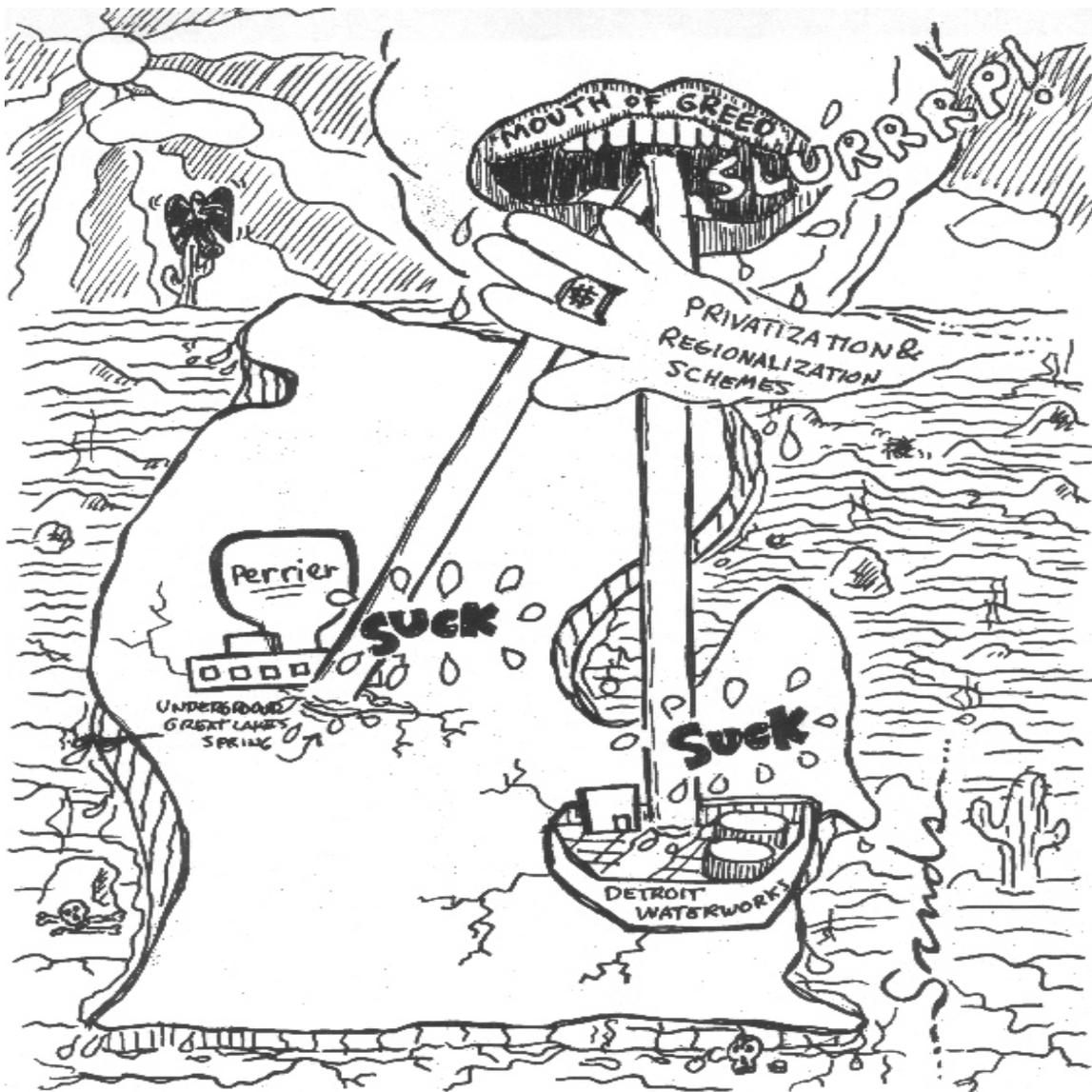


# Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan Volume 5, No. 1 Winter 2003



*Mouth of Greed reprinted from The Michigan Citizen with the permission of the artist, David Sands*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Water, water, everywhere? maybe not: "Profitization" threatens your environment and your money – Election 2002: Reports and reflections from the state and the nation – Genetic engineering and irradiation affect food supply – Right to choose – and more ...

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In this issue —

## The Government Is Here to Help You

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If you've been thinking that the only things you have to worry about are the War on Terrorism, and when, not if, the U. S. is going to attack Iraq, well think again. This issue of the newsletter is full of material that might distract you a little from those issues.

The news isn't all bad — the Green Party in Michigan and elsewhere fared reasonably well in the last election. We didn't win any new offices in Michigan, but the number of votes cast for Green candidates was greatly increased over previous years. And in other states, 71 candidates won their races.

But some of the other articles might make you wonder if the government — state and federal — is trying to kill off the populace in the interests of corporate profits. This is nothing new, of course. Several federal agencies have been created to protect us from unwholesome food. They make rules, for instance, establishing the acceptable level of insect parts, rodent hairs, rodent feces, and mold in foodstuffs.

Another example of the protection we are provided can be seen in processed meats. Even if you are not a vegetarian, you probably don't buy hotdogs and lunch meat, such as bologna, because of the fat content. That by itself is enough to make you walk by that section of the market without stopping.

There is yet a better reason to pass up these products, even the no or low fat versions. The government permits processors to add known carcinogens, sodium nitrite and sodium nitrate, to these foods as preservatives. What these chemicals

actually preserve is the pink color of the meat. They have little or no effect in preserving freshness or preventing bacterial growth. Their use is permitted in the interests of corporate profits — few people will buy gray pickle loaf.

In all likelihood, even fewer people would care to buy products containing corn that is genetically contaminated with industrial chemicals. But the possibility that this could occur is growing.



Here in Michigan, despite the fact that we have a huge budget deficit, we sacrifice our natural resources to corporate profits. As you can read in the article on bottled water, the extraction of huge quantities of water from the aquifer may be extremely harmful to the ecology. Yet, not only is Michigan's government permitting this to occur, the company doing it is getting the water for the price of a permit — and they are getting \$9 million in tax abatements.

Privatization is also a possibility for Detroit water. If the legislature manages to sneak through one of the many bills that have been proposed “regionalizing” control of this resource and opening the door to privatization, we could be paying exorbitant rates to turn on the tap. Or even worse, find that the quality and cleanliness of our tap water has been sacrificed to corporate profits.

*Linda Manning Myatt*

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*Amber Waves of Green*, published quarterly, is the official publication of the Green Party of Michigan. It is written by members and friends of the party and assembled by Linda Manning Myatt. Aside from celebrating spacious skies, and purple mountain majesty, it serves to promote the Ten Key Values of the Greens: Ecological Wisdom, Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice, Nonviolence, Community Economics, Decentralization, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus. Submission of articles by E mail or disc is preferred: [newsletter@migreens.org](mailto: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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:migreens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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# **Amber Waves of Green**

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**The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan**

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**Scattered throughout this issue, there are several items about problems with water – in the US and elsewhere in the world. They are not listed in the table of contents above.**

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## South Africa – Now More Than Ever

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*Jodie Barger*  
*Green Party Kent County*

I spent most of my summer in Durban, South Africa this year. I went with a study abroad program from my university. The program at University of Natal, where I studied, included a service-learning component at a local HIV/AIDS clinic. KwaZulu-Natal, the province where I lived, has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS infection in South Africa: 3 out of 5 adults in KZN have HIV or AIDS.

The clinic, Sinekthemba (Cine/ka/tem/ba), provides pre- and post-test counseling, a support group, and general health services. As Anti-Retro Viral Therapy, the drug regimen that slows the spread of the disease, is not available to the majority of South Africans the medical wing of the clinic is limited to nutritional information and rudimentary health care. It was frustrating to see families going to the HIV/AIDS clinic, where they cannot provide HIV/AIDS treatment. The most effective component of the clinic is the income generation program.

Clients do bead work, which is a traditional Zulu art. The clinic sells the beadwork and the money is put into an account for the client based on their output. This money mostly goes to pay hospital bills. If the

*South Africans need a Green  
President of the United States  
more than we need a Green  
President.*

client is especially productive one month there may also be money for food and rent.

The greatest needs I saw at the clinic were for care and for cash. With such a high rate of infection in Durban, disclosing disease status results in losing one's family and friends. If you disclose you are seen as bringing the disease into your family.

*Continued on page 26 ...*

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## Typical course of infection with HIV

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From Winter 02 UCLA class:

- Viral load increases for ~ 6 weeks, CD4+T cell count decreases for same 6 weeks
- Over the next 6 weeks, viral load drops and T cell count partly recovers
- Typical 6-8 years of "latency" with no symptoms
- Typical 3-4 years of symptoms - "AIDS," not just HIV infection
- Death at 10-12 year mark from date of infection

The meaning of "typical" course above is "without therapy." This is typical for the United States. There has been speculation that more stimulation of the immune system, through exposure to more transmissible diseases, would cause the disease to progress more swiftly. However, the opposite case, that of little exposure to transmissible disease would slow it down, has not been shown. Most likely, the disease progresses on its own schedule, not much influenced by more or less activity on the part of the immune system.

It is not known how much anti-retroviral therapy can prolong a person's life. There is too much variation both in the combinations of drugs that can be given and in the schedule and in the variability of the virus. A further complicating factor is that the symptoms of long-term use of ARV drugs are severe. An extension of 3-5 years

seems like a reasonable guess, with longer times being possible but not common.

The effectiveness of single-dose AZT in preventing transmission of the virus from an infected mother to her child at the time of birth is clear. It cuts the number of transmitted infections in half. The good effect may be negated by the mother subsequently nursing the uninfected infant and transmitting the virus in her milk.

According to a 1998 article in the New York Times, about 1 person out of 10 has a gene that accelerates the progression of the infection by producing more of a protein that the virus uses to enter cells. For these people, death may come as soon as three years after initial infection. Others survive for 15 years or more without symptoms, although they are infected.

From a recent PBS program: Still others, though exposed to the virus on multiple occasions, appear not to be infected at all, and tests on their blood cells in the laboratory have shown the cells will resist infection when exposed to 3000 times the concentrations that would infect normal cells. Apparently, the same genetic variation that allowed some Europeans to resist the bubonic plague some centuries ago also allows their descendants to resist the modern plague of HIV. □

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# Why I Don't Buy Bottled Water Anymore

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By *Adrianna Buonarroti*  
*Record Keeper, GPMI*

I have come a long way in my enviro-political education in a relatively short time. Two years ago, I was still buying antibacterial liquid soaps, I was still willing to take prescription drugs just because my doctor told me they were safe, and I was still a believer in bottled water.

I remember a conversation I had with one of my coworkers, in which I suggested that we shouldn't be drinking tap water because it wasn't healthy. "Ann Arbor water is pretty good," he told me.

"It's got chlorine in it," I argued. "Chlorine causes bladder cancer."

"Actually," he said, "a lot of bottled water comes right from municipal water supplies."

"But they do something to it," I half-asked, half-asserted. "They filter it."

"Yeah, sometimes they run it through a filter. But some bottled water has even been tested and shown to have significant impurities."

"You're trying to tell me that bottled water is not any cleaner than tap water? Then why do people buy bottled water anyway?"

"That's a good question."

That was the first time I had ever heard anything but support for bottled water and it gave me pause. It was shortly thereafter that I began to be aware of activism surrounding the bottled water industry, based not on whether bottled water was good for individual health, but based on whether it was good for the ecological and political health of our planet.

In 1999, long before I became aware of the issues surrounding bottled water, Perrier was pitching bottled water to third world countries where clean water is difficult to find. Nestlé, the Swiss corporation that owns Perrier, was already infamous for giving samples of baby formula away to nursing mothers in developing countries. While using these samples, their breast milk would dry up, and they would be forced to purchase formula when the

samples ran out. (OK, arguably they weren't forced. They could have given their babies something else to eat.... Anything else come to mind?)

As developing nations became a new and growing source of revenue for water bottling companies, concerns arose about the potential marketing connection between clean water and baby formula. These concerns were not realized, but other concerns arose. In Pakistan, where monthly salaries of \$30 per month are common, in 1999 a bottle of water sold for about 36 cents, or slightly more than one percent of a month's pay. To put this in perspective, if you earn \$30,000 per year, or \$2500 per month, a bottle of water would cost.... \$31.25?

