

Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan Volume 4, No. 3 Summer 2002



House in the Cass Corridor - Photo by Priscilla Dzubiek

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Why Are You Green?

In 1991, a few months after his tenth birthday, our son, Thomas Reed Myatt, died. Tommy was a wonderful person; compassionate, funny and intelligent. Most surprising, considering the lack of musical talent elsewhere in our family, he was an accomplished guitar player. But he had been fighting leukemia for more than four years, and he died a week before Easter.

For months or even years, we were too stunned to do more than go through the motions of daily life. We agonized over what had caused the disease, and what we might have done to protect him that we had failed to do. If it was not caused by cosmic rays, was it from radioactivity left over from nuclear testing? Was it fumes from the paint factory (now closed) a couple of blocks down the street? Of course, there is no way to find a particular cause for a particular case, but we did ask the question over and over.

We gained far more experience with hospitals and health insurance than we ever wanted. Mostly, the doctors and nurses were wonderful. The insurance people were infuriating. At a time when a bone marrow transplant was the only possibility for saving Tommy's life, our health insurance company said "No." The University of Iowa hospitals had done the procedure a hundred times or more the previous year, but somehow, Blue Cross rated it "experimental." He did get the bone marrow transplant, no thanks to Blue Cross, but because of additional coverage from the State of Michigan. It bought him five months, not a lifetime.

A few years after Tommy's death, we became active with the Metro Detroit chapter of the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network. We had for a long time been abstractly convinced that national health insurance would be a good thing.

It made no sense to us for people to depend on health insurance companies to pay their medical bills, when the companies lose money by paying and save money by not paying. Tommy's death made us aware that this is not an abstract issue but a vital one.

Sometime around 1998, give or take a year, a scientific study came out showing the children who ate foods preserved with nitrites - hot dogs and bacon, among others - had ten times the chance of developing leukemia. We thought we were being careful when we cut the kid's hot dogs lengthwise, to make them the wrong shape to choke on. This cause went to the top of our list.

When we looked at the list, aside from the cosmic rays, everything on it was one form or another of pollution. Sometimes it is a byproduct of industry, and sometimes the deliberate policy. Some is chemical, some radioactive. It's all pollution. Our best guess is that pollution killed our son.

When the Nader campaign of 2000 came around, we were ready to do more than just spin our wheels writing letters to the bozos in Congress for national health insurance. We were ready to replace them - personally, if that is what it takes. We were ready to stop industrial pollution - not just when it is cost-effective, but whenever it is harmful. We were ready to work with everyone else with compatible goals, and even ready to learn from them what other issues are important.

Now, Arthur is running for a seat in the State House of Representatives, and I am editing this magazine. That's how we became Green. Are you Green yet?

Art Myatt
Linda Manning Myatt
AWOG Editor

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: newsletter@migreens.org. 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.

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Volume 4, No. 3

Summer 2002

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan

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Lessons from The Fourth of July in Greensboro

This very encouraging item was posted on the LaborGreens list by Hal Nixon.

*By Ed Whitfield
Greensboro, NC*

Folks who believe the official line that the support for the current US policies in the war on terrorism and the new domestic measures at home is nearly unanimous need to know what happened in Greensboro, North Carolina on the 4th of July.

The Greensboro Peace Coalition heeded a firm suggestion by one of its leading younger members that it should have an entry in the city's annual Fourth of July Parade. After some hesitation, we decided to register an entry and spread the word widely among our contacts that we were going to claim our piece of the public space and utilize that day of patriotism to spread our message of opposition to Bush's "war on terrorism."

To coincide with our entry into the parade, we bought a half page ad in the local daily paper, the Greensboro News and Record. We had them print the "Not In Our Name – Statement of Conscience" along with names of over 100 prominent national signers. (See page 11 for this statement.)

We were never sure how many people would show up. Some of our members and supporters were afraid that the parade entry would be too aggressive a tactic. They feared that in the light of the patriotic outburst since 9-11 an entry in the city's parade would be too much in the face of those who would be waving the flag that day. Some of the same folks who have stood weekly on a busy street corner in a vigil for peace every since October when the US started bombing Afghanistan, felt that the parade entry would be a bit too much.

Some of them changed their minds and came to the parade anyway. The were all glad that they did because those negative fears turned out on this 4th of July in Greens-boro North Carolina to be wrong.

We had over 50 people – black and white, young and old, professional and



unemployed – come to march with us behind a large banner that said "Greensboro Peace Coalition – Not In Our Name." Along the route we passed out small flyers with the "Not In Our Name" pledge of resistance on one side and a statement from the Greensboro Peace Coalition on the other.

The theme of the Parade was "American Heroes." Our delegation marched with posters of Mark Twain, Albert Einstein, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, and other great Americans who have stood for peace and against militarism and aggression.

As we walked the mile and a half parade route, many of the people along the street began to applaud. There were a few hecklers, but only a few. There were far more smiles, peace signs and applause. Two city police on bicycles pulled into the parade to follow our group. We passed the reviewing stand where there was a live broadcast on the local radio. The announcer seemed a bit surprised as he announced "And here is ... the Greensboro Peace Coalition." We let out a cheer for ourselves that could be heard on the radio.

After the parade, we set up a table among the groups who participated in the day long "Fun Fourth" activities. We were in between the table of a businessman running for the US Senate, and a young man selling digital phone service for AT&T. Many people came by our table to pick up more literature and to talk. So many times that day we heard how glad people were to see someone with the courage to express concerns about the nation's direction.

A real surprise came when officials from the event's organizing committee came to our table to give us the award for "Best Interpretation of Theme" in the Parade.

After the day was over, I looked at the emails coming to the Greensboro Peace Coalition. Some of them were caustic and critical of us for having the nerve of going against "mainstream America." One said that what we were doing and saying was not "in vogue" and that this wasn't the 60's. Many others however expressed real joy that someone was standing up for what was right and asking how to get more involved.

We are following up by getting people involved in our regular meeting and inviting them to other special events like the speaker from Columbia who

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GP-US Convenes in Philadelphia

By Marc Reichardt
GPMI delegate to GP-US

Similar to last year's meeting in Santa Barbara, the 2002 mid-term Green Party of the U.S. (GP-US) convention in Philadelphia went fairly smoothly. It was well attended by almost all of the current state party delegates to the Coordinating Committee (CC), and several dozen more observers and interested onlookers. In attendance from Michigan were Juscha Robinson and myself as delegates, as well as Adrianna Buonarroti, Ben Burgis, Douglas Campbell, and Kevin Henehan.

There are signs that the national party is growing faster than its current processes can safely accommodate. This was demonstrated a number of times during the CC meeting, which took place over the first two days of the convention (Thursday the 18th, and Friday the 19th). There were several issues with process and the time available to fulfill said process. Consequently, several people are filling out an ad hoc committee (based on the previous ad hoc committee; more detail about that below) to review the national's structure and make some recommendations about how it should proceed. I am one of those people.

On Thursday, business got underway by confirming the acceptance of application from five new state parties: Alaska (the oldest state party in the nation), Nebraska, North Carolina, Vermont and Washington. This brings the total number of state parties joined with GP-US to 39, with 3 more applications pending. The acceptance of Nebraska ignited the simmering debate over state parties charging dues which I'll cover in more detail below.

Another application on the table was that of the Lavender Greens. They are the first of the identity caucuses to successfully organize under the provisions of the Boston Proposal, which was accepted last summer. There is some degree of revisionist history being attempted by those opposed to the idea of the caucuses. A claim went up during a debate over caucus rules that the "spirit" of Boston had been accepted in Santa Barbara, but the "letter" had not.

Let me reassure everyone that our own Steve Herrick was the one to propose on the floor in Santa Barbara that, the then-ASGP (Association of State Green Parties) should take the

high road, and accept and implement the Boston Proposal as written despite the Green Party of the U.S.A. (GPUSA) cabal's refusal to allow that organization to participate. EVERYONE agreed to that. There was no debate.

The Lavender Greens are for the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) members of state Green parties, and Boston stipulated that they must have at least 100 members in 15 states to qualify as a caucus, as well as have a set of bylaws and an election for their delegate to the CC. Despite some interference by recalcitrant elements of the remnants of GPUSA, the caucus fulfilled these requirements.

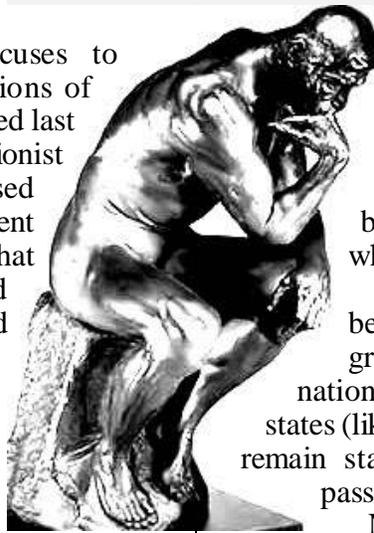
However, there was a debate over the propriety of the rules stipulated for the caucuses which had been proposed by the Accreditation Committee (AC) for approval at this meeting. Eventually, they came to a vote, with 54 voting Yes, 15 No, and 9 abstentions (78 total).

When the acceptance of the Lavenders came up, there was another point of contention on the basis of their election procedure, which they had promised to address when the AC initially asked about it. As they had fulfilled all the other requirements, the caucus was accepted on a provisional basis for six months during which they would shore up their procedure to the AC's satisfaction. The vote was 63 Y, 5 N, 11 A (79 total).

Idaho had made a proposal to encourage all states that do charge dues to include a waiver for low income members. This proposal furthered the argument on that topic. I spoke long enough to remind the CC that GPMI had no problem with this proposal. We had a dues waiver policy just like the one proposed, not to mention our sliding scale, even before we had joined ASGP. I also reminded certain figures at the table that the debate would proceed much more smoothly if we could avoid certain buzzwords and phrases like "poll tax", which were being flung around the room.

This argument is going to get worse before it gets better, especially as a growing number of new states entering the national charge dues, while many of the older states (like California and the New England states) remain staunchly opposed. The Idaho proposal passed, 66 Y, 8 N, 10 A (84 total).

Next up was a proposal placed by GPMI,



GPMN, WIGP, and a couple other states to affiliate the national party with IPPN, the Independent Progressive Politics Network. As the proposing states are already members of IPPN, the procedure seemed logical. However, very little can pass without debate and this was no exception.

What was perhaps the most personally irritating moment occurred when a delegate from Florida suggested hesitation on approval because the IPPN might contain "communists." As the room had already become testy, I decided not to remind the delegate that he was sitting across the room from one, and would that make him uncomfortable about serving on the CC? I regretted it later, but I had been fairly distracted during much of the debate on this issue. The affiliation proposal passed: 67 Y, 6 N, 11 A (84 total).

The last item of the day was an approval of the bylaws of the Coordinated Campaign Committee (CCC): 64 Y, 6 N, 13 A (83 total). As you may notice, the voting totals follow a relatively familiar pattern. This could reflect a number of things, but the most prominent was certainly the differing perceptions various states have about the national party and how much information is provided for decision-making and so forth.

Day Two

Friday opened with a series of proposals from various states and committees: California proposed a Peace Weekend action before 9/11/2002; the CCC asked that the Commitment to America statement which has been circulating among candidates from all the state be approved by the CC; Texas proposed and asked for assistance with their postcard campaign, protesting the enhancement of the military since last fall; and Washington, DC brought forth a proposal around the continual violation of their civil rights and need for statehood. All of these things required very little debate and passed by consensus.

