United States during the Sandinista years. There, they made many friends, learned to speak English, and became quite comfortable with the North American lifestyle. A good number even became US citizens. These people, now returned from their exile, take opposition to US policies as a personal affront.

By far, however, the most important historical reason is the war in the 80's. When Nicaragua had a government that displeased the US government, war came to Nicaragua. The mantra of anti-Sandinistas is that the Sandinistas brought the war, overlooking the fact that the Sandinistas were on the defensive the whole time, and that without the support of the Reagan administration, the contra war effort would have collapsed in a matter of weeks. The mantra has been largely successful, due in no small part to the draft, which truly did bring the war to those who might have otherwise escaped its ravages. In the campaign, Ortega swore on the graves of his parents and his martyred brother that the draft would not return, but this was ignored.

This came to be a large part of the Liberal campaign. "We don't want war," was a common theme, implying that if Ortega was elected, armed confrontations would begin again with the US. Other predicted results of an Ortega administration included widespread property confiscations and food rationing. Ortega repeatedly promised to support a market economy and attract foreign investment, but the Liberals continue to refer to him as a "murderous Communist."

Finally, the global political climate after

September 11th was very much to the advantage of the Liberals. Less than a day after the attacks, signs appeared around Managua saying "Nicaragua does not want a President who is a friend of terrorists." This was meant to remind Nicaraguans that during the '80s, the Sandinistas had cordial relations with Qadaffi's Libya and warm relations with Castro's Cuba. This was evidence enough that Ortega shared responsibility for the attacks on New York and Washington. Many Liberals drew comparisons between the Sandinistas and the Taliban, overlooking the fact that bin Laden contributed a significant amount of money and support to the contras. Ortega promised to support all US efforts to fight terrorism, but the Liberals asserted that if he were elected, terrorists from ETA, the IRA, the FARC, etc., would walk the streets of Managua. In contrast, the Liberal campaign hammered the point that Bolaños is "a friend of the United States."

US interference

The US government itself saw fit to involve itself in the Nicaraguan elections, as well. US Ambassador Oliver Garza explained that a Sandinista administration "would not be in the interests of the United States," and showed up at a Bolaños campaign event to help distribute food to poor voters. The US State Department said that the North American government would have "serious reservations" about a new Sandinista administration. Only a few days before the election, a full page ad appeared in "La Prensa." Its title read, in small letters, "The brother of the President of the United States," and then in large red letters "GEORGE W. BUSH SUPPORTS ENRIQUE BOLAÑOS." Two

columns of text followed, explaining with no apparent sense of irony that Latin American nations were maturing in stable democracies, like the state of Florida. "Daniel Ortega is an enemy of everything the United States represents. Further, he is a friend of our enemies," says the ad, but "Enrique Bolanos is a man whose past promises a future of freedom." It was signed by Governor Jeb Bush of Florida.

While no one questions that more people voted for Bolaños than for Ortega, it is far more difficult to discern the reasons this happened. It would be conjecture to assert that Nicaraguans were frightened of the reaction of the United States government. It would not be conjecture, however, to state that the US government and the Liberal Party did everything they could to frighten them. It's bad enough for a political party to use scare tactics in its campaign, but for a foreign government to bully the population of a sovereign nation is completely unacceptable. There is no question that Nicaraguans took the statements of US functionaries as threats... and Nicaraguans know that the US does not threaten idly.

If our government has done questionable things in the United States, it has done horrific things in other nations. This hardly comes as news to Greens, but it's important to realize that dropping bombs isn't the only way we damage other countries. The mere threat of violence is enough to undermine the spirit of democracy.

More information on the Nicaraguan elections is available at <http://www.cepadreport.org>.

Steve Herrick is the previous editor of this newsletter. He is now working in Nicaragua.

Widely Praised Book Now Available

The Green Alternative by Brian Tokar is now available. Throughout the late 1980s and early '90s, this book was used as a basic text by emerging Green parties and local groups all across the US, as it was the first book to articulate the potential for Green politics with a primary focus on US-based activism.

Lifelong peace activist Dave Dellinger called *The Green Alternative* "the best introduction I have seen to the emerging Green alternative ... he presents a vision that gives us hope for the future." Roderick Nash, in the notes to his book *The Rights of Nature*, called it "The best source of Green information in the United States," and the American Booksellers Association's Booklist praised *The Green Alternative* as "The best American book yet about this promising sociopolitical development." It has been praised by folks across a very wide spectrum of Green tendencies.

Please contact: The Huron Valley Greens at 548 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; phone (734) 663-3555 or e-mail hvgreens@yahoo.com for information.



Best of the List

Art Myatt posted the following suggestion on the Migreens list server.

Why Not a Virtual Congress?

Because of the anthrax attack on the offices of the Congress, the business of the Congress has been halted. (Not sufficiently halted to prevent them passing a terrible bill or two, but halted for a few days.) Congress will be able to get back to work "normally" when the premises are decontaminated, but the fact is the people and the premises could be re-contaminated at any time, and might have to go through the clean-up process again and again.