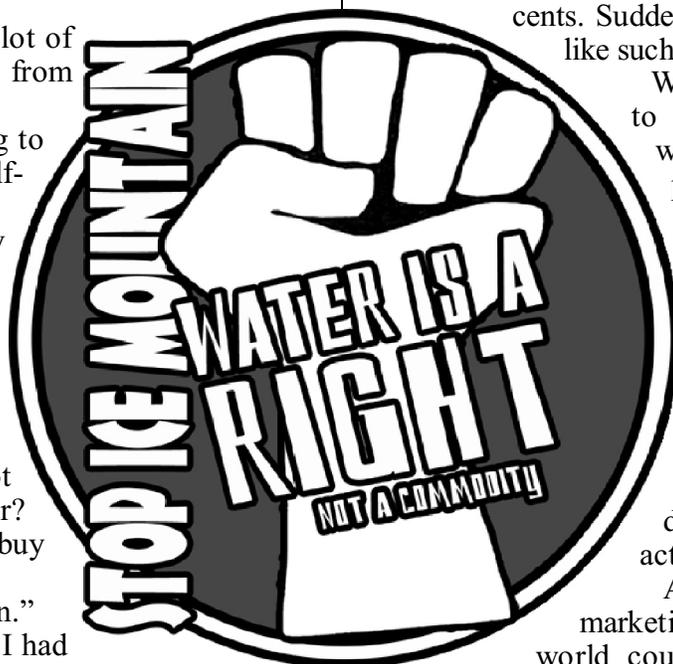
That's right. Thirty-one dollars and twenty-five cents. Suddenly, 36 cents doesn't sound like such a bargain.

Why would anyone be willing to pay such a high price for water? In Pakistan, and other poor nations, there is still the kind of illness crisis that Europe went through in the middle ages: drinking water is often contaminated with sewage and is thus a carrier of many deadly diseases. Although many Americans rarely drink plain water, don't look now, but people actually need water to live.

Another concern about the marketing of bottled water in third world countries is that with bottled water available, governments may spend less money on their nations' water treatment and delivery facilities. This means that clean water will never be available except for the profit of international corporations.

Experts project that eventually there will be a water crisis in the United States. Already cities like Atlanta have serious problems with contaminated water, and California and other hot, dry areas routinely have water shortages in summer. There will come a day when turning on your faucet won't guarantee you clean water. Will you be spending \$30 for a bottle of water? Well, that all depends on who is in control of the water.

In a capitalistic system, price depends on what the market will bear. But it's water, you say. We



need it to live. No one would make something we need to live cost that much. It wouldn't be ethical. If you think that's true, just look at the high prices that pharmaceutical companies are charging for AIDS drugs.

So that's the political part of the problem. Then there's the environmental part of the problem. Water bottling companies take millions of gallons of water out of underground aquifers. They have argued that the amount of water that they take from the ground isn't even close to the amount used for other purposes. Perrier has compared it's water use with hospitals, golf courses, manufacturing industries and big cities, pointing out that these consumers sometimes use many times as much water as they do.

**W**hat Perrier and other bottlers don't mention is the difference between using ground water locally and taking the water somewhere else. Water that people drink or pour on the ground or down the drain eventually makes its way back into the water table that it came from. Bottlers often ship bottled water across the country or the world, so that it is permanently removed from the local water system. Does this have an impact on the area's ecology?

In the flurry of recent articles about water use, a number of hydrologists have cautioned that we don't know the impact of removing so much water from an aquifer. The complex relationships of an ecological system are often not well understood. This lack of understanding allows Perrier and others to argue that there is no proof that their removal of water causes ecological damage. If there is no proof, there must not be any damage, right?

Sadly, because so few people live close to the land in our country, we have to fall back on science. Science is notoriously lacking in an intimate knowledge of the detailed ecology of our planet. Take a Navajo warning that "If you kill off the prairie dogs, there will be no one to cry for rain." In the book *Permaculture*, Bill Mollison reports, "Amused scientists, knowing that there was no conceivable relationship between prairie dogs and rain, recommended the extermination of all burrowing animals in some desert areas planted to rangelands in the 1950's 'in order to protect the sparse desert grasses.' Today the area (not far from Chilchinbito, Arizona) has become a virtual wasteland."

Mollison goes on to explain that "burrows of spiders, gophers and worms, are to the soil what the alveoli of our lungs are to our bodies." As Stephen Harrod Buhner explains in *The Lost Language of Plants*, "as the moon passes overhead, the underground aquifers rise and fall and the earth

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## Facts About Bottled Water

*From US News and World Report,  
August 12, 2002, p. 29*

**I**n theory, bottled water must meet the same federal standards as public water, but there are exceptions. For example, the FDA does not regulate the plasticizer DEHP, despite evidence that water long stored in plastic bottles could exceed tap water limits.

Most bottled water is clean. But in 1999, a Natural Resources Defense Council study showed that four of 103 tested brands of bottled water violated federal standards for chemicals or coliform bacteria, while one quarter fell short of stricter California standards for other contaminants.

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breathes out moisture-laden air. The exhalation of negative-ion-charged air through the many fissures and tubes opened by the burrowing creatures helps create rain."

Science, far behind the Navajos in understanding this relationship, led to the destruction of a fragile ecological system that scientists believed they were protecting. All this is to say that if we don't know what the impact of an action is on the earth, we shouldn't be doing it. (In the words of Homer Simpson, "Facts, schmacts. You can prove anything with facts.")

**A**ctually, there is proof that taking too much water out of a system causes damage. According to Kurt Cuffey, assistant professor of geology at the University of California at Berkeley, tapping springs and aquifers even on a small scale can alter the movement of sediment in nearby streams, which can in turn disrupt the food supply for fish and other wildlife. In coastal areas, tapping aquifers can lead to another problem: saltwater intrusion. The flow of groundwater in coastal areas is normally strong enough to hold saltwater back. When the groundwater flow is reduced to the point where the strength of the flow is less than that of the saltwater, saltwater begins to make its way into aquifers. The result is drinking water made non-potable, and the devastation of plant and animal life dependent on the supply of fresh water. Saltwater intrusion is already a problem in parts of coastal California, Florida, and New York as a result of the

*Continued on page 29 ...*

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## Detroit Goes Dry

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*By Sweetwater Alliance – Detroit  
Priscilla Dziubek, Detroit Greens*

Detroit has been providing water to its residents since 1836, when it first established its water department. Over the years, the system was expanded to service the growing city and the new suburban communities. One of the unfortunate effects of this was to facilitate flight from the city proper by businesses and former residents by supplying the water needed to support those new population centers. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department now supplies high-quality drinking water to 4.3 million people who live and work in Detroit as well as 125 other communities in southeast Michigan.

Throughout this past decade, many legislative attempts have been made to take control of the water from the residents of Detroit. Detroit's water department has been under consistent attack from suburban state representatives. These representatives sponsored House Bill 5788, which would regionalize the department and open the way for large-scale privatization. In many ways, this effort epitomizes a racist lack of confidence in the ability of a predominantly African-American city government to supervise such an important service to the city and surrounding areas.

Just as control of Detroit public schools was wrested away from Detroiters by force, this current campaign to diminish the city's power over its own resources is part of a larger problem with the interactions of the city and the state. The water workers union, Local 207, has loudly labeled the takeover "racist" because first off, it clearly is, but also to urge suburban ratepayers to disassociate themselves from it.

As if this were not enough, it now appears that Detroit's city government is also willing to move control of the water from the public to the private sector. The new policy at the water board is summed up by the comments of water department



spokesman George Ellenwood, "People need to understand that the days when water bills could go unpaid for great amounts of time are over." Last June, Victor M. Mercado was named Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. He has worked for a number of major corporate players in international water privatization. He previously served as Vice President of Thames Water North America, and President and General Manager of Thames Water Puerto Rico (1999-2002), Vice President and General Manager of United Water Delaware and President of United Water Bethel and United Water Virginia (1997-1999). "We've got a vision, and plan to make DWSO a world-class utility," said Mercado. Apparently, you can't be a world-class system if you aren't a profitable system.

In an effort to make DWSO a more "profitable" (as opposed to more service-oriented), Director Mercado has implemented such austerity measures as: eliminating 598 vacant, budgeted positions; holding managers accountable for their budgets; and refinancing capital debt through bond issues. The

good director claims that this can be done "without compromising service to DWSO customers." If managers are held personally accountable for their budgets, is there not a considerable pressure on them to cut off overdue accounts? How can a shut off be in any way described as "good service"? In

*"It's an extreme time we live in when the public utility is cutting off something we all need to live: water. This is a crime against humanity, and what are we going to do [but] fight. Fight for justice till everyone's water is turned on and never turned off again."*

*Maureen Taylor, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization*

a time when Detroit is desperately in need of more decent jobs, can eliminating budgeted public service positions be a responsible measure? Finally, if their bad management practices have in fact brought them to the brink, why should they be allowed to bail themselves out at the public's expense? This is wrong, especially if they have arbitrarily changed their mission from one of public service to one of private profit.

**M**ore moves towards profitability include current and proposed rate hikes for both city and suburban customers. DWSD announced that these rate increases (proposed to begin July 1, 2003) will average about nine percent. These rate hikes make it harder for the poorest among us to have access to clean, safe drinking water.

A major expansion is planned for the system as well. The city has contracted Montgomery Watson to help design and build its record-breaking Water Works Park II. When completed in 2004, this fully automated (read: no jobs), 240 million gallons per day water treatment plant will become a major supplier of potable water to about 4 million people in a 1,000-square-mile service area. This facility, at a cost of \$300 million, would also be able to bottle this water for subsequent sale. The idea was floated by ex-director Stephen Gordan, and would put Detroit in the position of cutting some residents off of municipal water and then offering that same water for sale to anyone who could pay.

At the same time, an unprecedented water cut-off to delinquent accounts was ordered to occur during the sub-freezing weather of January. Bear in mind that many Detroit homes are steam heated, losing water means losing heat. Also bear in mind that Social Services uses a water shutoff as a deciding factor for removal of children from the premises. The people most affected by these shut-offs are the poor, the elderly, children and the disabled. As Maureen Taylor of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization says "It's an extreme time we live in when the



public utility is cutting off something we all need to live: water. This is a crime against humanity, and what are we going to do [but] fight. Fight for justice till everyone's water is turned on and never turned off again."



The policy of deregulation of the energy industry has not only led to high, sometimes even exorbitant, prices, but has also lent itself to concealment of shutoffs. Utilities do not report shutoffs in real time, and there are no regulatory agencies that monitor the energy business. We must work to maintain basic human services for all citizens. That means keeping all public utilities "Public," where jobs and profits from these services stay in the community. We must demand that service, and not profit, be the motivating force that defines our utility policy. We must demand a city where people have access to and are provided with clean drinking water, as well as all essential services.

The last thing Detroit needs is a privatized water system. There are so many examples of the suffering that privatization brings to a community. In Atlanta, they experienced: degradation in water quality, lacking and long delayed upgrades and repairs, as well as interrupted availability. This community is currently trying to get out of its contract, as they are so unhappy with the results of privatization. Why repeat the mistakes of other communities?

It is predicted by the United Nations that in 20 - 25 years we will be fighting worldwide water wars. Our children and grandchildren will inherit a frightening future if we do not deal with the water issue now. In the water wars of the future, the Great Lakes will represent the third largest supply of fresh water in the world. This precious resource will be coveted and targeted by myriad corporations. If we do not take steps now to protect our water as a common good, to protect access to clean safe water as a basic human right, then we will lose to the corporate interests who want to redefine water as a commodity that only the wealthy can access. □

*Photos were taken on Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Day, at a demonstration to protest water shutoffs.*

*Priscilla Dziubek is a Detroit activist and Web designer who has contributed several articles to the newsletter in the past.*

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## Yes, Virginia there really is an attack on choice — Right to Choose Contraceptive Methods Is Threatened

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By Candace Caveny-Collins  
Lapeer



When Michigan legislator Stephen Erhardt (a pharmacist) authored a bill in 2002 to permit pharmacists to refuse to fill any prescription to which they felt “conscientious objections,” the primary target of the proposal was represented to be the “RU” formulations that induce miscarriage. However, Planned Parenthood reports that last month at the Fifth Asia and Pacific Population Conference, the representatives of the Bush Administration made it clear that abstinence is the cornerstone of their programs. This is based on adherence to a belief that life is sacred at conception. Thus *any* agent that intervenes between the fertilized ovum and viable birth may be objectionable.