The Presidential Exploratory Committee presented a report as they begin to kick into high gear. *Green Pages* (the national newsletter) was also discussed, with a certain degree of acrimony by Mike Feinstein, the long-time editor and (effective) publisher, who had been asked to step down.

I presented the ad hoc committee's report. The committee had been formed in response to a snafu over California's expanded delegation. The model of proportional representation currently in use on the CC was passed at last year's Santa Barbara meeting. CA, NY, TX, MI, and IL had met the requirements for an expansion of their delegation (e.g we now have 4 votes, instead of the standard 2).

The change was set to take place in January or shortly thereafter. Despite reassuring the Accreditation Committee that California would follow its normal process in selecting delegates (election by the membership at a General Assembly meeting; the next of which was in May of 2002), at some point in March, the California coordinating committee appointed delegates. They submitted them to the AC for approval. The AC refused, and communications rapidly broke down from there.

After reviewing what evidence we could find, it became clear that the primary problem was an unwillingness among the members of the two parties to communicate civilly. This was, no doubt, exacerbated by the unreliability of email in conveying proper perspective on intense messages. There was also the matter of the lack of specificity about the AC's role or ability in the national bylaws.

Our report said simply: California made an error in judgment and both CA and the AC brought the situation to an impasse by not listening to each other. A proposal was brought to address some of these structural deficiencies, but the CC decided that there was not enough time to consider it in Philly. As mentioned above, the reforming ad hoc committee is taking this into account when deciding on some of the reformation that must be done as the party continues to expand.

There was also an enormous debate over the voting procedures for the CCC which, to my mind, was based more on people not paying attention than any real issues with the methodology employed.

The votes were taken on both the CCC and the new Steering Committee. In the latter case, one new seat was being filled, while Anita Rios (OH) and Tom Seigny (CT) were running to retain theirs. Barb Payne (OR) and Badili Jones (GA) were the other two candidates. In a very close vote, Barb, Badili, and Anita won the three seats, with Tom falling to the role of the one alternate that the bylaws allow for the Steering Committee. Robbie Franklin also stepped down as Treasurer, and there was only one candidate to replace him: Jake Schneider, from Menasha, WI.

The CCC election was also completed. The current committee is Juscha Robinson (MI), Ben Manski (WI), Dan Johnson-Weinberger (IL), Susan King (CA), Joseph Buchanan (RI), Marnie Glickman (OR), Penny Teal (CT), Dan Kinney (PA), Masada Disenhouse (NY), and Logan Martinez (OH).

Unfortunately, my overall impression of the CC

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Convention an Energizing Experience

Wednesday July 24

I have just returned from the Green Party of the United States' national convention in Philadelphia, and I had the great privilege to meet and interact with a diverse community of Green activists and candidates from nearly every state. I am most impressed by what I see as the increasing drawing power of our party. That is, the caliber of candidate we attract is improving.

For instance, I had the pleasure of speaking with Roy Williams, Green candidate for US Senate from Texas, an African-American man who led the first sit-in in the state of Texas during the civil-rights struggle; Peter Camejo, Green candidate for Governor of California, who was described by Ronald Reagan as "one of the 10 most dangerous men in California" for his life's work among the Mexican and Mexican immigrant communities, which has significantly rattled the Gray Davis machine; Matt Gonzalez and Mike Feinstein, respectively the Green District 5 Supervisor of San Francisco and the Green mayor of Santa Monica, CA, both of whom have achieved such universal respect in their communities that they are endorsed by nearly every section of civil society, including police and firefighters unions; Joyce Chen, an Asian woman who was able to win election, via coalition-building, to the New Haven, CT city council from a majority-black district despite being opposed by a black female democrat; and Ted Glick, who is both the Green Senate candidate from New Jersey and the founder of the Independent Progressive Politics Network.

There are also Jill Stein, Jonathan Carter, and Ken Pentel, superb Green gubernatorial candidates from Massachusetts, Maine, and Minnesota, all of whom have qualified for Clean-Money public financing or state matching funds which, in Ken Pentel's case, will amount to \$250,000 for Green Party campaigning. Greens in New Mexico were praised on the front cover of Sunday's New York Times; Greens in Alaska have solicited the support of five of Alaska's six political parties for a groundbreaking Instant Runoff Voting initiative, which would give Alaskans the opportunity to use the procedure for all races (including US President) and, according to Alaskan Greens, likely lead to the eventual defeat of anti-environmental Republican Senator Frank Murkowski. Six new state Green

Parties were recognized at this convention, which has already been praised in several national newspapers and will appear in many more media. Literally hundreds of Greens, representing all types of Americans and every state, have both achieved office nationwide and/or decided to seek it.

So congratulations to all Michigan Greens; to our nominated and our potential candidates; to our local caucuses; and to our national delegates for their hard work in building, plank by plank over many years, the ark in which we now sail.

The Green Party can boast more diversity than ever before. The party's national Steering Committee is gender-balanced and contains representatives of the African-American, Latina, and college-age communities among its six members. In California, Greens have nominated a Latino (Camejo) and a black woman (Donna Warren of Los Angeles) for Governor and Lieutenant Governor; the party's Alaskan slate for the same offices is composed of two Native women. Women and people of color feature prominently in the party's Senate and Congressional slates, most notably in Texas, Tennessee, and other southern states. Young people have been embraced by the Greens not just as voters but as participants, and many have decided to run for office in numerous states. The Central Committee features more African-American, Latino, Asian, and GLBT delegates than ever before and remains gender balanced.

Greens around the country, including Michigan, are simultaneously talking more and achieving more, laying ground for national breakthroughs in the near future while dealing deftly with both growing pains and external controversies. One cannot help but be energized by the enormous dedication and

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Election Calculus

*By Doug Campbell
Metro Detroit Greens*

The 2002 Michigan gubernatorial race is going to be an interesting one.

For perhaps the first time in Michigan history, there's a strong emerging-party challenger. There's no clear favorite, and thanks to term limit law, there's no incumbent candidate.

I've been on the campaign trail for nearly a year now, and I've been surprised and pleased at how well the Green message resonates. People have been hearing so much drivel for so long that when they hear a candidate talk about underlying causes and long-term solutions (protecting the Great Lakes against slant-hole oil drilling by curbing the demand for oil, not by executive dictate, for example) that they really sit up and take notice.

But it takes more than that. It takes more than a strong candidate and a strong message. It also takes a strong, savvy campaign and a little luck. It isn't possible to personally deliver the message to every potential voter in Michigan, or even to a plurality of potential voters. It takes identifying the potential voters who are likely to vote Green, and it takes identifying people who can be persuaded to show up on Election Day. There's no point in being the favorite candidate among Michigan's non-voters.

What it takes is looking at previous elections closely, figuring out how many votes you're going to need, figuring out where they're going to come from, and building lists of places and issues to target.

Here's how Michigan's 1998 gubernatorial election went:

John Engler (R)	1,883,005
Geoffrey Feiger (D)	1,143,574
Terry Link	399
Carl Humphrey	36
Vicki Foreback	32
Mark Katz	20
Robert Marek	17
Jonni Matthew III	9
Total	3,027,104 (about a 50% turnout)

I expect 2002 to be a little closer - there's no incumbent. Between our GOTV (get out the vote) efforts, and our just being there to provide a real alternative, we should see a little better turnout. I'm expecting about 3.6 million votes, so we'll need about 1.2 million votes to break even and about 1.33 million to win.

You find those votes by looking at every possible kind of voter, how likely they are to vote for you, and how likely they are to vote at all. When you find good prospects, you target your outreach efforts there. It's about as exciting as auditing, but it's how you win. When you're done, it looks something like this:

Mainly Republican but pro-choice women	
Number of	about 750,000
Turnout:	about 60%; 450,000 votes
Likely support:	Campbell 20% Posthumus 50% Blanchard 20% NOTA 10%
Libertarians	
Number of voters:	about 75,000
Turnout:	about 80%; 60,000 votes
Likely support:	Campbell 60%; Posthumus 20%; Blanchard 0%; NOTA 20%
Marijuana smokers	
Number of voters:	about 90,000
Turnout:	about 10%; 9,000 votes
Likely support:	Campbell 80%; Posthumus 2%; Blanchard 3%; NOTA 15%

And so it goes. It's as big - and as interesting to read - as the white pages. It's also as useful. That's why we're compiling it. August 4th - the day this article comes out - is 100 days to the general election. That means that we need to find 13,333 votes per day. We'd better get busy. G

Sales of Solar Cells Take off

Bernie Fischlowitz-Roberts
Earth Policy Institute

Last year world solar cell production soared to 395 megawatts (MW), up 37 percent over 2000. This annual growth in output, now comparable in size to a new power plant, is set to take off in the years ahead as production costs fall. Cumulative solar cell or photovoltaic (PV) capacity now exceeds 1,840 MW. (See www.earth-policy.org/Updates/.)

The top five producers in 2001 were Sharp, BP Solar, Kyocera, Siemens Solar, and AstroPower, accounting for 64 percent of global output. Japanese manufacturers, with 43 percent of the world total, benefited from government policies to encourage solar cell use. The 70,000 Roofs Program, which initially provided a 50-percent cash subsidy for grid-connected residential systems, has been the primary driver of Japan's PV market expansion. The subsidy declined to 35 percent in 2000 as production increased and solar cell prices dropped. In addition to residential subsidies, government spending of \$271 million in fiscal year 2001 – on research and development, demonstration programs, and market incentives – was key to the growth.

In contrast to Japan, the U.S. government spent only \$60 million on solar programs in 2000. The U.S. share of the global market – 24 percent – was surpassed in 2001 by the European Union (EU), which now accounts for 25 percent. Government commitments to renewable energy are more robust in the EU than in the United States. In Germany, the Renewable Energy Act of 2000 offers citizens preferable loan terms for purchasing solar systems, and gives them a guaranteed price when feeding excess energy back into the power grid (known as net metering). As a result of such support, the German PV industry – the most advanced in Europe – is projected to grow from its current installed capacity of 113 MW in 2001 to 438 MW by 2004.

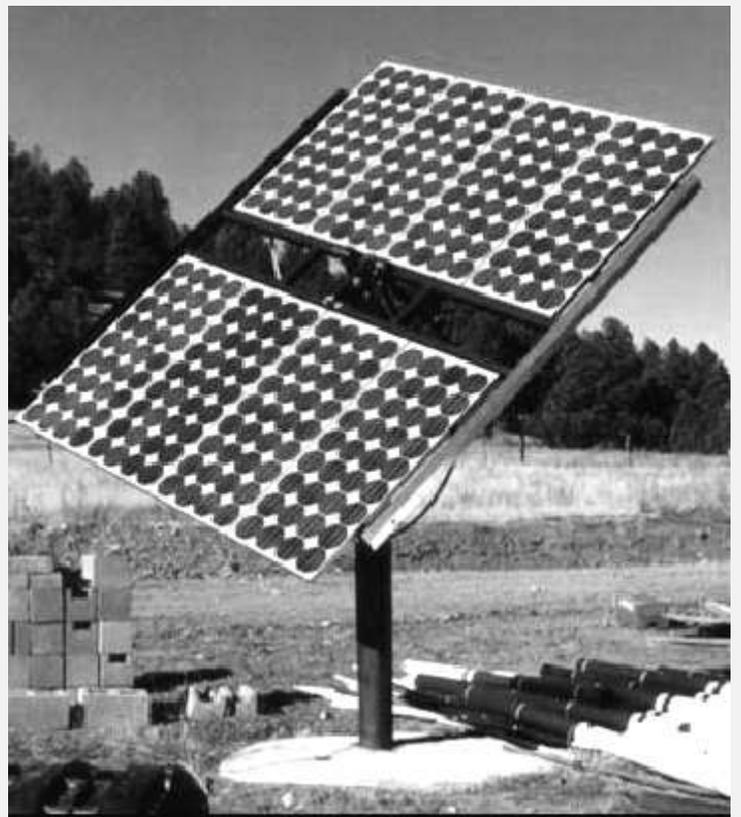
As a result of government policies in Japan, grid-connected residential installations totaling 100 MW dominated sales in 2001. Germany's grid-connected systems accounted for around 75 MW. The 32 MW installed in the United States were divided between grid-connected systems and those in remote areas not linked to a power grid. All of India's 18 MW were for such off-grid installations. The 120-130 MW installed in some 50-60 developing nations were also for off-grid

projects.