Perhaps it is time to consider a better solution than periodically turning congressional offices over to space-suited "hot zone" crews and setting up security checkpoints on every Washington street corner. The body of Congress is easy to attack in this way simply because it is concentrated in Washington. In the 18th Century, there was no other practical way for a Congress to do its business than to assemble and do it face-to-face. In the 21st Century, it is entirely unnecessary.

The technology to decentralize the operation of the Congress of the United States is already fully developed. The many electronic forms of communication are so cheap and effective that physically transporting the members of Congress to Washington is no more necessary than providing hitching posts for their horses when they arrive. In addition to making the Congress much harder to assault, decentralizing it permanently would have many other advantages.

Every necessary and legitimate function of the Congress can now be performed by Senators and Representatives living and working in their home states and districts. No office in Washington is necessary. No staff in Washington is needed. No trips "back home" to stay in touch with the voters are required. The Senators and Representatives can stay home and stay in touch with the voters continuously, and in the process benefit the various local economies from which comes the tax money they are spending.

Many of the Senators and Representatives won't like this idea. Perhaps they like the social life in Washington, the special clubs and tunnels and barbershops that are reserved just for them. But the purpose of the Congress is not to provide pleasure and companionship for the Congresspersons. It is to make laws to benefit the people of the United States.

A Senator for Alaska can speak into a microphone in his office in Fairbanks and have his remarks entered in the Congressional Record just as well as if he were standing on the floor of the Senate Building. He can read bills and vote on them, propose amendments, ask questions of witnesses before a committee, and generally do everything necessary to act as a lawmaker. And when he steps out of his office, he has access to the same hospitals, restaurants, entertainments, and so on as his constituents. Perhaps he will take more care to see that these facilities are first-rate.

If the lawmakers have to live in exactly the same conditions as their constituents and remain available to hear the complaints and the compliments of those constituents and have their daily activities and communications scrutinized by those constituents, the likely result will be laws that are more satisfactory to the constituents. The laws passed by a virtual Congress are at any rate not likely to be worse in this respect than they are now.

Having the Congress in one place and removed from the lives of their constituents gives too much of an edge to the professional lobbyists and makes things far too inconvenient for the voters who are presumably being served. If you want the help of your Representative, why should you have to travel a thousand or two thousand miles to see her? Would it not be better for you to travel 2 or 20 miles, and be able to come back the next week if you are not satisfied? Would it not be better for the lobbyist to travel 20,000 miles to meet some Representatives, or 200,000 miles to meet all of them? Perhaps the influence of lobbyists could be diminished, and the will of the people enhanced by having the Congress stay home.

Surely it is cheaper to provide each elected Representative and Senator with broadband communication capability at a home-district office than with travel allowances and a Washington residence. Cheaper, and more effective. It would still be possible for terrorists to attack a few selected Senators and Representatives, but it would take much more than one or two or ten anthrax-bearing letters to shut down the institution.

The decentralized Congress could be an immediate and practical way to make some lemonade from today's abundant supply of lemons.

Do the Math

*By Douglas Campbell
November, 2001*

Does the gas mileage of a new car really make much difference? Really, how important is two or three miles per gallon one way or the other? I hear this question a lot. I'm sure it pops up every time someone goes shopping for a new car - and if not, it should. Well, let's *Do the Math* and answer it.

Barring a catastrophic crash or premature corrosion, a modern car or light truck is likely to go 180,000 miles before landing in the scrap heap. Dividing the distance by the mileage, here's what we get:

180,000 miles per car		
12 miles per gallon	15,000 gallons	typical of full-size sport-brutality vehicles
15 miles per gallon	12,000 gallons	typical of mid-size sport-utility vehicles
18 miles per gallon	10,000 gallons	typical of minivans
20 miles per gallon	9,000 gallons	representative of a better-than-average minivan

That's a little surprising, isn't it? Particularly considering that an eighteen-wheel gasoline tank truck only carries 8,000 gallons (48,000 pounds).

What does this mean to you? First, we have to ask what the price of fuel is going to be for the next eight or ten years. My crystal ball is no more reliable than anybody else's, so let's look at a couple of different possibilities:

Price of a gallon of gasoline				
	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$3.00
15,000 gallons	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00	\$30,000.00	\$45,000.00
12,000 gallons	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$36,000.00
10,000 gallons	\$12,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00
9,000 gallons	\$11,250.00	\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00	\$27,000.00

Will a gallon of gasoline hit \$3.00 or stay at \$1.25? I don't think either is likely. But look at the middle of the table: The fuel cost rivals the vehicle cost.

What does this mean to everybody else? There's about five pounds of carbon in a gallon of gasoline. Burn that, and you will get a little over 18 pounds of carbon dioxide.*

15,000 gallons	275,000 pounds of carbon dioxide
12,000 gallons	220,000 pounds
10,000 gallons	183,333 pounds
9,000 gallons	165,000 pounds

There you have it. Most families never *Do the Math* when choosing a new minivan or SUV, so the difference between 15 and 18 miles per gallon probably doesn't seem important. Now you've seen that those three miles per gallon will cost you 3 or 4 thousand dollars - that's a thousand dollars each mile. I'd say that they're pretty important. Those same three miles per gallon also mean that your car will emit 36,000 extra pounds of CO₂. That's pretty important, too.