This reasoning surfaced as soon as oral contraceptive pills became available to women, by prescription, in the early 1960s. At that time, Dr. John Rock, a Harvard based researcher and a practicing Catholic, felt that his formulations matched *natural* causes of infertility, by expanding the “safe period” for sex to include the whole month. However, one of the recognized actions of the Pill is that it can make the uterine lining inhospitable to the new embryo. This aspect of the imitation process was immediately attacked as “murder” by a faction who believe only divine forces should deny the opportunity for a “soul” to share in divine grace and eternal salvation.

Evolving from this belief, the right wing of the “duopoly” Republocrat party amalgam has launched a renewed attack on women’s right to control their own bodies. For example, only 4% of the nationwide transactions in the clinics of Planned Parenthood have any relation to the actual occurrence of an abortion procedure. Nonetheless, the MI legislature already passed a bill to place Planned Parenthood in *last* place for state funding, through a preference-ranking of agencies that do not mention any option of abortion in relation to pregnancies. This results in funding preference

From: Winter Park Florida Area NOW

### Why Emergency Contraception Should Be Widely Available

In the United States ... There were 2.7 million unintended pregnancies in 1995 (last year for which data is available).

48% of women ages 15-44 have had an unintended pregnancy.

53% of women with unintended pregnancies were using contraception.

11 million women reported using contraceptive methods such as.

Condoms - failure rate 14%

Withdrawal - failure rate 24%.

Periodic Abstinence - failure rate 21%

Diaphragms - failure rate 12%.

*Sherschel, Patricia M. USA Group  
Report. June, 2000.*

Among women using contraception, 51% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion.

### Why Emergency Contraception Is Not Widely Available

“We continue to resist any mandated referrals since they involve material cooperation in evil. It would make the thinking, compassionate pharmacist an ‘accessory’ to the evil resisted in refusing to dispense drugs which kill by design and intent. The thinking, compassionate pharmacist is not refusing ‘to help the customer’ but rather has performed a great humanitarian service to her and her preborn child.”

*Bogomir Kuhar, PharmD, FASCP, Executive  
Director, Pharmacists For Life International*

to “problem-pregnancy” agencies which essentially function as adoption agencies to arrange legal placements of these children. These agencies perform a laudable service, but do not provide clinic services such as Pap tests and mammogram referrals for non-pregnant women of limited

*Continued on page 26 ...*

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## Ending Terrorism at Home

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By Lynn Meadows  
GPMI Membership Secretary

Some of the signs read “Take a Stand for Non-Violence,” “Bread not Bombs,” “Imagine, a Better World is Possible,” and one with a picture of President Bush with the words, “Uproot every known terrorist training camp? What about the School of the Americas?”

On Friday morning, November 15, I left with 4 other people for the grueling 14 hour trip through rain, road construction and one accident, to Columbus, GA, home of Ft. Benning military base that includes the School of Americas (SOA) or more recently renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC). I met people from Calgary, California and Colorado as well as many other places. All had come to ask for the closing of the school.

The SOA/WHISC, known popularly as the School of Assassins, has trained 60,000 Latin American soldiers in combat skills and psychological warfare. In 1996 the Pentagon was forced to release training manuals used at the school that advocate torture, false imprisonment, extortion and execution. SOA graduates are cited for some of the most horrific atrocities in Latin America, including the El Mozote massacre of 900 civilians in El Salvador, the assassination of six Jesuits and their co-workers, terror campaigns against civilians and indigenous people in Guatemala, and recent massacres in Colombia.

Colombia, with over 10,000 troops trained at the SOA, is the school's largest customer. Not surprisingly, Colombia currently has the worst human rights record in the Western Hemisphere. Human Rights Watch's February 2000 Report on the Colombian military implicates seven SOA graduates in 1999 crimes including kidnapping, murder, massacres and setting up paramilitary groups.

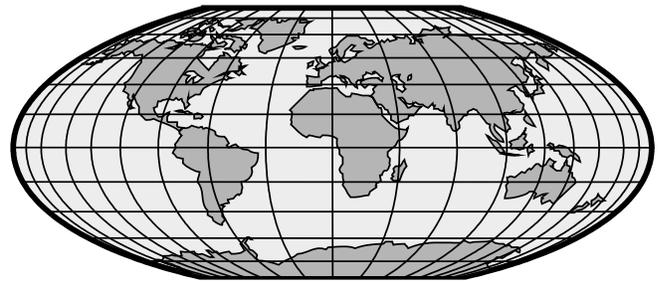
While I was at Columbus, between 8,000 and

Some things are black and white.

Wear the peace button.

Original 1958 design.

visit [www.peacebuttons.info](http://www.peacebuttons.info)



15,000 people joined together for mass civil disobedience, with an en masse funeral procession “crossing the line” onto Fort Benning (but outside of the gates and fence). 96 people were arrested for crossing further onto the base property, by either going around or through the fence. Once again, this year, there were people arrested who accidentally drove onto the base where there is no fence.

Demonstrators carried American flags and crosses honoring the victims of the abuses in Latin America. Three protesters carried a mock-coffin draped in black. Others wore shirts that said “No War in Iraq.” After the traditional funeral procession, the protesters danced and sang to freedom songs, including a performance by the nationally known Indigo Girls. There also was a parade of colorful puppets and young men and women singing and beating tambourines while walking on stilts.

Officials of the Fort commented on the demonstration. Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, the post commander, called it “America at its finest.” Col. Richard Downie, the institute's commandant, said “The peaceful protest today outside the gates is a celebration of democracy. At a time when our nation is engaged in a war on terrorism, it is absolutely crucial that we build friendships.”

The founder of School of the Americas Watch, Roy Bourgeois, started protesting this use of tax payer money 13 years ago with a handful of people. He was among the protesters who gathered Sunday for the annual demonstration which has grown immensely in these 13 years. Participants vow to keep returning every year, as long as it takes to close the school. I will be with them as often as possible. □

*To learn more about the SOA/WHISC and the effort to close it, visit [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) or call 202-234-3440.*

*Lynn Meadows is a member of the Tamarack Greens.*

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## Irradiated Food Is Not Proven Safe

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*A Letter to the USDA*

*By John Anthony La Pietra  
Marshall, MI*

I live in Calhoun County, Michigan – where a hepatitis outbreak in 1997 caused by tainted strawberries (provided to our community through the USDA) sickened many of our schoolchildren and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. We know the need for safe food – and the need for consumers to know about their food. Even if the only principle of consumer protection were “Let the buyer beware” – as it is not – proper labeling rules and enforcement of them are a bare minimum requirement for letting buyers be aware and enabling consumers to make informed choices at the point of potential purchase, whether that be at a supermarket or in a cafeteria lunch line.

I have also lived in Georgia – where taxpayers have experienced for real the potential fiscal and environmental costs of irradiation. Millions of tax dollars have already been spent trying to clean up a spill in an irradiation facility there. Before you change the rules in any way which would encourage the building of more irradiation facilities, you owe it to the people to give these impacts full consideration – and to see to it that any new rules include requirements that the irradiators meet or surpass tough safety standards for workers, consumers, and communities alike ... and that the rules are firmly enforced.

And one more note – I have worked for a local food bank ... helping to provide cans, cartons, bags, and pallets full of US Department of Agriculture commodities directly and indirectly to people who need food aid desperately. These are people who do not always have the luxury of doubting or disputing the food’s safety, when the only choice they have for themselves or their children is between USDA-provided food and none.

The USDA should reject the blandishments of the meat industry and take as a higher priority the needs of the people for verified safe food as assured by using verified safe technology. The introduction of irradiated meats into USDA commodity programs should be denied or at least postponed until and unless the technology is proven safe.

The health effects on children of consuming irradiated meat are not well known. However, a small but growing body of research has shown that irradiating food causes the creation of unique

chemicals, and has found numerous health problems in lab animals that ate irradiated food – including reproductive problems, genetic damage, and cancer development. Food provided to the American people by their government should be provided using technology that is proven safe. The precautionary principle applies.

There are some Federal rules on labeling of irradiated foods. However, those rules do not apply to irradiated food in schools – which obstructs the rights of children and their parents to know what the children are being offered to eat.

Irradiation masks filthy meat without removing the sources and causes of contamination from the food – or the processing areas, from where the contamination can spread to other pieces of meat. (Not to mention that the same evolutionary “arms-race spiral” which has reduced the effectiveness of antibiotics and other chemical means to fight bacteria will surely lead to radiation-resistant strains of bacteria and thence to worsening of all the other side-effects of irradiation.)

Irradiating food depletes nutrients. It is not the purpose of USDA commodity programs to provide nutritionally deficient food to our children, or the other needy users. In particular, the National School Lunch Program is meant to provide children with a healthy well-balanced meal, not nutritionally deficient food treated with a controversial technology not yet demonstrated to be safe, much less beneficial as a whole to our nation.

Other proven technologies and processes exist which could make meat safe – if properly applied and enforced – without resorting to unacceptably unverified irradiation technology. And, while there is a lack of proof as to the safety of irradiation, and an acceptable alternative inspection and testing process, no taxpayer money should be used to prop up irradiation. The only acceptable use of tax money at this point would be to encourage properly run independent research (with proper experimental safeguards) to find out how safe or unsafe, beneficial or harmful, irradiation and irradiated products are.

If the USDA allows irradiated foods into its commodity programs, then at a bare minimum – as noted above – it must provide clear, visible, readable labeling of any and all irradiated food distributed. It must ensure that both intermediate distributors and end consumers get the benefit of that information in

making such choices as they can.

Even the current regulations on labeling irradiated food, which do not apply to all of the current situation, may not be adequate. A label that is not seen, or that does not convey the necessary message, is worse than useless. All irradiation labels must be easily visible and readable – and clear enough that even a casual, uninformed consumer would understand them.

If a food product, or any component of a mixed food, has been irradiated, the word “irradiation” or “irradiated” must appear on the label, of sufficient size and design as to be clearly visible, readable, and understandable. The standard radura symbol must also appear, and it too must be of sufficient size and consistent design as to be clearly visible and understandable.

I understand that alternative terms for irradiation, such as “cold pasteurization” and “electronic pasteurization”, have been used to describe irradiation. By themselves, they do not clearly indicate that the food in question has been irradiated – rather, they suggest that the germ-killing function of pasteurization has been accomplished using only cold temperatures or only electronic equipment (and perhaps the force of electricity running that equipment). These misleading words must not be used by themselves. On the other hand, if they were used together with the direct terms “irradiation” or “irradiated” (and both the direct and indirect terms were in the same font, style, and size of type), this would be acceptably clear – to the extent that any irradiated food is acceptable.

As noted above, irradiation can destroy significant amounts of nutrition – a waste not

excused by the potential for further losses in cooking or processing. (Besides, this damage would be imposed involuntarily on all consumers of the products, regardless of end preparation.) The vital information on labels and notices – the very presence of labeling and notification – would let customers know their food, plan their diets, and protect their nutrition and health. It may also let buyers and consumers know that a change in a piece of meat's sensory qualities – color, outward appearance, feel, smell, taste – may have been caused by the irradiation process rather than by some other damage or danger encountered in transit from the farm to the table (by way of the USDA).

The meat industry is to some extent a constituent and customer of the USDA, and the USDA does have a duty to be aware of and respond to its genuine needs and appropriate concerns. However, the USDA's larger duty is and must be to the people of whose government the agency is part. The USDA can provide appropriate support to the industry by promoting hard scientific research into the effects of irradiation, but it need not and should not interfere in the market to the extent of propping up an unproven technology ahead of tried and tested techniques and methods.

For all of the reasons discussed above, irradiated meats should be kept out of USDA commodity programs. If this is not done, stronger labeling and notification requirements should be imposed and enforced ... in short, the needs of the people who consume these foods should be set above all other considerations.□

*John Anthony La Pietra is the GPMI Locals Liaison, and a frequent contributor to AWOOG.*

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## China's Aquifer Depletion

*from Eco-economy: Building an Economy for the Earth, by Lester R. Brown, p. 43*

[in China] The south, with 700 million people, has one third of the nation's cropland and four fifths of its water. The north, with 550 million people, has two thirds of the cropland and one fifth of the water. The water per hectare of cropland in the north is one eighth that of the south.

Northern China is drying out as the demand for water outruns the supply, depleting aquifers. In 1999 the water table under Beijing fell by 1.5 meters (5 feet) Since 1965, the shallow water table under the city has fallen by some 59 meters or nearly 200 feet. The deep aquifer that some wells draw from may have fallen even more. A 2001 World Bank report says, “Anecdotal evidence suggests that deep wells around Beijing now have to reach 1000 meters (more than half a mile) to tap fresh water, adding dramatically to the cost of supply. Falling water tables under the capital remind China's leaders of the shortages that lie ahead as the country's aquifers are depleted.