Both Japan and the United States were net exporters of solar cells. Almost two thirds of U.S. output was exported, while Japan exported 42 percent of its total.

The cost of electricity from solar cells remains higher than from wind or coal-fired power plants for grid-connected customers, but it is falling fast due to economies of scale as rising demand drives industry expansion. Solar cells currently cost around \$3.50 per watt for crystalline cells, and \$2 per watt for thin-film wafers, which are less efficient but can be integrated into building materials. Industry analysts note that between 1976 and 2000, each doubling of cumulative production resulted in a price drop of 20 percent. Some suggest that prices may fall even more dramatically in the future.

The European Photovoltaic Industry Association suggests that grid-connected rooftop solar systems could account for 16 percent of electricity consumption in the 30 members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development by 2010. If costs of rooftop PV systems fall to \$3 per watt by the middle of this decade, as projections suggest, the market for residential rooftop solar



systems will expand. In areas where home mortgages finance PV systems and where net metering laws exist, demand could reach 40 gigawatts, or 100 times global production in 2001.

More than a million homes worldwide, mainly in villages in developing countries, now get their electricity from solar cells. For the 1.7 billion people not connected to an electrical grid, solar cells are typically the cheapest source of electricity. In remote areas, delivering small amounts of electricity through a large grid is cost-prohibitive, so people not close to an electric grid will likely obtain electricity from solar cells. If micro-credit financing is arranged, the monthly payment for photovoltaic systems is often comparable to what a family would spend on candles or kerosene for lamps. After the loan is paid off, typically in two to four years, the family obtains free electricity for the remainder of the system's life.

Photovoltaic systems provide high-quality electric lighting, which can improve educational opportunities, provide access to information, and help families be more productive after sunset. A shift to solar energy also brings health benefits. Solar electricity allows for the refrigeration of vaccines and other essentials, playing a part in improving public health. For many rural residents in remote areas, a shift to solar electricity improves indoor air quality. PV systems benefit outdoor air quality as well. The replacement of a kerosene lamp with a 40-watt solar module eliminates up to 106 kilograms of carbon emissions a year.

In addition to promising applications in the developing world, solar also benefits industrial nations. Even in the UK, a cloudy country, putting modern PV technology on all suitable roofs would generate more electricity than the nation consumes in a year. This would eliminate all greenhouse gas emissions from nationwide electricity generation, removing almost 200 million tons of carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere.

Recent research surrounding zero-energy homes, where solar panels are integrated into the design and construction of extremely energy-efficient new houses, presents a promising opportunity for increased use of solar cells. Julius Poston, a progressive builder in the southeastern United States, builds homes that use half the energy of typical ones. His company, Certified Living, has constructed two prototype zero-energy homes with integrated solar panels. If eventually adopted on a wide scale, this groundbreaking concept could eliminate the pollution associated with fossil fuel-generated electricity for households.

Continued strong growth suggests that the solar cell market will play a prominent role in providing renewable, non-polluting sources of energy in both developing and industrial countries. A number of policy measures can help ensure the future growth of solar power. Removing distorting subsidies of fossil fuels would allow solar cells to compete in a more equitable marketplace. Expanding net metering laws to other countries and the parts of the United States that currently do not have them will make owning solar home systems more economical by requiring utilities to purchase excess electricity from residential solar systems. Finally, revolving loan funds and other providers of microcredit are essential to the rapid spread of solar cell technologies in developing nations.

Solar cell manufacturers are beginning to sense the enormous growth in the market that lies ahead. Japan-based Sharp Corporation, already the world's leading producer of solar cells, plans to double its capacity in 2002, going from 94 to 200 megawatts. For the industry as a whole, output is expected to increase at 40-50 percent annually over the next few years, bringing the solar age ever closer. G

*Additional data and information sources at www.earth-policy.org or contact Bernie Fishclowitz-Roberts at bernie@earth-policy.org
Earth Policy Institute is an independent, nonprofit research organization dedicated to building an eco-economy.*

Solar Cells Here and There

By Art Myatt

Candidate for 27th District State House

While we are promoting solar panels as a good alternative source of electricity, we should recognize their limitations. It does no good to have unrealistic expectations of what is possible. The practical applications are enough to use up the maximum possible production of solar panels for decades.

An example of an unrealistic expectation would be the solar-powered automobile. Viewing coverage of the "Solar Challenge" races might give the opposite impression. After all, when you see these things that look like race cars with solar cells on the hood and trunk zipping down the road, it would seem an extreme of skepticism to believe they are not practical. Yet they are not.

These vehicles more closely resemble a pair of bicycles welded together than a car. There's no cargo-carrying capacity. There's no passenger-carrying capacity. There's no air conditioning, no

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Zionism and Its (Un)Doing

By David Finkel

Editor of *Against the Current*

"Zionism Means Doing," read the banners I noticed two or three times hanging from buildings around West Jerusalem as our tour bus shuttled my group from one meeting to the next. The most prominent such display banner appeared at the headquarters of the World Zionist Organization.

My instant reaction was to think, "no kidding, and just look at what it does!" We had just spent a week witnessing the sites of Palestinian homes demolished for "building without permits" (which are never granted); blockades that turned the 20-minute drive from Ramallah or Bethlehem into East Jerusalem into an impassable nightmare for the Palestinian population; the ring of settlements around "Metropolitan Jerusalem" cutting the West Bank virtually in half; and Israel's systematic deliberate destruction of the Palestinian economy, almost choking the material basis for a viable independent state.

And all this was in early January, when there had been three weeks without shooting in the West Bank or suicide bombings, before Ariel Sharon blew up the fragile cease-fire with new assassinations of Palestinian leaders. The very day we left Israel, January 14, was the day the new violence exploded, culminating in the full Israeli re-occupation of the West Bank and the destruction of the Jenin refugee camp. Things today are incomparably worse than ever.

Following the 1991 Gulf War, the peace conferences at Madrid and Oslo, and the Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn, were thought to have turned the corner on the bitter Palestine-Israel conflict. Those hopes have turned to ashes now. The West Bank and even worse, Gaza, have become open-air prisons with living standards fallen by half, malnutrition emerging, drinking water disappearing, and massive untreated environmental problems (from toxic waste dumping to disappearing

Zionism rejected the validity and vitality of the Jewish culture of European countries, the Middle East and North America ...

aquifers) mounting.

A lush forest on a hill overlooking the suburbs of Bethlehem has been stripped bare and replaced by the new "Har Homa" settlement, which completes the encirclement of the Arab city of East Jerusalem.

Doing, indeed. But after a brief reflection I had a second thought: Those banners. They were in English only. So far as I could recall they didn't even include Hebrew in small print for effect. This was Zionism for the tourists, precious few of them as there are in these desperate times, nothing at all to do with the lives of ordinary Israeli citizens who pass on the street.

This small observation highlights the ironic situation in which Zionism, as a founding ideology and mythic inspiration for the Israeli state, finds itself.

Attached to a enormously powerful Israeli military machine and state apparatus, backed unconditionally by the United States in its war to destroy all expressions of a rival Palestinian nationalism, Zionism as a statist ideology – the concept of a Jewish-supremacist state commanding the loyalty of the entire Jewish people – appears to be at the very height of its power.

Yet at the very same time, as a movement or ethos, Zionism appears to be shriveling as a motivating force for the actual citizens of the "Jewish homeland." It retains its mobilizing power in Israel, outside the fanatical settler factions, mainly insofar as the Israeli Jewish population feels itself (correctly or otherwise) to be facing the danger of annihilation. Zionism, then, for its own survival requires a permanent state of war or threat of war – a point to which I'll return.

A Brief Historical Capsule

Among myriad nationalist movements that arose in nineteenth century Europe, Zionism was highly peculiar in that it sought not simply to create an independent state for an existing nation – it also sought to CREATE THE NATION ITSELF, i.e. a Jewish nation in Palestine.

Zionism rejected the validity and vitality of the Jewish culture of European countries, the Middle East and North America; it rejected the struggle against anti-semitic racism, concluding that Jews would never have freedom or security so long as they lived amongst non-Jews. The only viable future for the Jewish people lay in separation, preferably in "the historic Jewish homeland in ancient Israel."

There were, unfortunately, other people already living there! Most of the early Zionist leadership, Theodore Herzl included, who were products of their time and culture, assumed the natural superiority of their own European civilization (even as they tried to pry Jews away from it!) and set their sights very early on the subjugation and eventual removal of the "inferior" native Arab population.

The Zionist project from its inception was regarded as bizarre by most Jews a hundred years ago, and even up to the outbreak of World War II. Ultimately, however, it would gain momentum as competing movements in the world Jewish community were strangled by the rise of fascism and Stalinism – and finally on the strength of the post-1945 immigration of hundreds of thousands of Jewish survivors of Nazi extermination.

Prior to this, of course, the Zionist movement had organized a system of colonial settlement in Palestine. It must be emphasized, however, that the partial success of this project depended upon collaboration with colonial and imperial powers, especially after 1919 with Britain when Palestine became a British protectorate. With few and brief exceptions, the British encouraged Zionist colonization and the purchase of thousands of acres from absentee Arab landlords.

In exchange the Zionist militias actively defended British interests against Palestinian-Arab revolts in the 1930s. In 1948, after the British-Zionist alliance collapsed into sharp hostility, the state of Israel was declared with the support of the United States and Soviet Union. This was followed (both during and after the 1948 war) by a substantial operation that we now call "ethnic cleansing" in which 750,000 (about 80%) of the Arab population was expelled from the borders of the new Jewish state.

Unlike the case of South Africa, or classic colonial possessions, the intention of the Zionist movement was not to exploit Arab labor but to get rid of it. As early as the 1920s, Arab labor was boycotted and Jews hired instead. A substantial Jewish working class thus arose, and in post-1948 Israel this became a class of largely non-Europeans with large-scale immigration of Jews from North Africa and the Middle East.

Put simply – and obviously this brief sketch is inevitably oversimplified – Zionist colonization created both a full-fledged Israeli-Jewish nation and a dispossessed Palestinian Arab nation in historic Palestine.

From the point of view of the Palestinian people, the success of the Zionist movement in creating not

only a state but a nation is hardly something to be celebrated. And this project almost certainly would have historically failed if the Jewish people in Europe had not been destroyed.