*Note that carbon dioxide is not a fugitive emission and no amount of emission-control technology will reduce it. Only burning less carbon will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted.

The author welcomes suggestions of topics for future Do the Math columns.

Acting Locally

West Oakland Watershed

By Eric Borregard

I produce a local access talk show in Farmington Hills Hosted by Matt Abel and Marilyn MacDermaid. We are trying to send copies of our show out around the state (there are about 12 different shows). But we need the help of local Green Party members to do this.

In many cases you have to be a local resident in order to put these shows on the local system. We



came up with this promotional poster to get volunteers to take our tapes to the local access companies in order to get them on the air.

You can contact me at (734) 427-2250 for the tapes or more information.

Kent County

By Kevin Henahan, Chair

The Green Party of Kent County is one of the largest local chapters of the Green Party of Michigan, with over 50 members of GPMI and a local mailing list of over 200 others. Our people are drawn from every community in our area, from the

Lakeshore to the eastern suburbs and including Grand Valley State University's Allendale and Grand Rapids campuses, Calvin College, Aquinas College, Kendall College of Art and Design and others. We'd like to get involved in your neighborhood!

We have cooperated with local activist organizations such as the West Michigan Environmental Action Council and the Institute for Global Education in drafting our Community Issues Platform, which lays out citizen-friendly Green policies for improving all of our communities in Kent County. You'll find it on our website, www.wmgreens.iwarp.com, which also includes information about our monthly meetings and chances for you to get involved in Green social action and productive discussion. You're welcome to send us a letter at the address below or contact us by phone at (616) 752-8100. You can also pick up GPKC fliers at your local supermarket or your favorite neighborhood hangout.

We are engaged in several projects in collaboration with local and statewide organizations, in addition to planning events of our own. You can find us at the Eastown Street Fair every fall. Please check our website for more information on specific events.

We are seeking both volunteers and candidates! Local offices are both important to the implementation of Green policy and completely winnable with educated and passionate candidates and informed local volunteers. Please feel free to contact us for more information on our strategy for the 2002 local elections and how you can contribute to our success. We'd love to hear from you - don't wait to make a difference in your city!

*Green Party of Kent County – (616) 752-8100
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University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

By Juscha Robinson

The UM Ann Arbor Student Greens have been keeping busy this fall! Our major activities have centered around helping out with various peace demonstrations and groups around campus. With so many groups, though, trying to do uncoordinated events, attendance at everything was low and schedule conflicts rampant.

In mid-October, after one attempt at

peace-coalition building had fallen apart, the Student Greens and Huron Valley Greens decided to try again. We reserved a room, contacted groups to send representatives, and facilitated the initial meeting. It was excellently attended by a variety of groups from both the campus and community. The first meeting was largely spent sorting out philosophical differences, and deciding on points of unity and the group's ultimate purpose.

Subsequent meetings have been exciting - we have broken up into working groups to coordinate canvassing for peace in neighborhoods, to plan a larger, family-oriented, community peace fair (stand by for more details - probably the first weekend in December), and to visualize the coalition's direction and future. Attendance at Wednesday night meetings remains strong and energy-levels are high. As of now, the group is unnamed, but can be reached at bigpeace@yahoo.com.

Among other things, the UM Student Greens have also become involved with the campus Environmental Justice group, which is pushing

fair-trade coffee at the university. As a first step, they are campaigning to have fair-trade coffee (only!) served in all the dormitories! That's a *LOT* of coffee! And the amazing thing about it is that University Food Services has said that it doesn't matter to them, we only have to show that enough students want the change made! Specifically, the Student Greens are considering writing a Code or some statement on Fair Trade, and approaching different campus organizations to endorse it - as proof of student support.

Another campus group is focusing on the local coffee shops, and is starting to make head-way in having them offer shade-grown, organic or fair-trade coffee, in addition to their regular brews. Stay tuned for ... University Catering!

That's the news from UM Ann Arbor! If anyone needs more details or updates on either of these two items, please contact me:

Juscha Robinson
jvannier@umich.edu

Community Gardens Improve Quality of Life

By Virginia Heick
Habitat site co-chair

Good things are growing at the Boyne City Elementary School Habitats Site, now entering its second year. And it isn't just plants. Eyes and hands are *alive*. elementary school students learned many wonderful lessons throughout the afternoon of May 25. The cloudy cool, rainy, sunny day became the interactive classroom for hands-on learning about



plant diversity, teamwork habitat restoration techniques, using garden tools, applying organic fertilizer, planting seedlings, shrubs and trees, mulching, creating beauty, having fun, and the rewards of hard work.

Children are learning about organic gardening

methods to help them avoid using toxic pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers that are dangerous to the environment, wildlife, and people. This learning will help protect our streams, rivers, lakes, wildlife, and food chain into the future.

Students are learning that co-creating "wild habitat" is good for wildlife, people, and the planet. Biological diversity is declining worldwide. One of the reasons is that millions of acres of life-supporting habitat have been turned into lawns. Lawns support very little biological diversity, and billions of pounds of poisons are poured on lawns every year to keep them green and weed free. More chemicals are used on lawns than for agricultural purposes in the US.