The North China Plain, a region that stretches from just north of Shanghai to well north of Beijing, embraces five provinces: Hebei, Henan, and Shangdong, and the city provinces of Beijing and Tianjin. At the end of 1997, official data show that these five provinces had 2.6 million wells, the bulk of them for irrigation. During that year, 99,900 wells were abandoned, apparently because they ran dry as the water table fell. Some 221,9000 new wells were drilled. In the two major cities, Beijing and Tianjin, the number of wells abandoned exceeded the number of new wells drilled. This wholesale abandonment of wells has no precedent. The drilling of so many new wells reflects the desperate quest for water as the water table falls.

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# Who's Minding the Pharm?

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By Margaret Mellon

*[This article has been reprinted with permission from the Fall 2002 edition of "Catalyst," the magazine of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). Margaret Mellon is Director of the UCS Food and Environment Program.]*

Agricultural biotechnology is entering a new age. No longer are researchers concentrating only on inserting genes that result in plants with traits like herbicide tolerance and insect resistance that make crops cheaper or easier for farmers to grow. Now they are inserting genes to create plants that contain drugs and industrial chemicals - in essence turning the crops into biological factories. These, the pharm and industrial crops, like the genetically engineered crops before them, have precipitated a complex and important debate that is being waged throughout the global marketplace.

The debate is warranted. Pharm crops promise compelling benefits and pose obvious risks. They hold the potential to supply drugs that are otherwise unavailable or to bring existing drugs to market at lower prices. On the other hand, if genes find their way from pharm crops into food crops, we could wind up with drug-laced corn flakes.

Fortunately, pharm and industrial crops are still, for the most part, in the early phases of development. Now is the time to confront the new issues posed by those crops - particularly the need to strengthen their regulatory oversight.

## Why use plants?

Drugs and industrial chemicals have been produced in bacteria, cell cultures and laboratory animals for years. Yet plants have become attractive as bioreactors, or living factories, for several reasons. Their proponents hope that crops will enable products to be produced less expensively and will allow greater manufacturing flexibility. In addition, plants are not associated with the controversies that accompany animal systems.

Cheaper production is the biggest driver. Plant bioreactors require a lower capital investment than do bricks-and-mortar manufacturing facilities. Moreover, in some cases, they have much higher yields of recombinant proteins. For example, industry estimates are that corn systems can reduce the cost of producing a recombinant protein from \$1000 per gram to \$100 per gram.

Crops also offer greater flexibility. Adding a new field is not only cheaper than building a new factory,

production can also be scaled up or down more readily. This kind of flexibility may also lower start-up costs.

Turning to plants would eliminate many of the ethical and medical issues associated with using animal systems, including animal welfare issues, concerns associated with cloning mammals for use as bioreactors, and apprehension about passing on mad cow disease and other infections.

## What would these bioreactors produce?

Theoretically, it is possible to use plants to produce a huge array of proteins. The list below gives an idea of the range of products under development.

**Pharmaceuticals or Drugs:** Some crop plants have been engineered to produce a variety of human and veterinary drugs - including enzymes to replace very expensive treatments for Fabry's and Gaucher's diseases, proteins for healing wounds and treating conditions like anemia, liver cirrhosis, HIV, and hepatitis B and C. Other crops are being engineered to produce anti-coagulants, blood substitutes, and hormones.

**Biologics.** are complex substances like blood products, antibodies, and vaccines. Monoclonal antibodies are medically valuable because they home in on other, disease-causing, molecules with great specificity. They are currently manufactured by a costly process and would be used more broadly if they could be produced more cheaply, so researchers are exploring their production in plants. One such product, or "plantibody," currently under development is directed against bacteria responsible for tooth decay; another is aimed at a herpes virus.

Scientists are developing a plethora of vaccines to be injected or given orally to provide immunity to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, hepatitis B, rabies, HIV, malaria, autoimmune diabetes, and cholera. Other vaccines are being made in tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables that can be eaten raw. (Cooking typically destroys the effectiveness of vaccines.) These "edible" vaccines (against diseases including measles, polio, diphtheria, yellow fever and various types of viral diarrhea) have already been produced in food crops, as have others designed for veterinary use. Scientists recently conducted clinical trials in which pigs were fed a corn-produced vaccine against transmissible gastroenteritis virus, one of the major diseases in swine.

**Industrial Chemicals** are compounds used in the

manufacture of products like paper, plastics, personal care items, and laundry detergents. Many industrial chemicals are enzymes - proteins that promote chemical reactions. For example, trypsin - an enzyme traditionally isolated from bovine sources and used in large volumes in the detergent and leather industries, and laccase - another enzyme used in making detergents and fiberboard - are being produced in transgenic corn.

**Research chemicals** are used in investigative and diagnostic laboratories. The protein avidin, which is utilized in purifying other proteins, and beta-glucuronidase, an enzyme used extensively for plant molecular biology research, were the first research chemicals commercialized from an industrial crop. Both are synthesized in transgenic corn.

### **The Lay of the Pharm Land**

Companies engaged in pharm crop development range from giants like Monsanto to a number of small start-ups like ProdiGene and Epicyte. Universities currently involved include Iowa State, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Wisconsin. A French company, Meristem, is also growing crops in the United States for purification in Europe.

Corn is by far the most popular pharm and industrial crop. Since the early 1990s, the United States Department of Agriculture has allowed more than 200 field trials of pharm and industrial crops. In nearly three-quarters of these tests, corn has been the crop of choice. Other crops tested include tomato, rice, barley, alfalfa, sugarcane, soybean, potato, lettuce, lupine, tobacco and rapeseed (canola).

Field trials done before commercialization usually start with very small plots of less than one acre to 10 acres, but can increase dramatically as products get closer to market. At commercialization, some of these products - therapeutic vaccines and certain research chemicals, for example - will likely require only tens of acres to meet the specific demands of those particular markets. Other products, however, will necessitate much larger plantings to meet expected commercial demand. For example, one company estimates that filling current need in the United States for serum albumin, a blood protein, would require a tobacco pharm crop consisting of thousands or hundreds of thousands of acres.

### **The Risks of Pharm and Industrial Crops**

Pharm and industrial plants present serious risks, principal among them contamination of the food supply and harm to wildlife.

The pharm plants, in particular, pose risks of contaminating the food supply with bioactive

substances. Substances intended for use as human drugs are especially problematic because they are biologically active in people and, if used improperly, can be toxic or can cause unwanted changes. The inadequacies of our current regulatory system (see box) make it very easy for such chemicals to find their way into our grocery stores.

Corn, the most popular crop for use as a bioreactor, is highly susceptible to contamination because it relies on pollen from other corn plants for fertilization. If corn in fields near pharm crops is fertilized with pollen that is carrying drug genes, farmers can inadvertently harvest corn containing drugs and sell it to food mills. In addition, physical mixing can occur on the farm or during seed production or transport. The StarLink debacle - in which taco shells and other food products were found to contain corn not approved for human consumption - demonstrated that even a product under government-imposed restrictions to prevent contamination can nevertheless find its way into the food system.

Corn that contains drugs or plastics could also be harmful to deer, mice, birds, and other wildlife that feed in corn fields as well as organisms that live in the soil. For example, the research chemical avidin, which is produced in corn, is a toxin that may cause a life-threatening biotin deficiency in many animals. Plastics and other industrial chemicals produced in transgenic crops may also be toxic.

### **Who Will Benefit?**

If realized and passed on to consumers - two big "ifs" - lower production costs could substantially reduce drug prices. The pharm crops could also be a source of drugs and vaccines that are not otherwise available. Pharm and industrial crops may also give farmers a new option for producing high-value products.

Of course, the technology is still in its early stages and it is too soon to know whether its promises will be fulfilled. For example, many of the cost estimates often do not include the expenses associated with research and development of regulatory and purification expenses - all of which may erode the cost advantage of high yields. Effectively purifying foreign proteins from plant-produced contaminants and/or agricultural products like pesticides could prove formidable.

Even if costs of production are reduced, these savings may not be passed on to consumers as lower prices. Virtually none of the biotechnology food products on the market today in the United States

*Continued on page 28 ...*

# 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)

(616) 752-8100  
 gp\_kentcounty@hotmail.com  
<http://wmgreens.iwarp.com>  
 224 Richards SW  
 Grand Rapids 49504

## 2) Huron Valley Greens (HVG)

(734) 663-3555  
 hvgreens@yahoogroups.com  
 548 South Main Street  
 Ann Arbor 48104  
 Contact: Patricia L. Smith  
 attorneypatti@comcast.net or  
 Elliott Smith  
 erstwhile2000@yahoo.com

## 3) Capitol Area Greens (CAG)

(517) 482-5222 or  
 (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  
 Charlevoix 49720  
 Contact Ellis Boal (231) 547-2626  
 ellisboal@aol.com

## 5) Traverse Bay Watershed Greens (TBWG)

<http://www.traversearea.com/greens>  
 PO Box 2239, Traverse City 49685  
 Contact Tom Mair (231) 947-2001,  
 automusi@yahoo.com

## 6) Betsie Watershed Greens (BWG)

2034 Elder Hill Road  
 Beulah 49617  
 Contact: Tim Volas (231) 325-2616,  
 monkeybe28@hotmail.com

## 7) Metro Detroit Greens (MDG)

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

## 8) Downriver Area

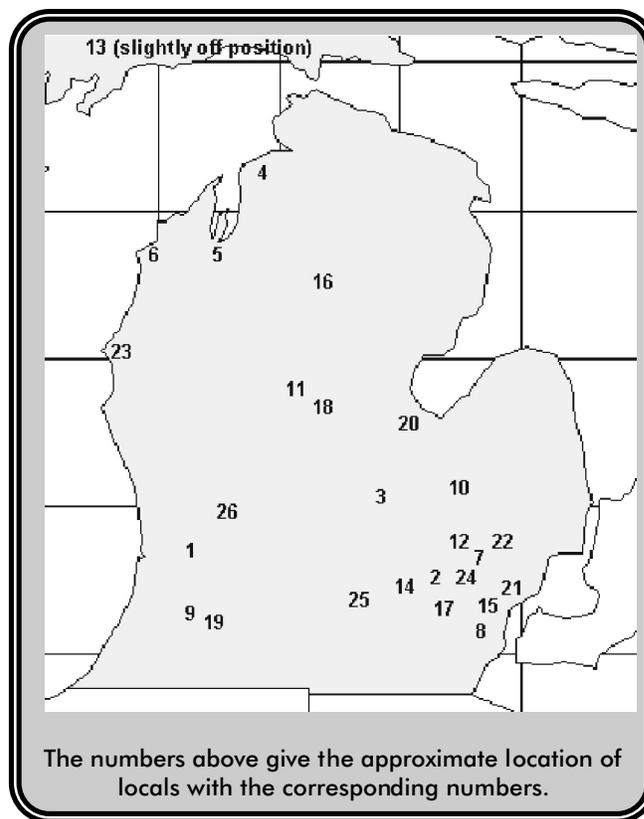
Contact: Darren Wilkinson (734) 789-8790  
 dwilkinson@usa.com

## 9) Kalamazoo Area

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

## 10) Flint Greens (FG)

geneseegreens@yahoo.com  
 angelfire.com/mi/flintgreens/  
 232 High Street  
 Grand Blanc 48439  
 Contact: Ken Mathenia (810) 694-3473)



## 11) Wheatland Greens of Isabella County (WGIC)

[geocities.com/mpgreens/](http://geocities.com/mpgreens/)  
 1012 Robert  
 Mount Pleasant 48858  
 Contact: Jim Moreno (989) 773-5797  
 santiago@power-net.net

## 12) West Oakland Watershed Greens (WOWG)

[wowgreens.homestead.com/home.html](http://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](http://vm.nmu.edu/GREENS:HTTP/HOME.html)  
 PO Box 703  
 Marquette 49855  
 Contact: Charles Drapeau,  
 (cjdrapeau@hotmail.com)

## 14) Tamarack Greens (TG)

150 Island Lake Road  
 Chelsea 48118  
 Contact: Lynn Meadows (734) 433-9102  
 lynnmeadows@peoplepc.com

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

[umdgreens@studentgreens.net](mailto:umdgreens@studentgreens.net)  
[votegreen\\_32.tripod.com/umdgreens/](http://votegreen_32.tripod.com/umdgreens/)  
 4910 Evergreen  
 Dearborn 48128

Contact: Mike Robbins (734) 674-9388,  
votegreen\_32@yahoo.com

**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  
information.

1312 West Huron

Ann Arbor 48103

Contact: Juscha Robinson (734) 665-2186

jvannier@umich.edu

**18) Mount Pleasant Student Greens (MPSG)**

Central Michigan University

<http://studentgreens.net>

**19) Western MI University Greens (WMUG)**

Being organized.