Nonetheless, however improbably it may have been, that Zionist success has left a legacy of two peoples, two nations. The crisis can only be resolved on the basis of the right of self-determination for both.

Road to Peace Blocked

The whole world understands that the necessary solution at this point is the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war – the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

Such a solution is far from historic justice – it offers Palestinians 22% of their own homeland – but it is the only solution available so long as both the Israeli-Jewish and Arab Palestinian nations wish to have states of their own.

But as Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions told our group in January, even before the recent catastrophic explosions:

"It is now one minute before midnight. It is a matter of two or three years, at most, before the settlement program – not so much as a matter of population demographics, but rather as a matter of control – makes it impossible to achieve the minimum requirements for a viable Palestinian state." (An extensive report on this process can be obtained via the website www.icahd.org)

Much has been written on the breakdown of peace negotiations, the failures of leadership, the corruption of the Palestinian Authority and so forth. Instead of rehashing these conventional observations, I'd like to point to some factors that are less widely understood.

1) We need to understand first and foremost that the Bush administration is completely aligned with the Israeli government of Ariel Sharon, and that the blather coming from Washington about "reviving the peace process" is simply part of the campaign to line up support for the next big U.S. war – against Iraq.

The chaos that the attack on Iraq may create could produce, in turn, conditions for the Sharon government to launch a mass expulsion of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories. The consequences of this for the region and the world are incalculable.

2) The inability of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to

halt suicide bombings has at least two causes. The first, often cited by the PA, is that Israel's destruction of the Palestinian security infrastructure has destroyed its capacity to do so.

The second reason is one that the PA cannot admit: Because the PA bureaucracy organized no resistance as Israeli settlements doubled in size AFTER the Oslo accords, and because PA officials notoriously enriched themselves while Palestinians as a whole became poorer under the "peace process," the PA could not control resistance against the occupation when the vacuum was filled by other forces.

- 3) The inability of the Israeli government to offer conditions for a genuine peace with dignity for the Palestinian people is deeply rooted, I believe, in the situation I outlined at the beginning.

An authentic, stable peace between Israel and Palestine would be a wonderful breakthrough for Israeli society and its people, including an opportunity to confront the deepening poverty of much of the population.

At the same time, however, I believe that peace would represent the death of Zionism. Without the

occasion to rally the population against a real or imagined threat of destruction, Zionism within a generation or less would be reduced to a museum artifact for the benefit of tourists.

Zionism promised the Jewish people a "national redemption and a normal life." Without the threat of war, millions of Israeli Jews – most of whom didn't come to Israel for ideological reasons anyway – will say, "where's that normal life?"

Israel today continues to be ruled by the elites of a decaying Zionist bureaucracy whose main parties – Likud and Labor – shrink with every election. Much of what they do seems designed to preserve their own sense of indispensability, even if they lead their own society to destruction in the process. G

David Finkel is an editor of the socialist bi-monthly magazine Against The Current, published in Detroit. He visited the West Bank and Israel in January, 2002 with a delegation called With Our Own Eyes, organized by the Washtenaw County Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. His two articles on the current crisis appeared in the March and May issues of the magazine and can be obtained on request by contacting him at cfc@igc.org or ATC, 7012 Michigan Avenue, Detroit MI 48210. A collection of articles titled "Crisis and War in Palestine/Israel" is available from the same address.

A Statement of Conscience

From Not In Our Name

Let it not be said that people in the United States did nothing when their government declared a war without limit and instituted stark new measures of repression.

The signers of this statement call on the people of the U.S. to resist the policies and overall political direction that have emerged since September 11, 2001, and which pose grave dangers to the people of the world.

We believe that peoples and nations have the right to determine their own destiny, free from military coercion by great powers. We believe that all persons detained or prosecuted by the United States government should have the same rights of due process. We believe that questioning, criticism, and dissent must be valued and protected. We understand that such rights and values are always contested and must be fought for.

We believe that people of conscience must take responsibility for what their own governments do – we must first of all oppose the injustice that is done in our own name. Thus we call on all Americans to RESIST the war and repression that has been loosed

on the world by the Bush administration. It is unjust, immoral, and illegitimate. We choose to make common cause with the people of the world.

We too watched with shock the horrific events of September 11, 2001. We too mourned the thousands of innocent dead and shook our heads at the terrible scenes of carnage – even as we recalled similar scenes in Baghdad, Panama City, and, a generation ago, Vietnam. We too joined the anguished questioning of millions of Americans who asked why such a thing could happen.

But the mourning had barely begun, when the highest leaders of the land unleashed a spirit of revenge. They put out a simplistic script of "good vs. evil" that was taken up by a pliant and intimidated media. They told us that asking why these terrible events had happened verged on treason. There was to be no debate. There were by definition no valid political or moral questions. The only possible answer was to be war abroad and repression at home.

In our name, the Bush administration, with near unanimity from Congress, not only attacked Afghanistan but arrogated to itself and its allies the

right to rain down military force anywhere and anytime. The brutal repercussions have been felt from the Philippines to Palestine, where Israeli tanks and bulldozers have left a terrible trail of death and destruction. The government now openly prepares to wage all-out war on Iraq – a country which has no connection to the horror of September 11. What kind of world will this become if the U.S. government has a blank check to drop commandos, assassins, and bombs wherever it wants?

In our name, within the U.S., the government has created two classes of people: those to whom the basic rights of the U.S. legal system are at least promised, and those who now seem to have no rights at all. The government rounded up over 1,000 immigrants and detained them in secret and indefinitely. Hundreds have been deported and hundreds of others still languish today in prison. This smacks of the infamous concentration camps for Japanese-Americans in World War 2. For the first time in decades, immigration procedures single out certain nationalities for unequal treatment.

We must take the highest officers of the land seriously when they talk of a war that will last a generation ...

In our name, the government has brought down a pall of repression over society. The President's spokesperson warns people to "watch what they say." Dissident artists, intellectuals, and professors find their views distorted, attacked, and suppressed. The so-called Patriot Act – along with a host of similar measures on the state level – gives police sweeping new powers of search and seizure, supervised if at all by secret proceedings before secret courts.

In our name, the executive has steadily usurped the roles and functions of the other branches of government. Military tribunals with lax rules of evidence and no right to appeal to the regular courts are put in place by executive order. Groups are declared "terrorist" at the stroke of a presidential pen.

We must take the highest officers of the land seriously when they talk of a war that will last a generation and when they speak of a new domestic order. We are confronting a new openly imperial policy towards the world and a domestic policy that manufactures and manipulates fear to curtail rights.

There is a deadly trajectory to the events of the past months that must be seen for what it is and resisted. Too many times in history people have waited until it was too late to resist.

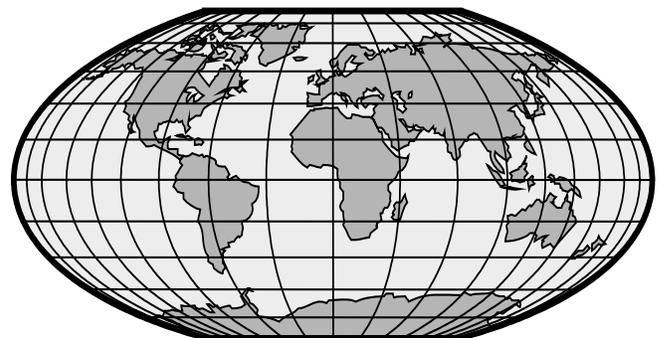
President Bush has declared: "You're either with us or against us." Here is our answer: We refuse to allow you to speak for all the American people. We will not give up our right to question. We will not hand over our consciences in return for a hollow promise of safety. We say NOT IN OUR NAME. We refuse to be party to these wars and we repudiate any inference that they are being waged in our name or for our welfare. We extend a hand to those around the world suffering from these policies; we will show our solidarity in word and deed.

We who sign this statement call on all Americans to join together to rise to this challenge. We applaud and support the questioning and protest now going on, even as we recognize the need for much, much more to actually stop this juggernaut. We draw inspiration from the Israeli reservists who, at great personal risk, declare "there IS a limit" and refuse to serve in the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

We also draw on the many examples of resistance and conscience from the past of the United States: from those who fought slavery with rebellions and the underground railroad, to those who defied the Vietnam war by refusing orders, resisting the draft, and standing in solidarity with resisters.

Let us not allow the watching world today to despair of our silence and our failure to act. Instead, let the world hear our pledge: we will resist the machinery of war and repression and rally others to do everything possible to stop it. G

To sign this statement and see a list of those who have already done so, go to www.notinourname.net which contains the statement of conscience against "War Without End" and also a Pledge of Resistance. To sign on to this Statement of conscience email nionstatement@hotmail.com.



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.

Green Party of Michigan Locals

1) Green Party of Kent County (GPKC)

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gp_kentcounty@hotmail.com
<http://wmgreens.iwarp.com>
224 Richards SW
Grand Rapids 49504

2) Huron Valley Greens (HVG)

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attorneypatti@comcast.net or
Elliott Smith
erstwhile2000@yahoo.com

3) Capitol Area Greens (CAG)

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(517) 367-6099
1615 James St.
Lansing 48906
Contact Ray Ziarno,
razar@voyager.net

4) Up North Green Party (UNGP)

info@upnorthgreenparty.org
upnorthgreenparty.org
9330 Boyne City Road
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5) Traverse Bay Watershed Greens (TBWG)

<http://www.traversearea.com/greens>
PO Box 2239
Traverse City 49685
Contact Tom Mair (231) 947-2001,
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6) Betsie Watershed Greens (BWG)

2034 Elder Hill Road
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Contact: Tim Volas (231) 325-2616,
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7) Metro Detroit Greens (MDG)

Detagreens.tripod.com
Contact: Art Myatt (248) 548-6175
almyatt@earthlink.net

8) Downriver Area

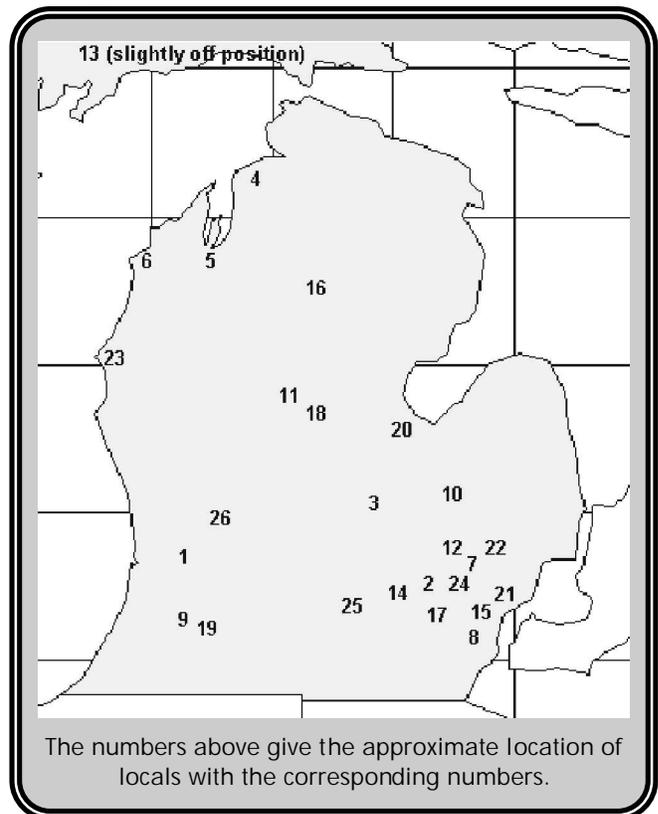
Contact: Darren Wilkinson (734) 789-8790
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9) Kalamazoo Area