Huge amounts of carbon dioxide are spewed into the atmosphere by cutting these lawns which adds to global warming, and billions of gallons of water (more electricity/ carbon dioxide/ global warming) are used on lawns. We need smaller lawns and more habitat. These are some of the goals of our habitats site project. Students are learning that hard work pays off.

In addition to having four beautiful trees planted by Chuck Robinson (landscaper), the students planted 25 shrubs, 12 trees, and many seedlings started in their classrooms. Things are looking-and feeling- very different at our playground/outdoor learning grounds; alive, green, happy, healthy, and inviting are words

that come to mind!

We hope our evolving project will inspire other schools to look at the environment their playgrounds provide and ask themselves if this is a healthy, beautiful, welcoming environment; or does it feel like a prison yard? Environment matters!

As an initiator of this project, and one who has interacted with the energy, enthusiasm, and joy of these kids first hand, I would like to publicly and respectfully request that the BC School Board fund a part-time position of "nature guide and mentor" to work at the Outdoor Learning Grounds Habitats site three days per week during the fall and spring months.

For interested students, having someone available to help guide their fascination with the natural world, to teach them gardening techniques, respect for nature, facts about the weather, soil, water, insects and plants, while maintaining the grounds, would be

a wonderful educational, opportunity/tool to provide for our children.

The school now pays people to observe and supervise the children outside. Why not fund a participating "nature guide/mentor" who would be able to direct, funnel and guide children's energy and natural curiosity in a very positive direction? What better way would there be to teach important lessons and enrage the natural curiosity of our youth?



Virginia Heick is a member of Up North Greens.

Use Paypal for Contributions

We've made an update to the migreens web site and installed a 'recurring donation' option for those of you who like to make contributions electronically. The new page is located at <http://www.migreens.org/gppaypalsub.htm> (From the main page, click on 'Membership and Contributions'; from there, on the bottom half of the page, click on monthly installments.)

We've set up three levels of contribution that will be deducted automatically from a credit or debit card on a monthly basis. We felt this was an excellent way to keep the party afloat financially, while making it

relatively simple and painless for much of our membership.

The transaction is conducted through Paypal, an Internet payment service. You don't have to be a Paypal member to make the process work, but it does simplify a couple aspects (Signing up with Paypal takes about 30 seconds.)

GP Texas uses a similar system for their activities and Jim Reed, one of their national reps, mentioned to me that they pull in about \$800/month with that alone. Consistent income would go a long way toward our expansion, so if you feel that you can contribute a small amount every month, we could all benefit from it.

Grassroots continued from page 7

there must be a counterbalancing of the drive for short term gains with fiscal policies and zoning decisions that are responsible to future generations and insure quality of life. I also hope to support our youth with more concerts, festivals and chances for participation with the City in cultural events.

I am looking forward to getting feedback, input and advice from other Greens throughout the state and country at this time. I feel very lucky, excited

and thankful for this opportunity.

City Council continued from page 8

monthly publication. In August and early September, they hung single page posters on bulletin boards, in windows, and in other available public spaces, advertising the candidacy and upcoming campaign events. This effort was followed in late September by a single page insert in the Ann Arbor News. By the

Ecological Wisdom * Grassroots Democracy * Social Justice * Non-violence
Community-based Economics * Decentralization * Feminism * Respect for Diversity
Personal and Global Responsibility * **ARE YOU GREEN?** * Future Focus/Sustainability

middle of October, they had volunteers handing out flyers and knocking on doors in half of the precincts of Mike's ward. The chosen precincts were the ones that had demonstrated the highest support for a Green candidate during the 2000 election. In November, the Committee purchased 50 lawn signs, and began placing them with individual supporters and in high traffic areas throughout the Ward. Finally, volunteers were stationed at the polls on Election Day.

Campaign events, the third aspect of the Committee's strategy, were peppered throughout the ten weeks of campaigning. In August, Mike began a series of bi-weekly "Meet the Candidate" forums at local restaurants. The purpose of these forums was to introduce himself to the people of the ward and to get their feedback on local concerns. Early in September, Mike joined the University of Michigan Student Greens tabling and passing out flyers on campus at the annual FestiFall. In mid September, The Committee to Elect Mike Nowak and the Huron Valley Greens held a joint bike rally. Members of the organizations rode from a 4th Ward park to Ann Arbor City Hall, and then spoke to the City Council of their hopes and concerns regarding the bicycling atmosphere in the city. Late September, Mike joined forces with the Green Party of Michigan and the Huron Valley Greens on National Coming Out Day to table at a block party and a rally at the Federal Building in downtown Ann Arbor sponsored by the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project. In October, Mike was invited to run two television spots on the local cable channel. The first was a 3 1/2 minutes speech for the Candidate's Comment forum. The second was a 1 hour debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters. In November, Mike was out at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market passing out information and talking to potential supporters.