Contact: Kevin Fuchs (616) 373-0791

kevinfuchs@hotmail.com

**20) Bay County Greens (BCG)**

Contact: Anthony Kozubal (989) 892-2421  
gracchus22@chartermi.net

**21) Detroit Green Party (DGP)**

Contact Sylvia Inwood

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**22) Oakland University Greens (OUG)**

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**23) Ludington Area Green Party (LAGP)**

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Contact: Bob Hardy (231) 843-3985

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**24) Labor Greens**

Contact: Paul Felton (313) 884-8082

pdf111@comcast.net

10738 McKinney

Detroit 48204

**25) Jackson/Hillsdale**

Contact Dan Brown (517) 592-5441

**26) Montcalm County**

Contact Locals Liaison

## Green Party of Michigan

**(734) 663-3555**

**<http://www.migreens.org>**

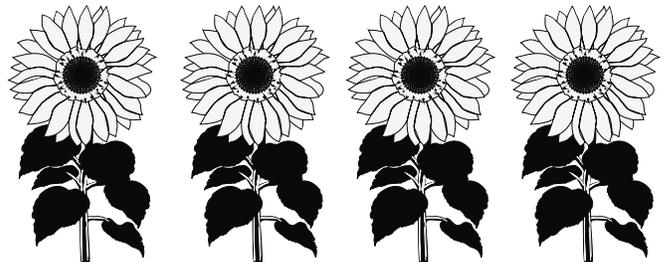
**548 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104**

### Officers

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Membership	Lynn Meadows
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### Committee Chairs

Bylaws	David Spitzely
Platform	Art Myatt
Elections	Peter Schermerhorn
AWOG Editor	Linda Manning



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# GPMI 2002 Platform Summary

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The complete platform of the Green Party of Michigan takes up over 30 pages. It is available at the [migreens.org](http://migreens.org) web site. This summary necessarily leaves out some items and over-simplifies others. We urge you to look at the complete document. 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.

**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. Real campaign finance reform and public financing of elections is essential. Broadcast media should be required to provide free air time for all candidates. “Soft-money” contributions and advertising during election campaigns should be eliminated.

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.

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 employed in an industry should have some ability to control it. Corporations should be held accountable by every level of government. 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** – The Bush regime is leading our nation on a path to permanent war. The suicide hijackings of September 11 were certainly crimes against humanity. The World Court - rejected by Bush and company - could have been used to punish the conspirators and to win the support of the world. Those crimes are no reason to support Israel's crimes against Palestinian humanity; no reason to fight a war for oil in the name of a war on terror; no reason to abandon our own civil rights and the protections of due process in the name of national security.

We are principled advocates of non-violence. This goes beyond simply not supporting violent solutions such as war or police brutality. It involves working to learn, use, and advocate nonviolent solutions domestically and internationally.

We do not advocate banning guns. We do call for responsible use and for licensing. We believe the oversight of police forces should go to an independent elected board in every community.

We support a nuclear-free Great Lakes Basin. We want to end manufacturing and research that supports chemical and biological warfare.

*(This summary approved by the Green Party of Michigan State Central Committee)*

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## Campaign Lessons Learned

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*By Pete Ponzetti, III  
Bay County Greens*

When I decided to seek and eventually received a nomination to run for public office, I knew that – if nothing else – it would be a solid first-hand learning experience. Fundraising and spending, doing some publicity, discussing and debating the issues; they would all be part of the democratic process. And it was all those things.

Sadly however, and in retrospect, running for a state representative seat was also a reconfirmation of my overriding disappointment with the American political system. This is nothing new for third party politicians, of course, but I can now honestly say that there are real and justifiable – yet disheartening – reasons why the majority of citizens did not vote on November 5, 2002.

It went beyond the overly simplistic and repeated mantra of "Because they were lazy and don't really care about politics anyway."

Since Ross Perot took 19 percent of the popular vote as an independent candidate for president back in 1992, the quality of campaigns – especially those of the two "major" parties – has seemingly been on a sharp decline. Project Vote Smart, a non-partisan, online database of state and federal candidates – noted this after the 2000 election.

It's no wonder professional politicians so readily avoid political substance. That was true times three in my campaign! We live in an era where political machines market their puppet candidates like a pair of shoes. You don't really want to talk about what makes up the shoe, or how it stands on things compared to other brands, but you make it look pretty.

You throw a lot of money behind this marketing of the shoe, so as to temporarily hype the name and get it simple recognition. Remember: It doesn't matter why people (voters) think they like it, they just do. Then, you take some more money and try to market the competitors – who have also been given enough money to market themselves – as sinister and wicked, whether they are or not. Even though most people probably don't like this type of marketing, you do it anyway to make sure the "voting customer" can identify your competitor's brand as something that will fall apart on them or break easily.

In the meantime, you keep accepting money from the folks who make the laces, soles and inserts for your shoes. You promise them if they keep supplying

cash loads to help promote your shoe brand of the moment, then you will let them keep making laces, soles and inserts for you.

It doesn't matter if your competitors' products may, in fact, fail like you claim they will – the system requires you to duck the discussions and just market an image.

We also can't forget that the satisfaction of the people who will actually choose your brand doesn't really matter to you. They will have already decided when your product malfunctions, and it will be another two, four, six or eight years before they will be offered your brand again. By that time, you'll have brought out new shoe designs and built a war chest of funds for the next big marketing (election) blitz.

That is part one of politics in America for you. It is usually limited to the "Big Two" parties and their candidates. American politics part two involves those parties which are not Democratic or Republican. Here in Michigan they are the Libertarian, Green, Reform, Natural Law and U.S. Taxpayer Parties.

Usually these parties are blocked from participating, growing or subsequently being elected, by what I like to call "Electoral Jim Crow Laws," "Catch-22 Election Logic" and "Horse Race Election Logic."

The latter is easy, it goes like this: "I can't vote for a third party candidate, that would spoil my vote by taking it away from (insert Republican or Democratic candidate here.)"

Of course, whoever said that one of those "insert here" candidates was automatically entitled to your vote? Perhaps the candidate expects it, like some illogical birthright, but it's still your vote to give. Along with this, since when did marking a ballot become a strategic maneuver? Aren't we supposed to be voting for the people we want – not against those we do not?

Next comes "Catch-22," which goes like this: "Well, even if (insert third party candidate here) is on the ballot, he hasn't got a chance of winning, so I won't vote for him." Well, duh. If nobody votes for a candidate he can't win, now can he?

Finally there's "Electoral Jim Crow," which basically makes requirements so unreasonably difficult for third parties and independent candidates to get and stay on the ballot, the voters never even see them. Furthermore, because third parties typically have such limited budgets and media exposure is so costly, they cannot get their possibly-voter-appealing

message out as easily, readily and frequently as Democrats and Republicans.

After witnessing these nauseating types of electoral reasoning, in addition to plasticine, marketed candidates and candidates so frequently ducking every issue-discussing format – such as televised debates, printed questionnaires and surveys and various on-line forums – the reasons folks don't vote are more-than-abundantly clear and (usually) fairly levelheaded. The Democratic Party found out and bore the brunt of that realization on Nov. 6th!

While choosing candidates could have had something to do with real, progressive democracy, in actuality it had (and remains) more to do with the

selling of talking heads and drilling into the public consciousness the idea that voting is more about two-party, strategic power plays than issues and principle.

Still, we must look to the future and, more specifically, 2004. Where the Democratic Party took a KO in round two, the Greens will NOW step between the ropes and stand up for both principles and people!□

*Pete Ponzetti, III was a candidate for State Representative, in the 51st House District. He raised just over \$1,000 in clean money contributions, and received 549 (1.6%) votes.*

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## Thanks to Contributors

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*By Margaret Guttschall  
GP candidate for 6<sup>th</sup> District MI House*

Thank you so much for your contributions to my campaign. I appreciate it so much.

My campaign was very well received by students at Wayne State University and by people in the neighborhood. I was able to distribute almost 5,000 copies of my brochure “Money for jobs, not for war” to young and working class people at Murray Wright High School, Northwestern High School, the American Axle plant, a city workers’ rally, and to antiwar meetings and rallies throughout the city.

I spoke to students at Wayne State, to the Young Muslims’ Association in Dearborn, and appeared on Dorothy Patterson’s cable television show. (Dorothy is an African-American talk show host and Republican candidate for state representative.)

Jill Kuskowski wrote an article on my campaign for the Wayne State University Library School newsletter, which appeared on the front page. Raye Robertson wrote an article for Indymedia and Peg McNichols for the *South End*. The Socialist Party and the PRIDE Political Action Committee endorsed me, the ACLU gave me a 100% rating, and Students’ Movement for Justice at Wayne State and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War on Iraq urged voters to vote for me and other antiwar and Green Party candidates.

The best thing about the campaign was the opportunity to talk with so many young people and Detroiters. Over and over people told me how much they want the U.S. government to stop spending money blowing people up in other countries and start spending money making sure everyone has decent

jobs, food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare.

It was especially gratifying to speak with so many long-time Detroiters. They have so much insight and were so supportive. Over and over people told me they were so glad someone like me was on the ballot; they were so glad there was someone on the ballot worth voting for.

The experience confirmed my conviction that running independent, pro-labor, antiwar candidates is a good way to reach out and talk to people that activists don’t usually reach and to help build support for labor and popular movements. It’s too bad that the labor movement still spends so much time and money supporting candidates who don’t use their campaigns to fight for labor. Imagine what would happen if labor used that time and money to run independent labor candidates who used their campaigns to build the labor movement! Union membership would be increasing, not decreasing.

It also confirmed my conviction that there is no political party that exists today that can, by itself, do what needs to be done. Both the Labor Party and the Green Party are making important contributions to the struggle. But I am more than ever convinced that the road forward lies in building an alliance of both independent working class and progressive middle class tendencies to fight for “money for jobs, not for war,” and other working class and popular demands, and with its own independent candidates.

Thank you again for your generous contributions. It’s not easy to run for public office against the Republicans and the Democrats. The support of friends and strangers means so much.□

*December, 2002*

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## You Can't Spoil What's Already Rotten

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By Marc Reichardt  
Chairman, GPMI

Despite earnest attempts by the logical among us, Greens are still beset by charges of “spoiling” races for what ostensibly would be “more favorable” Democrats, instead of Republicans. This myth will follow any smaller political party, as it not only has an extensive history in American politics, but also is still in use by both sides of the typical political spectrum (Republicans, especially here in Michigan, are irritated by Libertarians’ attempts to participate in the system and frequently blame them for “spoiling” their campaigns.)

Put simply, this is an utter fallacy. The Green Party is a political party on its own merits. We have no connection to the Democrats and, thus, are not responsible for the losing efforts of their candidates. The example most often cited in recent memory is that of Al Gore in the 2000 Presidential election. The Democrats like to claim that Ralph Nader, the Green candidate, “stole” enough votes from what would otherwise have been Democratic voters, and was therefore responsible for creating the minuscule margins of victory for George W. Bush in the key states of both New Hampshire and Florida.

The essential answer to this is one of simple numbers: The total count for Nader in that election was some 3.7 million votes. Most voting analyses indicate that approximately 4.5 million registered Democrats voted for Bush. It’s not hard to draw the conclusions about who should be “blamed” for the Gore loss. These questions were answered and, presumably, laid to rest two years ago, but they arose again in the latest election of 2002.

However, this is typically followed (in grudging fashion) by the admission that tells the real story: Gore ran a poor campaign, abandoning successive voter bases in the interest of pursuing the latest trend. This is a microcosm of the story of the Democratic Party over the last thirty years and gives us the underlying truth to the events: The Democratic Party is not failing because the Greens are here; the Greens are here because the Democratic Party has failed. If Democratic candidates were actually promoting our issues and heeding our agenda, then Greens would be voting for Democrats. They aren’t, so we aren’t. No explanation can be simpler than that one.