Contact: Rick Stahlhut (616) 373-4149
stahlhut@chartermi.net

10) Flint Greens (FG)

genesegreens@yahoo.com
angelfire.com/mi/flintgreens/



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Contact: Ken Mathenia (810) 694-3473

11) Wheatland Greens of Isabella County (WGIC)

geocities.com/mpgreens/
1012 Robert
Mount Pleasant 48858
Contact: Jim Moreno (517) 773-5797
santiago@power-net.net

12) West Oakland Watershed Greens (WOWG)

wowgreens.homestead.com/home.html
5070 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield 48323
Contact: Matthew Abel (248) 866-0864
attorneyabel@comcast.net

13) Marquette County Greens (MCG)

Subscription-based email listserv for info.
vm.nmu.edu/GREENS:HTTP/HOME.html
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(cjdrapeau@hotmail.com)

14) Tamarack Greens (TG)

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15) U of M-Dearborn Green Party (UMDGP)

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votegreen_32.tripod.com/umdgreens/
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16) Kirtland Student Greens (KSG)

Kirtland Community College
http://kosmo.kirtland.cc.mi.us/greens/
KSG c/o KCC, 10775 North, St. Helen Rd
Roscommon 48653
Contact: Lori Loveland (989) 275-5000 x423
loriloveland@voyager.net

17) U of M Greens (UMG) - Ann Arbor)

Subscription-based email listserv for
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1312 West Huron
Ann Arbor 48103
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18) Mount Pleasant Student Greens (MPSG)

Central Michigan University
Subscription-based email listserv for info:
http://studentgreens.net
1018 1/2 S. Franklin Street, Apt. C
Mount Pleasant 48858
Contact: Louis Blouin (517) 775-7280
louie@studentgreens.net

19) Western MI University Greens (WMUG)

Being organized.
Contact: Kevin Fuchs (616) 373-0791
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20) Bay County Greens (BCG)

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21) Detroit Green Party (DGP)

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24) Labor Greens

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Detroit 48204

25) Jackson/Hillsdale

Contact Dan Brown (517) 592-5441

26) Montcalm County

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GPMI 2002 Platform Summary

The complete platform of the Green Party of Michigan takes up 32 pages of normal printing. It is available at the migreens.org web site. This summary necessarily leaves out some items and over-simplifies others. We urge you to look at the complete document if you want the definitive details.

The platform not only includes the 10 Key Values of the Green Party, it's also based on them. It's our idea of how these values apply to specific issues. It is organized into 5 major divisions.

Grassroots Democracy – We support citizen involvement in all levels of decision making. We urge broader access to the ballot and easier voter registration, with an election day holiday. We believe proportional representation and preferential or instant runoff voting would allow a greater variety of views to be effected in elections. Serious campaign finance reform and public financing of elections is essential. Broadcast media should be required to provide free air time for all political candidates. More broadly, the government should limit “soft-money” contributions and advertising during election campaigns.

We support workplace democracy including the right of workers to unionize.

Social Justice – We are in favor of affordable housing and affordable child care. We support universal health care, including nursing home care where needed, and explicitly affirm a woman's right to have an abortion. Health insurance should not be connected to employment status.

Public money should be spent only on public education – no vouchers or other schemes to divert taxes to private schools. We should ensure that public schools educate students on the subjects of health and sex. School funding should not depend on property taxes. It should be equal state-wide.

We support civil and human rights and oppose discrimination on the basis of sex, age, race, sexual orientation, or other ways of separating a group from ordinary humanity. Courts and prisons should work for healing and rehabilitation, not punishment of prisoners.

Taxes should be simple (without loopholes), understandable and progressive, taxing profits and capital gains as ordinary income. Tax policy should support environmental protection.

The “War on Drugs,” because it has caused at least as much harm to the society as drug use, should be abandoned. Funds formerly spent on drug enforcement should be used for medical programs to treat addictions. Most drugs should be decriminalized – and taxed.

Environmental sustainability – We believe sustainability in the production of energy and goods is essential. Nuclear power should be eliminated entirely. Sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass should be developed to substitute for fossil fuels, while strategies to conserve energy are promoted.

Pollution should be eliminated wherever possible, without regard for short-term costs to polluting enterprises. We hope people will learn to consume less, recycle more, and enjoy the earth without damaging it. We are for preservation of biodiversity, environmental justice for poor communities, and specific animal rights. This complex subject takes many pages of the complete platform.

Economic sustainability – This is our goal for the whole economy, and we believe extending democracy into the workplace is the way to get there. The people who are employed in an industry have a stake in it and should have some ability to control it. Corporations should be held accountable by governments of the regions in which they operate. We are opposed to trade agreements (WTO, NAFTA, MAI and so on) which have the opposite effect. We support decentralized cooperative and community economics over corporate “globalization”; human rights over corporate rights; public utilities over “privatization.”

On specific “hot-button” issues; we are for a living wage and for development of public transportation; against factory farming, antibiotics in animal feed, and genetic engineering of food crops.

Peace and Non-violence – We are principled advocates of non-violence. This goes beyond simply not supporting violent solutions such as war or even protesting acts of war, and police brutality. It involves working to learn, use, and advocate nonviolent solutions to situations involving anger, revenge or fear such as domestic violence and rape.

We do not advocate banning the private ownership of guns, but we do call for several elements of responsible use and for licensing. We believe the oversight of police forces should go to an independent elected board in every community. It should not be left to “Internal Affairs.”

We support a nuclear-free Great Lakes Basin with no nuclear weapons or power plants. We would like to see the end of chemical and biological warfare manufacturing and research, particularly in universities. G

(This summary prepared and approved by the GPMI Platform Committee)

Poor People's March and Summit

By Priscilla Dzubiek
Detroit Greens

The Michigan Welfare Rights Organization's Poor Peoples March and Summit was held in Detroit on June 28 & 29 to commemorate 37 years of advocacy for low-income people. It was held in conjunction with events of other local state chapters of the National Welfare Rights Union in an attempt to enhance the circumstances forced upon the poor.

The two-day event began with a march through one of the most depressed areas of the city, known as the Cass Corridor. (The gentrification efforts call it Midtown.) We were given facts from the people who actually live and work here about the historical significance, what once was and the current situation as we marched along the route. Day two convened at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Forest and Cass. There we heard testimonials about and from people suffering poverty, homelessness, unemployment, lack of adequate healthcare and lack of affordable housing.

The March

Beginning at Sacred Heart Church in the Eastern Market area, Maureen Taylor, chair MWRO, led us west on Mack to the Shiloh Baptist Church (557 Benton). This church, the second oldest African American church in Detroit, was founded in 1884. Its historical significance was recognized in the '20s, and it was registered as a national historical landmark in the '60s. This designation allowed it to be spared the wrecking ball when all the other homes and apartment buildings in the area were razed to build low-income housing. The church now sits in the midst of Brewster Housing, with the Brewster Projects to the south and the Detroit Medical Center to the north.

Adjacent to Brewster is Historical Brush Park. This area used to be home to 66,000 residents and now less than 23,000 remain. Over 200 structures in this area, homes, apartments and businesses, have been looted and burned. The homes still standing in the area have been left to fall into disrepair with bombed out roofs and boarded up windows. The Brush Park Citizens District Council (CDC) is currently embroiled in a lawsuit with the city over the illegal gentrification of the neighborhood. Gwen Mingo, president of the Brush Park CDC, told of the



numerous low-income people and seniors who have been displaced as the city continues to cater to big development in violation of the city charter.

Continuing on Mack across Woodward, the street name changes to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Here, on a street named for one of this country's greatest men of peace, it looks like a war zone. We passed the Senior Citizens high-rise, a subsidized housing development building. We saw windows open and fans running in every window – because on this day of 90 degree plus temperatures, this senior housing building has no air conditioning. There was a fire in the building about three years ago and still none of the damage has been repaired. With only one elevator, this federally funded building is a potential death trap for its residents.

We made a stop at People United As One Plaza Apartments (644 MLK). This is a brand new affordable housing development constructed by the non-profit organization People United as One. PUAO is a group of homeless and formerly homeless individuals. There are 38 one and two bedroom apartments in this three-story structure - fortunately we could not view one of the units as they are currently all occupied. PUAO offers on site support services and has a 78% success rate of advancing its residents to a self-sufficient lifestyle. This development is a shining jewel in a neighborhood of blight.

Next we visited the Neighborhood Services Offices (NSO), a 24/7/365 days a year facility (that's all day, every day), providing beds and services to

the homeless. They serve 2000 meals a day during the winter months and make room for up to 350 people in need of overnight shelter. This is a county and city funded facility that turns no one away.

As we walked through the corridor, we witnessed many things: the desolate Chinatown where the very last restaurant, Chung's, was closed and boarded up after 30 years of business there. It was forced to close when the city of Detroit created a pedestrian mall with trees and park benches on Peterboro, eliminating 12 parking spaces necessary for the business to continue in this area. The Burton International School was out for summer recess. The Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) provides for the many homeless in the corridor.

We arrived at our final destination, the Michigan Vets Center (2770 Park), where meals and services are provided for veterans in the Cass Corridor. On



Participants at the Summit

this day they also provided a meal for the many marchers.

Detroit's Cass Corridor area has a median household income of \$5,000 per year. Here, where over 47% of the city's residents live in poverty, was once a prosperous and vital neighborhood. We saw empty homes, vacant lots, broken bricks, bits of glass, burned out houses, boarded up businesses – the ruins of Detroit. We saw first hand the homelessness and poverty. We also saw the empowerment zone funding that has gone to big developers. They have looted the land and homes of the long standing residents and run them out with high priced housing, all the while receiving tax abatements and subsidies from our elected officials.

In the testimonials at the summit, we heard over and over how the government has done nothing to rectify these many violations of Human Rights. In fact it has misused the funds it received for that purpose. Each person's statement was witnessed by a panel of observers and recorded. MWRO will present the testimonials to the United Nations in

December. This is when the NWRU officially brings its charges of Human Rights violations by the government of the United States to the UN, showing evidence that it has failed to provide for the health and well being of its residents. The participants of the summit were asked to complete an *Economic Human Rights Violations Report Form* (available on the Website or at the office) stating their personal experiences with violations.

After lunch there we participated in a number of workshops dealing with the issues poor people face in our city. Out of each workshop there was an action plan presented to the group as a whole. G

Contacts: MWRO Website: www.mwro.org.

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Solar Cells continued from page 8 ...

AM-FM-CD sound system, not even much comfort or padding on the one seat.

Extremes of weight-saving are necessary because the power density delivered to the surface of the earth from the sun is limited to 100 milliwatts per square centimeter, and solar cells will convert perhaps 15 milliwatts of that to electricity. Without going into the math, let it suffice to say that solar cells covering the entire roof of a minivan would produce - about one horsepower.

In America solar panels can be useful, but they are hardly a necessity. In the poorer countries of the world, this too is different. In India, there are some 300,000 villages not on the country's electrical grid, and the grid is not that reliable for the villages that do have power.