Additional campaign efforts included:

- Fundraising letters
- Interviews with local newspapers and a monthly publication
- Letters to the Editor in support of Mike's campaign, and
- Encouraging local Greens to "Get out the Vote" by reminding their friends and neighbors of Election Day

These efforts, although not bringing in a victory, did lead to an increase in the Greens' percentage of the vote. This was the second run for a Green Party city council candidate for Ann Arbor's 4th Ward since getting on the ballot and we've steadily improved our results. In 2000, the Green candidate got about 9%

of the vote. This year, Mike Nowak received about 32% of the vote, among the approximately 10% who voted in this off-year election, winning 3 out of 10 precincts. The unofficial count was as follows:

Michael Nowak (G) 378
Marcia Higgins (R) 800

For future Green candidates in the 4th Ward, as well as other local election, we need to refine our message, increase voter turn-out among our base and reach out to those who did not vote for us to show them how Green values are truly mainstream values. There was a lot of positive feedback about this race, especially from voters grateful to be offered an alternative to the two established parties.

Thank you to everyone who gave time, effort, ideas, and donations to this campaign. We would not have gotten this far without you and I hope many local Greens are encouraged by our results to run for office or to work on campaigns in 2002!

Northwest Passage continued from page 12

"Hubbert was dismissed by many experts inside and outside the oil industry. Pro-Hubbert and anti-Hubbert factions arose and persisted until 1970, when US oil production peaked and started its long decline."

Deffeyes has applied the Hubbert method to the global oil production industry. His calculations picked 2003 as the exact year of peak production. However, he cautions that the numbers for global reserves are not entirely reliable, and so he has conservatively settled on a range from 2004 to 2008 for his predicted peak. He has considered the possible effects of new oil field discoveries and new oil drilling technologies, concluding, "This much is certain. No initiative put in place starting today can have a substantial effect on the peak production year. No Caspian Sea exploration, no SUV replacements, no renewable energy projects can be brought on at a sufficient rate to avoid a bidding war for the remaining oil."

American economic growth of the last several decades has meant the continually increasing use of oil. Build new housing farther out, and get a longer commute. Drive a giant "luxury" four-wheel truck on that commute, and burn more gasoline. Do more business travel, and the jets will burn more fuel. Take vacations to exotic (i.e., more distant) locations, and so on. None of this needs to be explained to anyone who was paying the least bit of attention.

Economically, this type of expansion is only

possible so long as oil production can be increased without raising the price. When world production can not be increased, then the price goes up and the turmoil of the 1970s returns, this time to stay and intensify. By an odd convergence, the policies that would address global warming and lessen the daily burden of other chemical pollution are the same policies that would help us prepare, and which The United States may well be forced to adopt whether Bush likes it or not

We can see it coming. Nonetheless, we probably will experience this change in the easy availability of oil as a shock and a surprise, because our government is doing practically nothing to prepare for it. The forces of his beloved world market will assure this whole set of issues is not much longer ignored.

"Fossil fuels are a one-time gift that lifted us up from subsistence agriculture and eventually should lead us to a future based on renewable resources," says Kenneth Deffeyes. Translating this vision into reality will indeed require breaking the grip of corporations, especially the oil-producing ones, on political power in America and in the world. "Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand. It is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy," said Wendell Berry. It is not true in this world, but it should be.

Bonfire continued from page 14

extradition demand for Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda associates.

For its part, the Bush administration is ready to send in the bombers without meeting a minimum of due process before launching retaliatory state violence. With breathtaking imperial arrogance, presidential spokesman Ari Fleisher stood before the media and stated, in so many words, that secret evidence will remain secret even though a global war is in bloom on the basis of that evidence. "To demand evidence is not helpful," stated Condoleezza Rice, directing that same denial at the U.S. public's right to know. Eventually the Bush administration will be forced to provide some version of the available evidence, but their initial reaction reveals an underlying belief that their concept of national security trumps all other public interests.

There are legitimate U.S. interests at stake of self-defense and prevention of future attacks of criminal terrorism which end in the mass murder of its citizens. Those interests do not relieve the United

States of a legal and ethical duty to take all measures to avoid using violence before undertaking military action. By so far refusing to open a legal process and stay the arrival of warplanes until that process proves futile, the Bush administration reveals its basic policy motivation: naked revenge and re-assertion of American imperial power. Retribution is to international law as lynching is to domestic law.

The ascendant ideologies of domestic and foreign security share a nexus in privileging the rights of a state over the collective rights of its citizens. The U.S. government is willing to go to war on the basis of secret evidence, deport people on secret evidence, conduct secret searches, and examine and exchange personal files in secret. These security ideologies establish themselves atop a rationalization that a necessary balance exists between security and individual rights, a false equation.

In *Ex parte Milligan*, when the Supreme Court restored habeas corpus in 1866, it rejected precisely this equation. "[The Constitution's framers] knew -- the history of the world told them -- the nation they were founding, be its existence short or long, would be involved in war; how often or how long continued human foresight could not tell, and that unlimited power, whenever lodged at such a time, was especially hazardous to freemen. For this and other equally weighty reasons, they secured the inheritance they had fought to maintain by incorporating in a written constitution the safeguards which time had proved were essential to its preservation." Rash people throw legal rights onto the war bonfire, with terrible consequences for human lives.