And how are they not promoting our agenda? Let’s examine a few cases, courtesy of some

questions recently posted in an angry letter to the editor by Democratic supporters:

- Who wants to drill for oil in wildlife refuges? Well, the 36 Democrats who supported it in the House and, hey, 5 Democratic Senators (Akaka (D-HI); Breaux (D-LA); Inouye (D-HI); Miller (D-GA)), and the just re-elected Landrieu (D-LA); .
- Who wants to gut clean air and water standards? The changes have been most actively promoted by Breaux, in fact, who has close ties with Gulf of Mexico oil developers. The real question is: How many Democrats will lay down for these changes when they come through Congress, as they did for the recent bankruptcy bill that condemns thousands to a life of perpetual debt (promoted, incidentally, by Democrat Hillary Clinton)?
- Who wants to expand logging in national forests? Well, Bill Clinton, actually. His Forest Management program left open hundreds of square miles of old growth forest to road building and “managed” logging (read that like “managed” care from your HMO) and looked the other way for 3 years while Cynthia McKinney (a favorite among Greens for actually sticking to her principles) tried to push the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (NFPRA) through. It still hasn’t passed and wouldn’t have under Gore, either.
- Who wants to pack our courts, with reactionary activist judges eager to rip our legal traditions to shreds?

Let me answer this one with a question: Who laid down and let the Thomas and Scalia nominations go through (mentioning only the Supreme Court and not dozens of appeals and circuit court judgeships)? That would be the Democrats.

- Who wants to trash the 4th Amendment to the Constitution? Who wants to oversee a vast national surveillance network that will make the right to be left alone by the government a thing of the past?

Again, a question in response (this is almost Socratic): Who voted for the USA PATRIOT Act? Every Senate Democrat but Russ Feingold.

- How did NAFTA get passed? By a Democratic Administration, with Democrats controlling the Congress. Republicans had NAFTA on their agenda for about two decades prior to 1994. It took Bill Clinton to get it done, over the furious rejection of labor and environmental groups.
- What was the worst blow to the poorer segments

of society in recent memory?

The 1996 Welfare Reform Act, championed by Al Gore over the protests of Clinton's entire Cabinet. Congressional Democrats are only now admitting they feel they "may have gone too far" as the Act comes due, kicking people off the welfare rolls just as the nation's food banks are almost tapped out.

And the most curious thing about this refusal to accept reality is that it does not even mirror what has happened to minor parties in the past. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, minor parties were ignored until they became too large a threat to the majors. Then, the issues promoted by those growing parties were co-opted into the platforms of the major party, and much of the growing political movement's energy was siphoned off. This happened with the Progressives, the Populists, and the Socialists. In fact, much of FDR's New Deal was taken directly from the Socialist platform.

Oddly enough, in recent times, the Greens don't even receive that much respect. Instead, we are reviled by the Democrats, who don't even consider us worth conciliating. They do not appeal to us for support and attempt to pacify us when they fail to promote our issues, like any other significant constituency. Rather, we are chastised for not toeing the line and voting for candidates that we don't want to see in office in the first place. This is surely not a reasonable or even politic approach.

But beyond all the partisan politics, let's look at this from a systemic approach: Why is the United States, the "cradle of democracy," burdened with our outdated and narrow-minded approach to elections and representation? Is it because it often serves the purpose of the two (or one) major parties in power?

No other democracy in the world burdens itself with archaic devices like the Electoral College. No other democracy in the world uses "first-past-the-post," winner-take-all elections that can alienate and ignore the voice of almost 50% of the electorate.

No other democracy allows a partisan body to assign voting districts for its legislative bodies, creating gerrymandered and distorted "districts" that serve no purpose except insuring the current party control over that election and what follows. It is not surprising that current House elections have a 98% incumbency rate – as good as some totalitarian, single-party states. The 1996-2002 results were predicted with 100% accuracy by the Center for Voting and Democracy.

No other democracy ignores the educational and technological needs of its voting system, leaving neighboring precincts enjoying vastly different levels

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## Instant-Runoff Voting (IRV)

In an IRV election, voters support as many of the candidates as they want – ranking them in order of preference. Top-choice votes are counted first; if no candidate gets a majority, the one in last place is dropped. If you had that candidate ranked first, your "single transferrable vote" is awarded to your next choice; if you didn't mark a next choice, your ballot is "exhausted". After that, all unexhausted votes are re-counted. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority of the votes left, and wins.

IRV can take a bit more effort than the one-choice-only voting we do now . . . though it doesn't have to; voters can mark only one preference. Unlike the complication recently imposed on Michigan voters, however, IRV offers us some advantages. As its name implies, instant-runoff voting eliminates costly, low-turnout runoff elections. Also, to win, a candidate ultimately needs a majority.

**The Center for Voting and Democracy ([www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org)) says IRV also:**

- ✓ Boosts turnout by giving voters a wider range of choices.
- ✓ Encourages candidates to run positive, issue-based campaigns to win 2nd- and 3rd-choice votes.
- ✓ Minimizes "wasting" of votes. Under IRV, your vote will do as much as possible to elect a candidate you like – without the "spoiler" effect of throwing the election to someone you don't want. □

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of use and access, (such as optical scanning systems and paper ballots) and denying or eliminating the votes of large segments of the population.

The truth of this matter can be seen in one simple example: Virtually every democracy on the planet has come since and followed the example of the United States' inception of the idea in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In that time, and with many of them following the American Revolution as a distinct inspiration, not one has chosen to adopt our system of representative democracy. Changing that system is the best and surest way of getting past the partisan squabbles and genuinely reflecting the will of the American people.

The first and easiest method of change would be to institute instant runoff voting (IRV) which will be a focus of attention for the Green Party of Michigan

*Continued on page 26 ...*

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## 2002 State and National Elections

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### Around the Country Some Wins

By *Juscha Robinson*  
*HVG, co-chair*

The Green Party of the United States took a major stride forward in maturity in the November 2002 elections fall, as 550 candidates from 40 states ran in races from school board to US Senate. While the majority of races were local, dozens of candidates stepped forward to run for statewide and federal office. 71 candidacies turned into victories, from Hawaii to North Carolina, bringing the total number of Green officeholders nationwide to an all-time high of 170! Here are some highlights. Go to <http://www.greens.org/elections> for complete nationwide election results, .

- ◆ John Eder was elected to the State Legislature of Maine for the 31st District!
- ◆ The first Greens were elected in Iowa (a township trustee), Texas (a water board commissioner), and Nebraska (a soil and water district commissioner).
- ◆ Providence, Rhode Island elected its first Green city councilperson.
- ◆ The first Green school board majority was attained in Twin Ridges, California.
- ◆ All eight Green incumbents were re-elected in California, with a total of 18 additional victories, including the first all-city partisan race in San Francisco (for school board).
- ◆ Minnesota elected a mayor and two county commissioners.
- ◆ Green candidates in local and state legislative races got 23-37% in Massachusetts, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Michigan (go, Keith!), Wisconsin, Minnesota, Idaho, and Indiana.
- ◆ AnnDrea Benson, running in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in Pennsylvania, garnered 22% of the vote, an all-time best showing for a Green running for federal office.

#### So What Does This Mean?

While the duopoly continues to show itself to be corporate and unresponsive to the people, the Green Party continues to grow in terms of grassroots support and the quality and quantity of our races. Our growth has been geometric over the past several years, and after the November elections, we keep our status of being the only party with a growing membership. After the Greens' electoral success in

2000, political pundits tried to marginalize its political import by attributing that success solely to Ralph Nader's presidential run and particularly, to the nostalgia of baby-boomers and others who respected the consumer-rights' advocate.

The Green Party's showing in 2002 proved that to be misleading at best. Greens running in statewide and federal races this November achieved percentages that outdid Ralph's numbers in 2000. California gubernatorial candidate Peter Camejo outpolled the Republican candidate in San Francisco (another first!) and got a full 5% statewide (compared to Ralph's 4% in 2000). In Maine in 2000, Ralph captured 4% of the vote, while gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Carter got a full 9% in 2002.

The statistics are similar in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Alaska. This shows that Green support across the country is grassroots and responsive to strong candidates and their message.

The Future: We will continue to grow in 2003 and beyond into the next Presidential election cycle. The Green Party at all levels will continue to increase its membership, its number of candidates and competitive races, the percentage of votes garnered in state and federal races, etc. One race at a time, election by election, we will continue to build.

Our issues are our pillars, and these address the on-going crises of war (non-violence), corporate power (grassroots democracy), economic recession (social justice), and destruction of the planet (ecology). These crises will continue to loom in the coming months and years, and more people will look to the Greens for hope. We must be ready to meet this challenge!□

*Juscha Robinson is one of the GPMI National Reps and a member of the GPUS CCC.*

### Around the State Some Successes

By *John Anthony La Pietra*

The Green Party of Michigan (GPMI) reviewed the progress and problems of the 2002 campaign at its post-election wrap-up meeting November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wesley Foundation building on the Central Michigan University campus in Mount Pleasant.

Unofficial returns show that all 11 statewide Green candidates won enough votes to keep the party on the Michigan ballot for 2004. The top vote-getter among them, U-M Regent candidate Susan Fawcett, received over 120,000 votes. So did

Donnelly Hadden, nominated at the Greens' August convention for the state Supreme Court – technically a non-partisan race.

That figure is over 12,000 more than Scott Trudeau got in his race for a seat on the U-M Board in 2000 – even though turnout was heavier in that Presidential year, and national figures Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke drew extra attention to the new Green option on the state ballot.

In all, 33 candidates represented GPMI on the ballot at all levels in the state – and about a dozen of them briefed the meeting on what went right and wrong with their campaigns, and their recommendations for future races. Comments ranged from broad and lofty targets to such simple suggestions as getting post-office boxes and getting better media coverage by learning how to ask for it ... and asking for it.

The party will continue to reach out to the estimated 150,000 voters in Michigan who supported at least one Green candidate – and to those who were frightened away from voting for Greens by talk of “wasted” votes and “spoiled” elections.

Attendees agreed that it is the current plurality voting system, which does not work well when there are more than two candidates for an office, that enables minor parties to “spoil” races for the major parties – and vice versa. Greens back instant-runoff voting (IRV), a system used around the world and starting to spread across this country. (See page 21 for a description of IRV.)

### **Working on Issues of Peace and Justice**

During the lunch break, the attendees helped their hosts rebuild and re-install a peace sign at CMU's Wesley Foundation building. The sign, which says “No War in Iraq – Not in Our Names,” was vandalized four times in the first half of November; at various times, it has been knocked down, spray-painted over, and even burned.

Peace is one of the top issues Greens are working on, and building coalitions around – for many, it is *the* top issue. Reform of elections and campaigns – including IRV – is another major issue. A third is control of water – “production” (actually extraction) by Perrier/Nestle in Mecosta County already, and possible “profitization” of the Detroit water system through an unelected authority.

These issues and others mentioned at the meeting tie into the Greens' highest principles, the Four Pillars. Ecological wisdom, social justice, grassroots democracy, and non-violence.

Attendees agreed on the need to promote Green values through working visibly as individual Greens

with like-minded groups on these issues and more. The party is also growing in its own right; new and revived local groups are starting up in several areas, including Mount Pleasant.

Several candidates promised they would be back. So will the party, which easily retained its position on the ballot for 2004, has paid off its campaign debts, and is already planning its next statewide meeting – in Detroit in February. □

*For More Information Contact: Marc Reichardt – Chair/Treasurer, GPMI. Phone: (734) 663-3555 or e-mail: treasurer@migreeens.org.*

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## **Greens Call the Mass Detention of Foreign-born Muslims Illegal**

**T**rapped by the INS during a routine registration, law-abiding Iranians and Arabs have been denied due process, face inhumane jail conditions and deportation. Racial profiling recalls the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; more arrests feared beginning January 10.

“The mass detention of foreign-born Muslims in California deserves condemnation from every American who cares about human rights and equal treatment under the law,” said Ben Manski, a Wisconsin Green and member of the Steering Committee of the Green Party of the United States.

Greens called on the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to release the hundreds of detained Iranian and Arab men and boys immediately and demanded that Attorney General John Ashcroft end the Justice Department's “Special Registration” program, which Greens say will do nothing to deter future terrorist acts.

Several hundred – possibly over a thousand – foreign-born Muslims, mostly Iranian, are reportedly being held and face deportation; there are reports of inhumane conditions in detention centers in Southern California, including crowded and freezing cells, strip searches, shackles, and denial of access to lawyers.