In this situation, a solar panel big enough to cover a pup tent can make a profound difference to a whole village. With a car battery or two and a low-wattage TV, the Indian educational and news channels are available, for the first time, to the whole village. A micro-credit business might consist of a villager who has purchased a cell phone and service. The phone owner may pay 5 cents a minute for service, and can rent the phone out for 10 cents a minute. A solar panel to charge the phone can make phone service a possibility in 300,000 villages where it is now impossible.

The same sort of thing is true for large parts of China, Africa, Mexico, and so on. Here, a solar panel can make your camping experience more pleasant, or give you a degree of independence from the electric company. For the other half of the world, it can be a life-transforming connection to civilization. G

Letter from the Brighton Jail

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Dear Michigan;

It's been one heck of a day. The front page of yesterday's newspaper said that the Michigan League of Conservation Voters had invited "all" your gubernatorial candidates to a forum on environmental issues. Being a duly filed gubernatorial candidate and representing the Michigan Green Party, a party well known for putting ecological, environmental and conservation concerns at the forefront of its platform, I just naturally assumed that the MLCV would be interested in what we have to say.

Well, surprise, surprise, surprise! When it comes from Dana Debel, the event organizer, "all" doesn't really mean "all." Here I thought we'd heard the last

of those verbal shenanigans after last summer, when we learned that "It all depends on what your definition of the word `is' is," but no, there's a lot more where that came from.

I walked up on stage with all the other candidates, shook a few hands, and took my seat. Turns out I took Jim Blanchard's seat and Dana was gravely offended. Jim was so busy hamming it up for the crowd that he didn't notice, Dick Posthumus just stood there smiling like a deer in the headlights, and David Bonior said, "Let him stay.." Dave's a smart and savvy politician and I'm sure he knew exactly what was about to go down.

Now being the new candidate that I am, I'd never have guessed that Dana Debel is empowered to decide who's a legitimate candidate and who's not. I've always think that it was the Board of Elections who decides. Silly me.

No, it's Dana who decides that I'm not a legitimate candidate. Not only that, but the Brighton police and the Michigan state troopers apparently report to her, because when she gave the word, they grabbed me by the arms & legs and dragged me out of there. We tripped and fell on the way toward backstage, which must have been awfully comical to the audience but the cops weren't amused. As soon as they got me behind the curtains, they handcuffed me, six of them threw me down to the ground, and three of them piled on top of me to make sure I didn't go anywhere. I was having a hard time refraining from laughing out loud, because other than not getting up and leaving under my own power, I wasn't offering



any resistance. They wheeled me out on a utility cart, put me in a cruiser, then took me down to the Brighton jail.

I have to say, I had been underestimating Bretton Jones. He's about twenty, an undergrad at Oakland University, and having never put him to the test, I assumed he was just one more enthusiastic, inexperienced college kid. He performed above & beyond the call of duty today. While the cops were trying to figure out how to remove me – I tip the scales at over 250 pounds and they had only brought cops, not heavy machinery riggers - he was right there, taking pictures and trying to appeal to their sense of fairness (to no avail, of course). When the cops threatened him with a charge of obstruction of justice, he came right back with "Is that worse than obstruction of democracy?" Then, when I was on my way out and there was no more that he could do for me, he turned around and addressed the audience. This young lad is destined for great things.

There are a lot of rumors floating around that I have been seriously injured. Let me put those to rest. About the worst is some broken ribs, which are exquisitely painful, but I've broken ribs before. I'll drink lots of hormone free milk and they'll heal as good as new in eight or ten weeks. They smashed my head down on the floor pretty good, but the nausea and the dizziness spontaneously subsided within a few hours and I don't think I ever lost consciousness, and I never was injured by the handcuffs. Oh, a few bruises here & there, but the circulation came back

within the hour. By morning, the feeling came back in both hands and almost all the tingling is gone.

In the movies, they make a big deal out of giving a criminal suspect "one phone call." In real life, they don't actually do that. Not that it matters a lot; I was released after three or four hours and it wasn't necessary to let anybody know where I was – there were nearly a hundred supporters waiting on the front porch of the police station.

In the end, I was photographed, interviewed, charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing, advised that Michigan's 53rd District Court, Brighton, will notify me of an appearance date, and sent on my way.

Till now, I've been a little worried about my campaign. See, I'm a third party candidate running for Governor of a northern midwestern state, and I don't have any professional wrestling experience. But as of today, the Brighton police department and the Michigan state troopers are helping me fill in that void in my resume. Things are looking up for November 5th.

What you won't hear tonight:

You won't hear about Clean Money Campaigns. Clean money means no corporate contributions, no PAC money (Political Action Committee), no soft money, no large contributors. After the election, the big-money special interests won't be able to twist the Governor's arm for special favors, because there won't be any big-money special interests. Only Ed Hamilton and I have pledged to run Clean Money Campaigns.

You won't hear about Runoff Voting – a system of voting which assures that a minor candidate will never "spoil" the election, and also assures that nobody gets elected without a majority of the votes.

You won't hear about my signature issue – A 100-MegaWatt municipally owned electricity generating windfarm. Michigan's economy lives & breathes on heavy industry, and heavy industry lives & breathes on electricity. Not only would this be totally non-polluting, totally non-fuel-consuming, and totally sustainable over the long haul, it will also prevent a California style electric power crisis and deliver electricity for about four cents per kilowatt-hour - half the rate we're currently paying. This isn't idle speculation; it's the actual performance of the 107-MW windfarm in Lake Benton, Minnesota – land of another third party governor.

You won't hear about truly protecting the Great Lakes from slant-hole oil drilling. Sure, everybody says they're against it, even Dick Posthumus, (who was promoting it just last year) but I don't think they

know why or how. No, the only way to protect the lakes from oil drilling is to eliminate the pressure for oil, and that means curbing our addiction to petroleum. We tapped out Pennsylvania's oil fields a century ago; we tapped out Oklahoma's oil fields a generation ago, and were currently tapping out Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and Alaska. When those run dry, it's Michigan's turn - unless we do something different in the interim. Something like mass transit, electric/hybrid vehicles, stronger CAFÉ standards, alcohol fuels from home-grown grain for gas engines and home-grown hemp oil for Diesel engines.

You won't hear about my vision of a Michigan Department of Agriculture which is the most respected in the nation. In my youth, you'd often see "Reg. Penna. Dept. Ag." on food labels. The Pennsylvania department of agriculture had the highest standards in the nation and it was considered a matter of great pride to receive their approval. No more. I want to see an Agriculture department where "organic" means "organic," where "pasteurized" doesn't include "irradiated with so much ionizing nuclear radiation that the molecules get rearranged," where we don't feed our children synthetic bovine growth hormone, and the routine use of antibiotics in livestock is banned. There's currently an antibiotic-resistant strain of gonorrhea breaking out in California; we can't let it happen here.

You won't hear about systematically shutting down nuclear powerplants. Face it, it's a failed experiment. Not only is it the most expensive form of electricity, it's downright dangerous. Every cache or shipment of spent fuel is a potential terrorist target, every item of unregulated nuclear "low-level" waste ends up back in circulation, and every time a nuclear power plant is decommissioned, the neighborhood rates of leukemia and childhood cancer drop by a third.

You won't hear about whistle-blower protection. Last month, there was a 50,000 gallon spill of used industrial oil into the Rouge River and nobody seems to know where it originated. Well excuse me, but if you lose 50,000 gallons of anything, somebody knows it. They just don't say for fear of losing their job. The Coast Guard has so far spent \$4 million on cleanup and the perpetrator, if caught & convicted, faces a \$25,000 fine.

You won't hear my highway preserving proposal to limit Michigan's trucks to 80,000 pounds, same as most of the rest of the states. Wait . . . yes you will. It's been part of my platform since Day One, and on Monday, David Bonior noticed and started repeating

... *Continued on page 28*

Campus Greens Meet for Training

By Susan Fawcett
Michigan Campus Greens Organizer

The First Annual Campus Greens National Organizing Institute, held at the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, Illinois, June 20th-23rd was declared a success. Eighteen Students came together from as far away as Midland, Texas, and Calgary, Alberta, Canada for four days of intensive training. We learned a diverse array of practical organizing skills including Direct Action Tactics, Media Strategy, Fundraising and Running Political Campaigns.

The training included nearly twenty of Chicago's most experienced activists, all of whom volunteered their time and energy. Among the most exciting workshops were ACORN's "Understanding Relations of Power, and the principles of Direct Action Organizing," and ADAPT's "Direct Action Tactics."

ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform NOW) is a dues-supported nationwide organization that fights for civil rights in lower income communities. Their step-by-step approach to forming campaign strategies was an invaluable contribution to the event. They placed emphasis on "cutting the issue," that is, approaching issues from an angle that is likely to gain support. The students broke out into 4 groups, picked an issue, and planned a campaign. Each group made a time-line, and focused on a target, defined a goal, determined their potential allies and opponents, and developed a strategy to gain support and pressure their target. Finally, each group gave a five minute presentation on their plan of action.

ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today) approached the workshop by asking each student what he or she would like covered, and used that as the foundation for their presentation. ADAPT brings an under-represented minority to public attention, and effectively breaks stereotypes.

They have been incredibly successful, and have carried out some of the most effective protests this nation has ever seen. The story of their silent overtaking of the office of Senator Tom Delay (an



opponent of the Americans with Disabilities Act) is particularly inspiring. Both ADAPT and ACORN attribute their success not simply to their extraordinary organizing skills, but also to the fact that they pick campaigns they know they can win.

The Media Strategy Workshop, hosted by a free-lance independent media journalist, dealt with one of the most essential skills necessary for any political or activist group. The fact that public perception of just about everything is based on what is seen on TV or heard on the radio makes a stable relationship with the media vitally important.

The Workshop provided examples of press releases, and properly organized press conferences, placing emphasis on building personal relationships with the journalists. The presenter began the workshop by singling out random participants and putting them on the spot by asking them particularly difficult questions. It illustrated just how easy it is to be caught off guard, but, conversely, how easy it is to not answer the questions they ask, but to answer the ones you want to answer.

Fundraising is an essential part of virtually any organization that most wish they could ignore. The progressive movement will likely never have access to the financial resources that the corporate opposition enjoys. Few people like asking for money, but it is often necessary and effective.

In this workshop, put on by a member of Chicago's Crossroads Fund, we learned that 85% of the funds donated from the private sector come from individuals. Of these, 80% is from families earning



Participants share some final thoughts after the completion of their training

less than \$50,000 a year. Only 2-4% of total donations go to progressive organizations devoted to social and environmental justice. The majority of donations go to religious organizations.

It becomes easier to request a donation if you're working on something that will directly benefit the donor. When asking for money, make a case statement, briefly explaining how your campaign issue affects the donor, what, exactly you're planning to accomplish, and why you need the money. Most people who believe in the movement, but don't have time to be directly involved are happy to contribute financially.

One of the most important skills covered during the weekend was running a campaign. A representative from the Center for Voting and Democracy came to speak on electoral politics. A heartening fact about the current system is that no matter how much money the corporate parties spend on commercials, billboards and bumper stickers,

nothing compares to one-on-one conversations with voters.

Canvassing, or going door-to-door is the most effective way to educate the public. Presenting comparative information on the candidates, and holding local debates also fall in line with Grassroots Democracy, one of the four pillars of the Green Party. The Green Party's refusal to accept corporate donations means that we cannot compete with money. However, we can compete with people and time, a resource the corporate parties have in short supply.