The Bush administration has no inherent right to join Osama bin Laden in a culture of lawlessness, one that destroys civil liberties -- life itself foremost among them. Civil liberties are not ahistorical; they emerged and continue to develop from a history of activism and struggle against authority that ignores or overrides individual rights. The administration's Anti-Terrorism Act, currently before Congress, betrays that history and needs vigorous opposition from anyone concerned to affirm and expand civil liberties.

*Joe Lockard is a member of the
Bad Subjects Collective.*

Campus Greens Continued from page 15

general membership in decision making, gender balance (and identity) on the steering committee, and methods of revising the bylaws.

Approximately ten resource committees were

formed which were then charged with providing specific resources to local chapters throughout the year. For example, a research and clearinghouse committee was formed that will provide research information and action plans via the Campus Greens Web site to all Campus Greens locals. Finally, instant run-off voting was used on the last evening of the convention to elect ten new steering committee members. These elections not only achieved gender balance, but also promoted a high school student to the ranks of the steering committee, showing the Campus Greens' dedication to all students.

While I'm sure everyone is interested in the intricate details of the actual convention, I know that most people are more interested in the events of Friday night's Super Rally for Radical Change. Over 3,000 people attended the rally in Chicago's Congress Theatre. The old movie house is soon to become a historic landmark, and it is one of the best venues for independent musical acts in the city.

Speakers included Ralph Nader, Winona LaDuke (speaking with Ralph for the first time since the elections), Cornel West, Medea Benjamin, and Jello Biafra. Performers included Patti Smith and Ani DiFranco.

Many local and national activists groups had the opportunity to set up booths in the lobby of the theatre and reach this large audience. While it was great to see all these speakers and performers come out for the rally to help the Campus Greens raise money to establish office space and a full time staff, the most impressive were the speakers who participated in the remainder of the convention. Jello Biafra, Cornell West, and Medea Benjamin became regular fixtures at UIC over the next couple of days, appearing at workshops and talking with student activists. This showed their genuine commitment to the Green movement and student activism in general.

While it is good for a group like the Campus Greens to spend four days organizing and talking about strategy, we should not forget that the Campus Greens are a group born out of activism. To remind us of these roots, the convention ended with the Walk for Justice, a march for affordable housing in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago.

Because I grew up around Chicago and attended DePaul University as an undergraduate, I've always known Rogers Park as one of the more diverse, more affordable, and safer neighborhoods in the city. Rogers Park has always been a place for students and the working class to live affordably and comfortably, but now gentrification is beginning to change this.

By marching with the members of the Rogers Park community, the Campus Greens showed their commitment to activism in a way that other portions of the convention could not. The fact that the convention ended with the march made this commitment a lasting memory in the minds of those who participated in the event.

For those of you with further interest in the Campus Greens, you can check us out at <http://www.campusgreenparties.org> on the World Wide Web. The new post-convention web site should be up and running in the next few weeks. For more information about getting involved with the Campus Greens in Michigan, you can contact me at rhaug@umich.edu.

Labor Greens continued from page 16

We will work towards a society that is not dominated by corporate greed. We will create politics that genuinely puts people first, especially people of color, working and poor people, - fighting for a healthy environment, a healthy workplace, a comfortable income for all, and a creative, expressive, and humane culture.

The Green Party took a major step forward in the 2000 election campaign. Thousands of citizens, young and old, attended rallies or became actively involved. Now is the time for those with a vision of building the Green Party into a major - pro-labor - political force to organize and recruit new members. We have seized this historical opportunity. Won't you join with us?

GPUSA continued from page 19

As Moe Cazzell (FL) stated: "This isn't about renegotiation. It's about incrimination."

Nancy Oden spoke against and Les Evenchick (LA) tried to battle her for time to speak against Boston. He then insisted on speaking because "the lawyers" had been given "extra" time in previous instances.

This was followed by inviting all the delegates to stand and speak briefly about their thoughts on Boston. Comments were followed by a straw poll on the Boston proposal itself. The actual proposal had been presented by Howie's local; Syracuse, NY; with some enabling conditions attached that verified how the implementation was to function.

The straw poll was offered four choices: accept, reject, renegotiate, and abstain. The vote tally was: 88.5 accept, 34 reject, 55 renegotiate, four

abstentions.

Then, the Syracuse proposal came to the floor. At that time, Mitch attempted to bring in a discussion period on Syracuse, in contradiction to the agreed upon agenda. Amy disagreed with this idea and the room was in a bit of an uproar again. The general consensus of the room both for and against was that we stick to the prescribed agenda.

The vote was finally taken: 99.3 accept, 81.2 reject, one abstention. The odd vote totals are a consequence of Don stating that he was voting .8 of a vote to accept from Missouri to represent the one member of the Gateway Greens local that approved of Boston. The final ratio is almost 55% in favor of Boston.

The Congress recessed at that point. Many of the pro-Boston folks gathered during dinner to continue discussion of the new organization. The group has an ad hoc steering committee at the moment, made up of Adrianna Buonarroti (MI), Anne-Bernadette Weiner (IL), Walt Sheasby (CA), Joe Mosley (NJ), and Carl Romanelli (PA). Most of the Michigan delegation left Carbondale shortly thereafter, with Steve remaining behind to observe the GNC meeting.