“Those who showed up to register in California did so voluntarily and in willingness to comply with the law – and many were immediately arrested,” said Beth Moore Haines, Media Coordinator of the Green Party of California. “The fear of arrest will surely drive many foreign-born Muslims who are here legally into hiding. Would-be terrorists will also go underground, making it less likely that they'll be discovered.” □

*Monday, January 6, 2003*

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## Student Strike for Books Not Bombs

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The Bush administration is intent on plunging America into an illegitimate and pre-emptive war that will only increase danger for Americans and the world. At the same time education, healthcare, the environment, and the economy are being neglected. Its time for youth and students to take a stand for America's future!

### **One-day National Student Strike, March 5th, 2003 Books Not Bombs! Stop The War Against Iraq!**

The National Youth and Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC) calls upon students on campuses across the United States to join us in a one-day student strike on March 5th, 2003. See [www.nyspc.net](http://www.nyspc.net) for details.

As students and youth, our futures will be shaped by the actions that the Bush administration takes today. A US attack on Iraq will inevitably:

- Endanger the lives of US servicemen and women
- Increase the suffering and misery of the Iraqi people while slaughtering thousands of innocent people
- Encourage terror attacks against the US around the world and at home
- Be used as an excuse to erode civil liberties
- Divert resources from education and social services
- Subvert historical precedent and international law

As students and youth, the future of this country, we are disturbed by the lack of attention paid to the real needs of Americans, especially education. Financial aid opportunities and family income are rapidly losing ground to the rising cost of higher education. (College Board (as reported in the Michael A. Fletcher, Washington Post, Dec. 10, 2001, Page A01) Low-income families are facing decreasing access to education. Student debt is increasing. ( See: [www.luminafoundation.org](http://www.luminafoundation.org) – Sherschel, Patricia M. USA Group Report. June, 2000.) All while the US military budget steadily increases – 12% from 2000 to 2002. ( Deen, Thalif. “U.N. says Nations Reveal Arms Spending – but Spend More.” Inter Press Service. Oct. 7, 2002)

We say NO! to this war of terror to increase American power and take control of strategic oil supplies.

### **Join us in a student strike March 5th to demand:**

US Government: End the drive for military action and sanctions that target the people of Iraq – Fund education to ensure that everyone in the US has

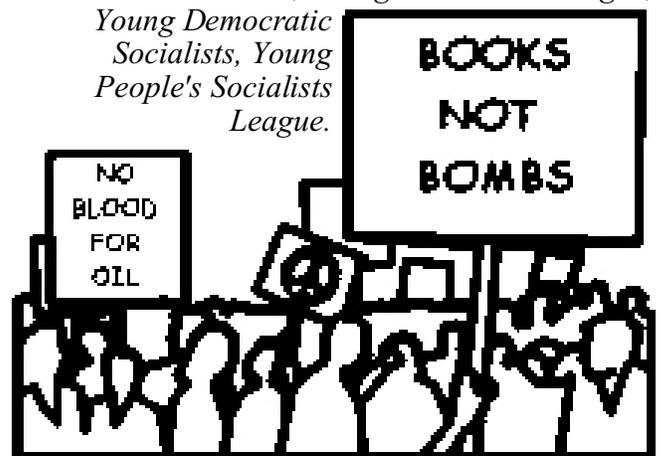
access to higher education – Re-allocate military funds to eliminating poverty and building peace and home and abroad.

Campus Administrators: – Declare opposition to the war – Disclose and eliminate military research contracts – Freeze or lower tuition and fees.

The Bush Administration's war on Iraq is a venture for control of the region and its oil supplies, not national security, democracy, or human rights. Our campuses provide implicit support for this through military research, recruiting, and ROTC programs. As students who value freedom, democracy, and our education we say: *There is an alternative!* The best way to improve our national security is to halt drives for illegal and immoral wars and redirect public funds from the military and arms trade to education and social services at home and humanitarian aid abroad. Take a stand with students across the nation on March 5th to build toward this collective vision.

As of January, this campaign is heating up! We need your help! In addition to organizing on your own campus, the campaign needs your help with outreach, resource development, and fund raising. See [www.nyspc.net](http://www.nyspc.net) for details as they become available!□

*NYSPC is a coalition made up of the following national organizations: 180/Movement for Democracy and Education, Black Radical Congress-Youth Division, Campus Greens, Muslim Students Association of the US and Canada, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Not With Our Money, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Student Peace Action Network, Students United for a Responsible Global Environment, Students Transforming and Resisting Corporations, United Students Against Sweatshops, United States Student Association, Young Communist League, Young Democratic Socialists, Young People's Socialists League.*



### **South Africa continued from page 4 ...**

They will push you out to save themselves. The majority of the women at the clinic had not told anyone in their lives that they were positive. If families find out about their loved one's status, it is at the time of death. Given all this, the support group provided a surrogate family: a family of those who know, of those who have HIV/AIDS themselves. Of the 40-100 women who participate in the support group, many have already lost the partner who infected them. Yet they are not allowed to grieve in their real lives, only at support group. Death has overwhelmed this community, these women.

It was somewhere submerged in this that I saw how decisions made so far away, in another life back in the USA, affect the everyday lives and deaths of an entire country. Access to Anti-Retro Viral Therapies (ARTs) will not end AIDS in South Africa. It will however, remove the fast pace of death that currently accompanies AIDS. In the States people with AIDS can live 15 years, sometimes longer, before their disease claims their life. In Durban I met one woman who has amazingly lived ten years with HIV, while losing her husband and one daughter, living still with her positive three-year-old daughter. You may ask why she does not have ARTs right now. The answer is her government and our government. Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa, will not admit to the AIDS epidemic in his country and will not let free

ARTs come into his country. We stand by complacent, complicit.

What our country has done actively is to keep South Africa in its place, economically. The first week that I was in South Africa the G-8 met to discuss its policy toward Africa. The decision, which all South Africans were aware of, was to keep the loan-shark policy in place, to continue subsidizing farmers in the US and Europe, while keeping tariffs high on African items, and to provide limited assistance for HIV/AIDS in the region. The people in South Africa are fully aware of our government, our economy, and what we do to theirs. Whenever discussing my life in the States, every South African could translate dollars into rand (ten rand to the dollar while I was there). School children could quickly tell me who Powell and Bush are and what they, as children, think of these two men. Yet how many U.S. students know who Mbeki is?

My time in South Africa provided me with a flame to light under our party. Everyday lives are affected in South Africa by flippant decisions made here. We must get Greens in office; South Africans need a Green President of the United States more than we need a Green President. How long must they wait? How many of them will be left by the time we have it done? Our Green values are necessary to the lives of people everywhere and time is not a luxury they have. □

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### **Spoiler continued from page 22 ...**

in the coming year. IRV will take the first step toward analyzing the genuine interests and views of the electorate. It will provide a more accurate reflection of those views, rather than casting a single vote that disappears into the morass and may be subject to fears over the "spoiler" issue. How many times have we heard the mantra "I would have voted for Nader but I was afraid of Bush winning"? In that respect, I suppose we could say that Gore "spoiled" Nader's victory ....

Put simply, there is no excuse to believe in the "spoiler" argument. Greens are not Democrats and, in this day and age, rarely do the two parties pursue the same agenda. There is also no excuse to let our democracy become a haven for two major parties that increasingly attempt to be all things to all people, when the majority of the electorate has clearly decided that they are nothing to anyone, by not voting. It rests in the hands of us, the citizens of this nation, to reclaim our government from the minority rulers. Sticking to principles and working for reform are the methods by which to do that. As Eugene

Debs was known to say: "It's better to vote for what you want and not get it, than to vote for what you don't want and get it." □

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### **Choice continued from page 9 ...**

financial means who usually are also uninsured for medical needs. The three clinics of the Flint office of Planned Parenthood depend on state funding for 27 per cent of the annual budget. Because the "Preference in Funding" legislation does not guarantee ANY funds to the last-named (least-preferred) agencies, these funds have essentially been "cut-off" from Planned Parenthood. At the same time, in order to receive any Federal funds, an agency must provide information to women on ALL means of family planning, including termination of pregnancy thru abortion performed by licensed medical personnel.

The issue of "choice" was high-lighted in the recent election in the 51<sup>st</sup> MI House District near Flint, in which Pete Ponzetti represented the Green Party. Pete immediately identified himself as a

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## United States' Aquifer Depletion

from *Eco-economy: Building an Economy for the Earth*, by Lester R. Brown, p. 45

As the water table falls and the aquifer is depleted, farmers are forced to abandon irrigated agriculture, returning to dryland farming. In several states that dominate US food production, including Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, the irrigated area is slowly shrinking as the Ogallala [aquifer] is depleted.

An economic analysis of the water situation in the high plains of Texas, where much of the state's irrigated cropland is located, concluded that crop production in the region will decline steadily as water supplies shrink. The big losers between 2000 and 2025 will be irrigated feed grains, including both corn and sorghum. The area in wheat, a dryland crop, will expand slightly. Overall grain production is projected to decline 17 percent. A similarly detailed analysis for nearby states, such as Oklahoma and Kansas, would likely also show production declines for the more water-dependent crops.

In southern Texas, El Paso and its sister city across the border in Mexico, Juarez, both draw their water from the same aquifer. As population in the two fast-growing cities has climbed, demand has outstripped the sustainable yield of the aquifer. David Hurlbut, analyst with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, believes that because of their failure to address the water supply issue effectively, the two cities are moving toward hydrological bankruptcy.

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supporter of "Choice" for women while the incumbent Democrat Lockwood was actually endorsed officially by "Right to Life" to the protests of Republican challenger Robertson (the eventual winner) who claimed to be more deserving of the endorsement – at the forum I attended in Fenton, Lockwood cited her lifelong history as a practicing Roman Catholic. It became clear to me that many Democrat voters had been operating in a mode of "Don't ask" behavior.

Shortly before the election *The Flint Journal* ran a front-page headline article above the fold on the competition between the two major party candidates to be the most anti-choice. There was fair coverage of Ponzetti as the only candidate for Choice. The 500 votes he garnered were decisive in unseating the Democrat who had successfully masked her position as anti-choice, as I learned while making campaign phone calls to registered voters in the 51<sup>st</sup> district. The boundaries of the district were changed but Democrats who told me they had voted for her previously, also told me they were sure she was "pro-choice" and questioned the accuracy of my representation that her views (and votes on legislation) were actually the opposite. Likewise, in Michigan, Planned Parenthood appears to be struggling to grasp the reality of legislators such as Lockwood, and the impact of Green Party candidates such as Ponzetti, who embrace the principles of self-determination for women. □

*Candace Caveny-Collins lives in rural Lapeer County. She is retired from careers in teaching, health care, lab analysis for water pollutants, and*

*tax preparation. She received an AB in Anthropology/Genetics from Berkeley. To confirm that the views of extreme anti-choice advocates are not exaggerated above, you can visit the Website called Women for Faith and family (www.wf-f.org).*

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## Dead and Dying Lakes

from *Eco-economy: Building an Economy for the Earth*, by Lester R. Brown, p. 52

...the Aral Sea fishery, which yielded 60 thousand tons (close to 130 million pounds) of fish per year as recently as 1960, is now history. Rising salt content has left the sea biologically dead.

A June 2001 report indicates that Russia's Azov Sea is also dying. Rising levels of salt, petroleum wastes, heavy metal pollution, and radioactive materials are apparently involved. The commercial fish catch has dropped 97 percent over the last quarter-century. Many species are extinct. As one commentator noted, the Sea of Azov has become "a body of water that cannot support either life within it or the lives of the people who live around it."

Acidification of lakes from acid rain, largely from coal burning, is also still a problem. Canada alone now counts 14,000 dead lakes. And pollution is taking a toll on freshwater lakes, either destroying the fish or rendering them unfit for human consumption. In the United States, fish in some 50,000 freshwater lakes, streams, and ponds contain levels of mercury that make them unsafe for human consumption. Mercury from the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants is largely responsible. □

## Pharming continued from page 14 ...

delivers price benefits to consumers. Benefits to farmers may also prove elusive depending on the overall market and the kinds of contracts that farmers can negotiate.

There are no pharmaceutical or biologic products on the market in the United States, although several are nearing the end of the development pipeline. At least two research chemicals – avidin and beta-glucuronidase – have been allowed on the market and others are expected soon. In Canada, the anticoagulant hirudin has been grown commercially in rapeseed.

### What Now?

UCS takes the promised benefits of pharm and industrial crops seriously. High prices are a big factor in the soaring costs of medical care in the United States. But the risks are also compelling and must be addressed now, if the crops are to have a chance to deliver benefits.