In addition to these skills, we learned the fundamentals of operating a chapter – recruiting, choosing leadership, encouraging diversity, building coalitions, and facilitating meetings. To break up the workshops, we played games, and engaged in a lively panel discussion with 2 of Chicago's most experienced activists.

We had the opportunity to spend time socializing, and building relationships that would have otherwise been impossible without personal contact. By coming together with a common focus, we were able to reinforce one another's beliefs, share some new ones and create a support network across state borders. Organization is key to building a community that can work together for a better society.

This was the first Campus Greens Organizing Institute, and is only the beginning. It served as an experiment to determine the best methods of organization, and will serve as the basis for future regional trainings across the country. It is our hope and expectation that everyone who attended will bring something home to his or her chapter, and use the skills we've acquired, and links we've formed with one another to fight for a more just world. G

Go Australian Greens!

Environmentalists are celebrating the election of four members of the Tasmanian Greens to state parliament in the election held in mid-July of this year. They view the victory as an important milestone in the campaign to protect old growth and wilderness forests. The four Greens were elected after the party polled 18.2 percent statewide - described as the highest Green vote in state or national elections anywhere in the world.

Post 9-11 Reflections

By Paul Felton
Labor Greens

“Our country has changed dramatically.” How many times have we heard these words since 9-11? Unfortunately, many of the changes have been negative, and the two major parties have been copilots on this flight to the right.

In the first few months after 9-11 I experienced a strange sensation. Listening to neighbors and coworkers, I began to understand the mentality of the so-called “Good Germans” of Hitler’s time who said nothing when Jews, leftists, gypsies, and gay people were shipped off to concentration camps. The same “Good Germans” supported Hitler’s ambition to conquer and rule the world.

In those few months, I heard otherwise sensible people say it was okay to round up over a thousand Arab Americans and detain them with no charges, no lawyer, no legal rights. I heard people justify the bombing of innocent civilians in Afghanistan because “they did it to us,” as if the people we’re killing had anything to do with the horrific attack on the World Trade Center. I heard people say it was okay for our government to eavesdrop, infiltrate, harass, and arrest people in the name of national security.

Politics in this country has not only taken a rightward turn, it has become irrational. The flag waving frenzy, unfortunately, has very little to do with American democratic values that we should all be proud of. (In fact it has been turned against those values.)

An irrational and phony variety of patriotism has been used to justify ideas that make absolutely no sense. Like the idea that our government has the right to decide who should head the government in Afghanistan. Or that Bush can determine that Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein are not fit lead their people. Or Bush’s absurd new doctrine that we have the right to attack another country - not because of anything that country did to us, but because of something we claim they were planning to do! And all of this is said with little critical response, unless you know which progressive publications to read or Web sites to visit.

But the rightward turn involves much more than foreign policy and civil liberties. It is all encompassing. It involves massive donations of our tax dollars to wealthy corporations. (Of course, this is nothing new, but the scope of it has dramatically increased since 9-11, with only timid opposition.) It

involves a new Department of Homeland Security that will, coincidentally, strip union rights for thousands of federal workers.

It involved an airline bailout that did nothing for the flight attendants, ticket agents, mechanics and other laid off workers and gave generously to corporate executives. And since the loan guarantees were coupled with worker concessions, US Airways is now using this legislation to try to gouge concessions from its employees that are described as the largest in the history of the industry.

It involves a virtual freeze on any pro-environment, pro-consumer, or pro-people activity on the part of the federal government. It involves bipartisan support for throwing more people off welfare and onto the street.

The post 9-11 right turn has had a chilling effect on any progressive organizing. Another example: a friend in the New York labor movement says union organizing drive petitions to the NLRB are down 50 percent in that part of the country since 9-11.

Democrats Follow Republicans

For those who think the Democrats are progressive, I ask one question. Has the Democratic Party challenged the overall direction our country has taken since 9-11? The answer, obviously, is no. But don’t you think, given what is happening in America today, that it is the absolute duty of an opposition party to stand up and shout: “This is wrong! This is wrong!”

At this critical time, the Green Party is needed more than ever. Because the Democrats have absolutely failed to raise a significant opposition to all of these horrendous developments in our country.

Oh, some Democrats have quibbled with a few details of how the war on terror is being carried out. But the party has not stood up and said what needs to be said: that the war on terror itself, *in the manner that Bush is conducting it*, is wrong. It does not make the country any safer, it kills innocent people, it funnels money to the rich while it steals from the poor, and it fosters a reactionary atmosphere across our nation.

And I don’t want to hear about how it would be politically unpopular because the opinion polls show Bush with overwhelming support. If the other major party vocally opposed these policies, there would be a vigorous national debate and the polls would look a lot different.

A Democrat Resigns

Quite instructive are the words of Bruce Cole, who recently resigned as Chairperson of a local Democratic Committee in Camden, Maine. In a letter, he complained of DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe's efforts to gut campaign reform legislation, and went on to say the following:

"Unfortunately, my disgust doesn't end with McAuliffe and the DNC. In the last two weeks, both Minority Leader Gephardt and Majority Leader Daschle have given their public support to our war-crazed President in his intentions to "finish the job" in Iraq - as if the world isn't already a smoldering tinderbox waiting for just such a spark to explode. Do they honestly believe that re-invading Iraq to settle a Bush family score will bring us a safer world? This is on top of the enabling Democratic support for continued Israeli oppression of a truly desperate Palestinian people. What are they trying to do, guarantee that the inevitable conflagration is spectacular enough to compete with reality TV?

"These are the putative leaders of our party, sleepwalking over a cliff. When I add all of this to Democratic complicity in the Orwellian USA Patriot Act, and in the uncalled-for, record run-up in the Defense budget (both issues failing to address the root causes for 9-11 while siphoning vast sums from hemorrhaging social programs, affecting us right here in Camden), I am at the point of re-evaluating my association with the party. Obviously, in such a state of profound ambivalence, it is inappropriate for me to be leading a local Democratic Committee, and therefore I am hereby resigning as your chairperson..."

Bruce Cole's letter did not go on to draw what to me seems the logical conclusion. The only viable alternative - the only way to try to stop this madness - is to build the Green Party. G

Paul Felton is a member of Detroit Greens, Labor Greens, and the Labor Party

The Resident Speaks - Nonsense Again

The Bush administration and several utilities are opposing a provision of the Senate energy bill that would require utilities to produce 10 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020.

The Senate energy bill includes a renewable electricity standard that requires major electric companies to increase sales of electricity from wind, solar and other renewable sources from two percent today to about 10 percent by 2020. This would result in a quadrupling, by 2020, of the amount of clean, renewable energy produced.

The 74,000 megawatts of renewable energy that would be online by 2020 would be enough to power about 53 million homes.

"Bush's opposition to the renewable electricity standard makes no sense given that its own study shows that the renewable electricity standard would actually save consumers billions of dollars," said Alan Noguee, clean energy program director at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS).

"The administration is catering to big utilities that want to continue dishing out the same old mix of dirty fossil fuels," Noguee said. "The summer air conditioning and smog season is a stark reminder of the need to develop clean energy sources."

Twelve states, including Texas, have already enacted their own renewable electricity standards.

"Because of the Texas renewable electricity standard that President [George W.] Bush signed when he was governor of Texas, the amount of wind turbines built in Texas last year was more than those built in the entire U.S. in any year," Noguee said. "It's a shame that Bush won't support the clean air, consumer savings and energy security benefits that renewable energy could provide on the national level." G

California Limits Automotive CO2

California became the first state in the nation to regulate emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from motor vehicles. Governor Gray Davis signed legislation ordering the state's air quality board to develop statewide standards for tailpipe emissions of carbon dioxide, beginning in model year 2009.

The new law is aimed at reducing the global warming impacts of carbon emissions from cars, light trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUVs), and could prompt similar legislation in other states across the nation.

Where Should the Money Go?

By Pete Ponzetti, III
Candidate for 51st District State House

It appears as though the November ballot will be chock full of not only candidates, but issue initiatives as well. This will include everything from straight ticket voting to voting on whether or not to divert 1998 Michigan tobacco settlement money, from education to healthcare.

At issue with the latter, is whether the state should take the roughly \$360 million in tobacco settlement money currently backing Gov. Engler's Merit Award scholarship, and instead put it into healthcare and anti-tobacco programs. Engler is not too happy about this, as the Merit scholarship is supposed to be one of his three-term administration's big "achievements."

The \$2,500 scholarships (some would call it a bribe – include me!) are given to high school students who pass statewide, standardized assessment tests. The concern come Election Day, of course, is that parents and grandparents will vote with their college tuition-weary pocketbooks. After all, a Merit scholarship could cover their child or grandchild's first semester at public university – or two at a community college.

If the ballot question passes, and thereby moves tobacco money from education to healthcare, however, the Merit scholarship funding will dry up. This is a good thing because it would eliminate student incentive to take these unnecessary standardized tests. Just like before 2000, when the state didn't offer the scholarships, students would be free to opt out in large numbers – like they did in 1999. Then nearly 23% of Michigan high schoolers flat-out refused to take the worthless tests. This could eventually end Michigan standardized testing altogether.

Elimination of assessment tests could bring back a very important concept in education, too: teaching students subject matter, not how to take quantitative tests. Districts could then go back to concentrating on educating students, instead of competing with other districts over test scores and subsequent state funding.

But utilizing this

tobacco settlement money for healthcare, instead of education, really goes beyond helping to end statewide standardized testing. The original intent of these anti-tobacco settlements, after all, was to fund anti-tobacco programs that helped states to cover the rising costs of treating individuals with smoking-related illnesses.

While the healthcare lobby is expectantly and greedily in favor of diverting the tobacco settled monies, for their own personal gains, they aren't far off in pointing out a downward trend in the funding of treatment for those on Medicaid. With recent Senate Fiscal Agency reports projecting a \$2 billion dollar deficit in the Medicaid budget, the poor and the elderly will be increasingly forced to scrape the bottom of Michigan's healthcare barrel if funding isn't "found."

Currently, the state budget allocates very little in funds for anti-smoking programs, and not one cent of the four-year old tobacco settlement funds are being spent on them. With prescription drug costs for senior citizens continuing to rise, using tobacco settlement money for healthcare is a priority and makes more sense.

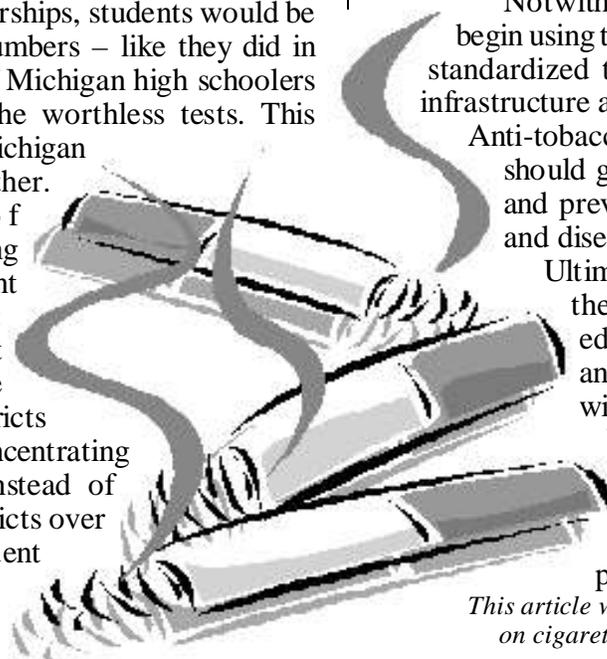
If the state wanted to continue the Merit scholarship program – which, in most circumstances, has helped out only middle and upper class students already in successful school districts – it could look into other sections of the state budget for the necessary funding. Education should continue to be the State of Michigan's number one funding priority.