My personal perspective is simple: GPUSA, as an effective organization, is dead. The activity that took place that weekend demolishes any rational expectation of progressive development.

Following Carbondale, I presented a proposal to both GPMI and the Huron Valley local to disaffiliate with GPUSA. Both proposals passed. Since then, Florida, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Illinois have all followed suit.

Michigan Greens Update

Below are a few selected items from the latest Michigan Greens Update, an e-mail newsletter operated by GPMi member Kenneth Young. To subscribe, e-mail to: migreens-updates-subscribe@yahoo.com and it will begin appearing in your inbox.

On October 18, the Michigan March for Election Reform Coalition lobbied state legislators for public funding of elections and a uniform statewide voting system. Comprised of the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, the Green Party of Michigan and a number of other organizations, the newly formed coalition is mobilizing grassroots activists and pressing the Michigan Legislature to make election reform a top priority.

The national AFL-CIO is reporting that two of five Charleston, SC longshoremen who were hit with felony riot charges after a picket line scuffle with police in Jan.

New York, which has two groups competing for authenticity, (one pro-GPUSA, the other pro-GP-US) had a substantial majority favoring disaffiliation, but failed to achieve the necessary super-majority.

When Steve and I discussed our (and Michigan's role) in what was to become this struggle, we understood implicitly that this was, essentially, a do or die dispute. Either GPUSA would cooperate with the majority of Greens in this nation, or it would burn whatever bridges remained.

Unfortunately, the latter result has played itself out. Regardless of what GPMI's eventual decision was, I had intended to resign my post as state rep to GPUSA and promptly did so at the August SQM. The rancor and vitriol of GPUSA had become the least enjoyable aspect of my activity as a Green and I did not want to pursue it any further. Despite the trial, and as always at these meetings, I met some good, new friends and enjoyed time with those I had met before. All of the delegates from Michigan spoke well before the Congress. However, they also endured far more than I would have had them do, and I did not wish to be in the position of encouraging people to participate in that kind of exercise any longer. Thankfully, I don't have to and neither does any other member of GPMI. If the remaining shreds of GPUSA can ever decide to work with their fellow Greens, then I have no qualms about doing so whenever that event takes place. But, at this time, it's a better choice to look to the future, rather than remain mired in the past.

Marc Reichardt is treasurer of GPMI and GPUS rep.

2000, have negotiated a plea that reduces the charges to misdemeanors.

Nancy Oden, an activist with the Greens/Green Party USA (GPUSA) was detained, searched, and barred from flying after her name was flagged by security. Details surrounding the event are still being determined, such as the reason for her being stopped, and the event, along with other airport security over-reactions, has raised serious concerns about freedom of movement of activists, especially in light of some of the upcoming national and international events and demonstrations.

From November 16 - 18, the Finance Ministers and central bank governors of the Group of 20 (G20) nations, as well as key segments of the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) will meet in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The annual School of the Americas action is taking place on November 16th-18th in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

ACLU – Michigan
1249 Washington Boulevard
Suite 2901
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-4662
<http://www.aclumich.org>

**Americans United for
Separation of Church and State**
(734) 789-8790
www.au.org
metrodetroitau@hotmail.com

**American Friends Service
Committee**
1420 Mill St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Amnesty International - Detroit
(313) 531-7647

ADAPTT (animal rights)
P. O. Box 725
Royal Oak, MI 48068
(810) 763-2715
www.adaptt.org
dogmaday@aol.com

Coalition Against Police Brutality
(313) 610-0418 or (313) 628-4932

**Committee for the Political
Resurrection of Detroit**
P. O. Box 44474
Detroit, MI 48244
(313) 896-1533

Detroit Caucus of Greens (DCG)
Contact: Mike Madias
(313) 883-4833,
detroitardball@aol.com

**Earth Works Garden/Greening
of Detroit**
1820 Mt. Eliot Ave
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 579-2100
rsamyn@capuchinministries.org

Earthwatch
Claudia Seldon, Mi. Field Rep.
1965 Pembridge Ct.
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 393-9329

**Friends Committee on National
Legislation**
215 Exchange St.
Marshall, MI 49068
(800) 630-1330 in Washington, D.C.

Gray Panthers
P. O. Box 37033

Oak Park, MI 48327
(248) 549-5170, or (248) 669-6343

Green House – Detroit
22757 Woodward, Suite 210
P. O. Box 20076
Ferndale, MI 48220
(248) 336-9241
<http://www.greenhouseonline.org>
jamrag@gliis.net

Jobs with Justice
600 W. Lafayette
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-0800 (313) 961-9776 (fax)
barton_julie@hotmail.com

K Town Hall
124 Lovell
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
(616) 382-6110

Labor Notes
7435 Michigan Ave
Detroit, MI 48210
(313) 842-6262
<http://www.labornotes.org>
labornotes@labornotes.org

Labor Party – Detroit
Margaret Gutshall
P. O. Box 39192
Redford, MI 48239
(248) 788-6528
<http://www.igc.org/lpa>

Metro Detroit Against Sanctions
c/o Peace Action
195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208
Ferndale, MI 48220
(248) 548-3920