Notwithstanding this, the state should begin using the money currently squandered on standardized testing to promote public school infrastructure and increase K-12 teacher salaries.

Anti-tobacco settlement money, meanwhile, should go to healthcare and the treatment and prevention smoking-related addiction and disease.

Ultimately, no one is saying that making the decision between funding education and college scholarships and healthcare and tobacco programs will be easy. But if voters can step back from their short-term tuition concerns come November, the long-term budget objectives for the state as a whole can be more properly achieved. G

This article was written before the new fifty cent tax on cigarettes was passed. It takes effect August 1.



What's the Difference?

By John Anthony La Pietra
Locals Liaison

Have you thought about the difference between "political correctness" and "doing the right thing"?

It's an important distinction to make ... because different observers sometimes use these two labels to describe the same act. Correctness and being right are actually pretty close to the same thing – so maybe the difference comes from adding the word "political" to one of them.

Politics has been called the art of getting along without fighting all the time. And it covers much more ground than just governmental elections. But tack on "correctness", and you get a much narrower term – intended to convey a much narrower view of the world.

"Political correctness" means doing something because you think it's what other people believe is right – or because you're afraid others will believe you're wrong if you don't. It means compromising what you believe, just to agree with your friends ... or with those you wish were your friends. Or, for any of a thousand other reasons involving politics in its broader sense, putting that "go along to get along" attitude first ... ahead of whether what you're going along with is right or wrong.

"Doing the right thing" means just what it says – doing something because it's the right thing to do, regardless of any other reason for or against. Your turn to do the right thing may come because you're the one who can see it, the one who knows it needs to be done. Or perhaps you've been chosen by others

– put in a position to see and do the right things. In any case, if you're willing to make an unpopular choice, and stick by it, and explain to people why it was the right choice, there's a fair chance you're doing the right thing as you see it. And that deserves respect and attention ... even – or especially – from those with other views.

Perhaps the most powerful, most political form of political correctness is governing based on popularity and opinion polls. It's the fault Michael Douglas as The American President Andrew Shepherd saw in himself near the film's end: "I was so busy keeping my job that I forgot to do my job." Andrew Jackson reportedly put it this way: "One man with courage makes a majority."

Jackson's great rival and Presidential predecessor, John Quincy Adams, apparently agreed with him on this point. In 1816, Adams wrote his father John Adams: "I can never join with my voice in the toast which I see in the papers attributed to one of our gallant naval heroes." (That toast was the one frequently sound-bitten down to "My country, right or wrong.") Adams said his toast would be, "May our country be always successful, but whether successful or otherwise, always right."

Want a non-Presidential role model? Try Henry Clay, who said, "I would rather be right than be President."

We honor these politicians as heroes of our history – because they put popularity and political correctness aside ... and did the right thing. G

Lessons continued from page 2 ...

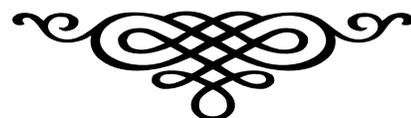
will talk about the US military involvement there at a covered dish dinner here in just over a week.

There is a real lesson in this. If you scratch the surface of the poll numbers about Bush's and Ashcroft's overwhelming support, you get down to a lot of people with a lot of questions, a lot of concerns and a lot of fears. Some of them are afraid that they are alone in what they are thinking.

What it takes to get them excited and to get them involved is for them to see someone standing up so that they will know that they are not alone. We should have been doing this in every city across the country that had a Fourth of July parade. If we had

the foresight and the courage, we could have turned this day of flag waving into a day of introspection and dialogue and building this important movement against repression here at home and aggression abroad. G

SURGE webpage - www.surgenetwork.org
CCEF - www.moneyinpolitics.org
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, PO Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607
<http://www.space4peace.org>
globalnet@mindspring.com



GP-US continued from page 4 ...

activity on Friday was that of a colossal waste of time. At every point (including the ad hoc report, which came and went far more smoothly than I expected) where a controversial issue arose that was deserving of real discussion, there was a claim that time was not available to engage in said discussion. Almost all of the activity on Friday could have been resolved quite simply by email and would probably have produced the same results.

The evening was taken up by a rally at the Irvine Auditorium at the U of Penn campus. Ralph Nader was the prime attraction, in addition to Medea Benjamin (head of Global Exchange), the gubernatorial candidates for California and Pennsylvania (Peter Camejo and Michael Morrill, respectively) and a number of Congressional- and other office-seekers. There was also music by Dana Lyons, David Rovics (this generation's Arlo Guthrie; I've heard him a few times now and would encourage all of you to take a listen) and Judy Gorman.

Saturday and Sunday were taken up with a number of workshops and hearings, including the standing room only Campaign School and the well-attended Platform hearings. The slowly-forming LaborGreens group also met and began hammering out a plan.

Overall, I think the convention itself went well. There are a few problems that need to be addressed (and soon) as we approach campaign season and the soon-to-be presidential campaign season, but GP-US seems to be on the right track in general.

As always, there are numerous details I can recall with sufficient prodding, so feel free to contact me (dystopia@wwnet.com) if there's something I missed. G

More Philly continued from page 5 ...

expertise this organization can now bring to bear on America's political problems.

So congratulations to all Michigan Greens; to our nominated and our potential candidates; to our local caucuses; and to our national delegates for their hard work in building, plank by plank over many years, the ark in which we now sail. Now more than ever, I'm proud to be Green.

God bless you and good luck in this crusade; or as they say in Texas, "praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!"

Kevin Henehan

P.S. I was asked in Philadelphia to participate on the

board of *Green Pages*, the party's national newsletter, which I'm considering; at any rate, I'm producing (for another outlet) an article-length analysis of the Philadelphia event, which may be available in time for GPMI's convention. Everyone interested in getting a free boost of confidence should read *Green Pages*, which is filled with Green Party success stories from all 50 states that will (literally) amaze you. Plenty will be available at the GPMI. G

Zionism continued from page 10 ...

halt suicide bombings has at least two causes. The first, often cited by the PA, is that Israel's destruction of the Palestinian security infrastructure has destroyed its capacity to do so.

The second reason is one that the PA cannot admit: Because the PA bureaucracy organized no resistance as Israeli settlements doubled in size AFTER the Oslo accords, and because PA officials notoriously enriched themselves while Palestinians as a whole became poorer under the "peace process," the PA could not control resistance against the occupation when the vacuum was filled by other forces.

3) The inability of the Israeli government to offer conditions for a genuine peace with dignity for the Palestinian people is deeply rooted, I believe, in the situation I outlined at the beginning.

An authentic, stable peace between Israel and Palestine would be a wonderful breakthrough for Israeli society and its people, including an opportunity to confront the deepening poverty of much of the population.

At the same time, however, I believe that peace would represent the death of Zionism. Without the occasion to rally the population against a real or imagined threat of destruction, Zionism within a generation or less would be reduced to a museum artifact for the benefit of tourists.

Zionism promised the Jewish people a "national redemption and a normal life." Without the threat of war, millions of Israeli Jews – most of whom didn't come to Israel for ideological reasons anyway – will say, "where's that normal life?"

Israel today continues to be ruled by the elites of a decaying Zionist bureaucracy whose main parties – Likud and Labor – shrink with every election. Much of what they do seems designed to preserve their own sense of indispensability, even if they lead their own society to destruction in the process. G

David Finkel is an editor of the socialist bi-monthly magazine Against The Current, published in Detroit. He

visited the West Bank and Israel in January, 2002 with a delegation called With Our Own Eyes, organized by the Washtenaw County Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. His two articles on the current crisis appeared in the March and May issues of the magazine and can be obtained on request by contacting him at cfc@igc.org or ATC, 7012 Michigan Avenue, Detroit MI 48210. A collection of articles titled "Crisis and War in Palestine/Israel" is available from the same address.

Brighton Jail continued from page 18 ...

it. While you're at it, Dave, why not repeat the rest of my highway proposal, seeing as how I wasn't able to deliver it in person? To wit:

Eliminate the Diesel fuel tax subsidy. Raise the tax on petroleum based Diesel fuel to the same rate at which gasoline is taxed. No reason that people driving cars and light trucks should be taxed to subsidize heavy trucks.

Build light rail passenger lines right down the middle of freeway medians. There's hardly a more powerful incentive to attract people to the rails than being stuck in traffic while the trains whiz blithely by. And once they're on the train, they learn that it's a whole different kind of society, where people cooperate with their neighbors and get better acquainted. On the highway, you compete with your nameless neighbors and everybody develops a bad attitude for it. If we can't do that right away, I will issue an Executive Order to the Department of Transportation that all new highway construction allocate space for the right-of-way.

The 100-ton rule: All new facilities built with the capacity to handle 100 tons of freight daily must have a rail spur before receiving an occupancy permit, and older facilities would receive a grace period. Rail is one of the road's biggest saviors, but pathetically underused in Michigan.

Build a coalition between the Michigan and Canadian Green Parties to reopen the two abandoned rail tunnels under the Detroit River. The Democrats and Republicans can't make any such claim to international cooperation, because they're just one-country parties, while the Green Party is active in 53 nations around the globe. Just last Friday, we picked up four new seats in the Irish Parliament and last Monday, we ran Christopher Holt, a tool & die maker and a decent family man, for Canada's House of Commons from the Windsor West riding. (district)

Sincerely,

Douglas Campbell

Michigan's Next Governor

p.s: Anyone doubting the legitimacy of my candidacy can verify that I am properly filed with the Michigan Secretary of State, Board of Elections. Give them a call, or look it up on the Internet. Go to http://miboecfr.nicusa.com/cgi-bin/cfr/gub_search.cgi and click "Search."

p.p.s: When you get a chance, ask the other candidates what they're so afraid of. I thought that kidnaping the opposition party candidate was an election strategy limited to Columbia. While you're at it, agitate to get Ingrid Betancourt released. G

It Ain't Over Till It's Over ...

President George W. Bush has signed a resolution authorizing the construction of a permanent repository for the nation's high level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The resolution overrides a veto of the proposed repository issued by Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said the resolution "will allow us, after a decade of scientific study, to take the next step in establishing a safe repository in which to store our nation's nuclear waste."

The state of Nevada says it will now fight the Yucca Mountain repository in the federal courts and through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing process.

"The fact that the President signed House Joint Resolution 87 does little more than end the political process," said Governor Guinn. "I have always believed that our best chance in defeating Yucca Mountain is in the federal courts, where impartial judges will hear the factual and scientific arguments as to why Yucca Mountain is not a safe place to store this nation's high level

Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

ACLU – Michigan

60 W. Hancock
Detroit, MI 48201
(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 (Washington, DC)

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
jamrag@glis.net
www.greenhouseonline.com

Jobs with Justice

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

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 Citizens for Water

Conservation (MCWC)

Terry Swier, President
tswier@centurytel.net
Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332
www.saveMIwater.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

Sweetwater Alliance

2020 S. Mission, #128
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 773-6874 www.geocities.com/sweetwateralliance

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