**Michigan Campaign
Finance Network**
1310 Turner St., Suite B
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 482-7198
www.mcfn.org mcfn@mcfn.org

Michigan Peace Team
1516 Jerome St.
Lansing, MI 48912-2220
(517) 484-4219
<http://www.michiganpeaceteam.org>
michpeaceteam@igc.org

MichUHCAN (universal health care)
8846 Robindale
Detroit, MI 48239
(248) 477-7911 or (248) 548-3019
<http://michuhcan.tripod.com>

Motor City Blight Busters

17405 Lahser Rd.
Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 255-4355

National Lawyers Guild
Dave Staiger (313) 963-0843
<http://www.michigannlg.org>
nlgdetroit@igc.org

NORML/PRA-YES 2001
Schmidt Law Office
255 N. Center Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48603
(517) 799-4641
www.mi4norml.org

Peace & National Priorities Center
P. O. Box 240344
Orchard Lake, MI 48324
(248) 683-3363

Peace Action
195 W. Nine Mi. Rd., #208
Ferndale, MI 48220
(248) 548-3920

Riverfront East Alliance (REAL)
(313) 438-4143
www.members.aol.com/realriver2

Sierra Club
Linda Mallon (734) 427-1761
mallinl@netzero.net

Solidarity – Ann Arbor
2649 Southlawn
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 572-2515
finnegan@voyager.net

Solidarity – Detroit
7012 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48210
(313) 841-0160
<http://www.igc.org/solidarity>
solidarity@igc.org

Transportation Riders United
(313) 885-7588

Triangle Foundation
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.
Detroit, MI 48219
(313) 537-3323
www.tri.org

US/Cuba Labor Exchange
P. O. Box 39188
Redford, MI 48239
(313) 836-3752

Vegans in Motion
(248) 591-0543

ARE YOU GREEN?

What is the point in joining the Green Party? Why not the Democrats or even the Republicans? Quite simply, we don't believe the big two parties represent us. They are controlled by their fat cat contributors, not their constituency. Greens' politics are based and centered on our values. We believe in the following ten Key Values, and we practice what we preach.

Ecological Wisdom

More than recycling, this means living in harmony with our surroundings. Greens are not anti-technology, but we demand that the creators and users of technology take responsibility for its effects. We try to live lightly on the earth, and want to make it easier for others to do so as well.

Social Justice

The rights in our constitution and promises of our society are meant for all people, regardless of our superficial differences. All deserve the chance to live a healthy, meaningful life.

Grassroots Democracy

People have the right to, and capacity for, self-determination. In practice, Greens make decisions by voluntary consensus whenever possible.

Non-violence

Violence is morally wrong and logistically ineffective, because it treats the symptoms of problems, not the root causes. Greens support self-defense, but only narrowly defined.

Decentralization

Centralization has caused all manner of problems in modern society, because our elected officials are out of touch with those they supposedly represent. Greens believe that the closer decisions are made to those who will be affected by them, the better.

Community-Based Economics

Economics was originally meant to maintain the household, but today, has largely taken on the opposite meaning. Greens believe that the economy should be about individuals and families, not corporations, which are a legal fiction. We value people over profits, when the two conflict.

Feminism

Greens are feminists, which means that we believe in the equality of women and men (regardless of sexual orientation). No one has the right to define or limit another person.

Respect for Diversity

In ecosystems, diversity is not a pleasant goal to be aspired to, it's a

bedrock requirement. Similarly, in human relationships, Greens believe that diversity is both the cause and effect of a healthy society.

Personal & Global Responsibility

The more we learn about our planet, the more we learn that our actions have effects far away. We must be responsible, both socially and ecologically, to our neighbors next door and to our neighbors across the world. We believe in the slogan, "Think globally, act locally."

Future Focus / Sustainability

Similarly, we must consider the lasting effects of our actions. We must be responsible to our descendants. We must use resources in ways that do not use them up.

See more at: <http://www.migreens.org>

Welcome to the Green Movement! Memberships and donations

Please cut out this form, fill it in, and mail it with your check or money order to the address below.

Note: You do **NOT** need to give up membership in any other organization to be a member of the Green Party of Michigan.

- \$20 - Regular member
- \$50 - Sustaining member
- \$1000 - Lifetime member
- \$5 - Student, low income member

Make checks payable to "Green Party of Michigan Committee."

Membership money goes for administrative costs, party building activities, like the ballot petition drive, as well as non-political educational efforts of the Green movement in Michigan.

- I Don't want to join but I am sending a contribution of \$ _____

Thank you very much!

I am claiming membership in the Green Party of Michigan and believe in the Ten Key Values and/or the Four Pillars of the Greens.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

County _____

Phone (Fax?) _____

Email address _____

Green Party local (if applicable) _____

Send to: Green Party of Michigan
548 S. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The question is not whether or not you should become a Green. Rather, the question is whether or not you're already a Green. If you believe in the values above, you are. If you act on them, you're already a part of the Green movement. By working together, we can accomplish more than any of us can do alone. By voting together, we can elect officials who embody and promote our values. The Greens are both a movement and a political party. Through electoral politics, we seek to facilitate responsible lifestyles, and put an end to ecological destruction and social injustice.