UCS is initiating a major campaign to insure that pharm and industrial crops are stringently regulated. We're starting with the pharm crops because they

present a high level of risk and some are close to commercialization.

Our view is that pharm crops should not be grown unless citizens can be assured that no drugs or biologics will contaminate the food system.

There are numerous options for achieving “zero-tolerance” for food contamination, including restricting pharm products to crops not used for food, creating “bioreactor crop” zones around the country, sterilizing pollen, keeping drug genes out of pollen, and imposing physical isolation distances between pharm and food crops.

UCS is urging the federal government to seek input from the scientific community to flesh out these options and use them as the basis for strong oversight. We expect regulators to address these issues in the context of the existing biotechnology framework. (See box, page below.) That framework, already under stress, may be inadequate to regulate these new products. If so, UCS may recommend new legislation. □

### Pharm and Industrial Crop Regulation

*R&D field tests.* Currently, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversees experimental field testing of all genetically engineered crops, including pharmaceutical and industrial crops. The USDA generally requires companies to grow transgenic crops under containment conditions that reduce somewhat the flow of genes away from the field site. The department has been considering more stringent containment for pharmaceutical crops and moved in that direction this spring by announcing stricter controls for pharm crops in the 2002 growing season. So far the USDA has not addressed more rigorous containment conditions for industrial crop field trials.

*Commercialization.* As pharm and industrial crops approach the commercial stage, federal oversight will likely involve a hybrid regulatory system combining USDA oversight of field production with another agency's control over the products derived from the crops. The table below lists federal agencies and statutes that may come into play once the products of pharm and industrial crops are headed for the marketplace.

Product type	Agency	Statute
Human drugs	FDA	Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act (FFDCA)
Human biologics	FDA	Public Health Service Act and FFDCA
Animal drugs	FDA	FFDCA
Animal biologics	USDA	Virus, Serum, Toxin Act
Industrial chemicals	EPA	Toxic Substances Control Act
Research chemicals	EPA	Toxic Substances Control Act

The federal government has not yet laid out a comprehensive plan for regulating the commercial products of transgenic pharm and industrial crops. So far, only FDA has issued formal policy guidance for the production of drugs in pharm crops. As far as we can tell, the government has not begun to grapple with the risks and regulation of industrial crops destined for the market place.

## MCWC Receives Substantial Foundation Grant

(January 2, 2003, Mecosta, MI) The environment and citizens of Michigan and the Great Lakes Basin received a resounding voice of support when Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation was awarded a grant of more than \$50,000.00 from the L.C. and Margaret Walker Foundation.

"This grant could not have been received at a better time. The Board of Directors of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) wish to thank the Walker Foundation for its generous grant and recognition of MCWC's efforts," says Terry Swier, President of MCWC.

"The grant will be used to support educational programs, including efforts to increase public awareness of water conservation issues in Michigan, and to sponsor environmental research relating to Michigan's water supply."

MCWC is striving to protect the citizens' rights to land, river and watershed protection and management for purposes of human rights and long-term habitat and ecosystem preservation and restoration. The grant from the Foundation will help MCWC with its goal and objective to expand its efforts to educate the public through vigorous law and public policy debate concerning water rights, the public trust, and direct grass roots citizen action.

The future of Michigan's and the Great Lakes

region's streams, lakes and its tributary ground waters is at risk. MCWC has been working diligently through its lawsuit against Nestle Waters North America, Inc., formerly Perrier, and through public workshops to increase citizen awareness of their rights in water.

The organization has also made important contributions to public policy that will assure that needed water laws will put the public trust and rights of citizens first. The trial of the lawsuit of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, et al v Nestle Waters North America, Inc., et al. begins in May 2003. The suit challenges Nestle's claim that it can take all of the water for itself, essentially converting our waters into a private commodity without having to pay for it.

"Given the world water crisis and worldwide demand for Michigan's water, we cannot sit idly by without protecting the fundamental principle that water is a commons for everyone, including our valuable and magnificent environment," Swier said. "The Foundation's grant helps us immensely," she said, "but it will really benefit everyone."

*For more information on MCWC's projects, contact Terry Swier (231) 972-8856, [tswier@centurytel.net](mailto:tswier@centurytel.net) or visit MCWC's Web site at [www.saveMIwater.org](http://www.saveMIwater.org).*

### **Bottled water continued from page 6 ...**

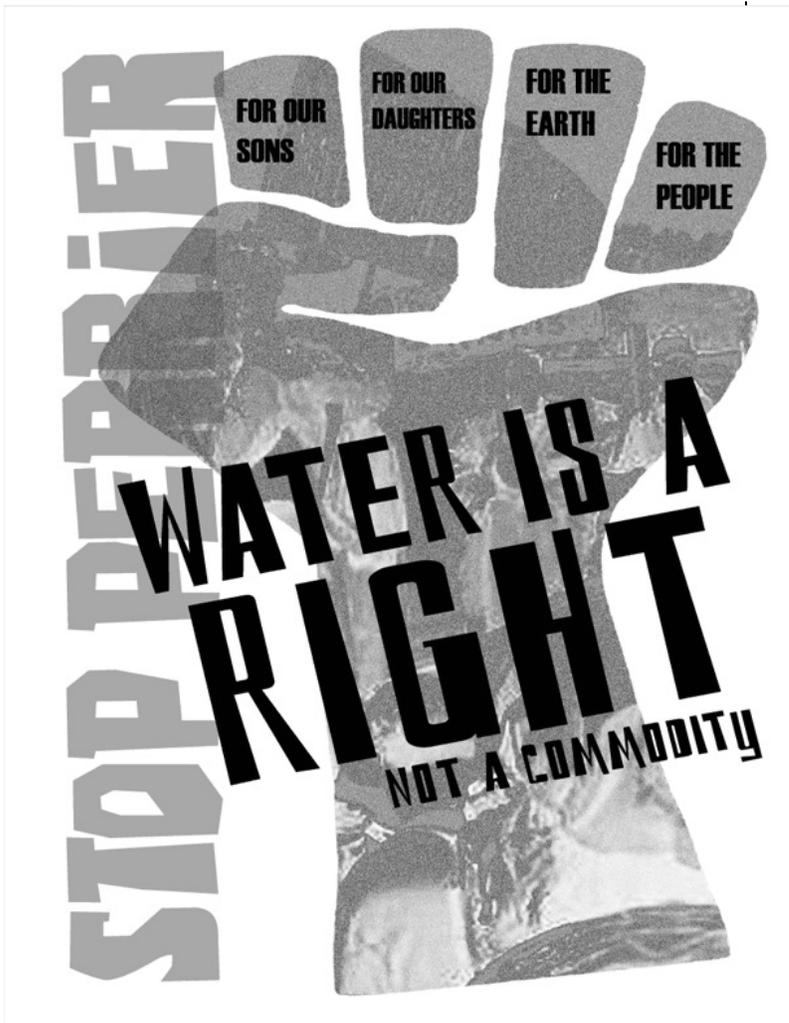
demands – including water for bottling – being made on local water supplies. In fact, Crystal Springs, the spring in Florida around which a lot of anti-Perrier activism has arisen has salt water intrusion.

The Perrier Group markets bottled water nationwide under fifteen brand names including Poland Spring, Arrowhead, Deer Park, Ice Mountain, Ozarka and Zephyrhills. Perrier draws water from over 75 springs (some sources report as many as 122), and is the leader among bottled water producers, controlling 30% of the market.

In various states, the Perrier Group has had lawsuits filed against it – in Texas (1996), in Pennsylvania (1997), in Florida (1998), in Wisconsin (2000), and in Michigan (2001). Perrier also has bottling facilities in Maine and Maryland. Perrier

began acquiring American springs in the early 90's to fill the increasing demand for its bottled water. In May, when I first began researching this issue, I found Web sites that offered a defense of Perrier's positions in the states in which lawsuits have been filed. In the Texas lawsuit, for example, which went all the way to the state Supreme Court, the law, which allows a landowner to withdraw any amount of water on his own property, was on Perrier's side.

As I looked for these supporting sites more recently, I couldn't find them. In fact, many articles about Perrier are no longer available online. In May, the Michigan Greens sent out an article that included information about a boycott of Ice Mountain, Perrier Group's Michigan brand. We were subsequently contacted by Perrier's lawyers, asking us to print a retraction of certain parts of the article along with the



implication that if we did not do so, there would be consequences. As I noted how many of the links about Perrier on various water activism Web sites led to articles that had been pulled, I had to wonder how many of them had received similarly worded requests. And why, I asked myself, wouldn't the Web sites that supported Perrier still be around?

Maybe, I thought, Perrier has decided to stop acknowledging the existence of those who don't want it around. Even the Ice Mountain Website has a different look these days. Back in May, it prominently displayed a Michigan Works link. Offering jobs had always been a part of Perrier's positive spin on its activities.

In May, I followed that link and saw that there was only one position open at the Mecosta county facility. I wrote to Michigan Works and asked whether there would be any more jobs opening up there. I was told to check back, and that the plant had already hired all its workers. I couldn't figure out how to ask how many workers there were without giving away my stance.

Now you need to be really interested to get information about Perrier's commitment to "environmental stewardship." If you use the only link on the Ice Mountain page ([icemountain.com](http://icemountain.com)), one that takes you to a page from which you can order home or office delivery of Ice Mountain, and you look at the fine print on the bottom of the page, you'll find a link to information about the Perrier Group and its waters.

On a whim, I typed [www.perrier.com](http://www.perrier.com) into my browser and was eventually transported to [perrierusa.com](http://perrierusa.com) If I hadn't come with some preconceived ideas, I think I would have fallen in love with Perrier right then. The Perrier Website is clearly designed to give the impression that Perrier is not a bottle of water, but a very stylish way of life. The Website is the slickest and most seductive I've ever seen. Its menus are Flash movies, and its topics have nothing to do with ecology or politics or even water. You can send a party invitation to your friends from the Website, on one of four different styles of Perrier virtual invitations. The site announces contests, and displays the results of previously held contests to create films, music, and original fashion designs. Prizes are \$10,000 plus various perks. (Did I mention that bottled water is a multi-billion dollar industry in the United States or that Perrier's almost \$2 billion annual share is almost twice that of its closest competitor?)

This past summer and fall were my first since giving up bottled water. It is particularly challenging sometimes because I am diabetic and so am limited in my choice of drinks. I started out just boycotting Ice Mountain, but along the way I realized that other bottled water was taken from somewhere, and the further away its origin, the worse it was ecologically.

Incidentally, my original reason for drinking bottled water was because I had been convinced that it was cleaner than tap water. It seems bottled water is not as strenuously regulated as municipal water supplies. The National Resources Defense Council reported that in a study of 103 brands of bottled water, 22 percent contained contaminants, which if consumed regularly over an extended period of time "could cause cancer or other health problems." □

*The illustration on page 4 and the one on this page were copied from the Sweetwater Alliance Website ([www.waterissweet.org](http://www.waterissweet.org)). You can visit it for more information about the struggle against Perrier/Nestlé.*

*Adrianna Buonarroti was the GPMI candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 2002.*

## Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

### **ACLU – Michigan**

60 W. Hancock  
Detroit, MI 48201-1324  
(313) 578-6800  
<http://www.aclumich.org>

### **Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

(734) 789-8790  
[www.au.org](http://www.au.org)  
[metrodetroitau@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.adaptt.org)  
[dogmaday@aol.com](mailto: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,  
[detroitahardball@aol.com](mailto:detroitahardball@aol.com)

### **Earth Works Garden/Greening of Detroit**

1820 Mt. Eliot Ave  
Detroit, MI 48207

(313) 579-2100  
[rsamyn@capuchinministries.org](mailto:rsamyn@capuchinministries.org)

### **Earthwatch**

Claudia Seldon, Mi. Field Rep.  
1965 Pembroke Ct.  
Detroit, MI 48207

### **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](mailto:jamrag@glis.net)

### **Jobs with Justice**

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

[barton\\_julie@hotmail.com](mailto:barton_julie@hotmail.com)

### **Labor Notes**

7435 Michigan Ave  
Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 842-6262  
<http://www.labornotes.org>  
[labornotes@labornotes.org](mailto: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](http://www.mcfn.org) [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org)

### **Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC)**

Terry Swier, President  
[tswier@centurytel.net](mailto:tswier@centurytel.net)  
Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332  
[www.savemewater.org](http://www.savemewater.org)

### **Michigan Peace Team**

1516 Jerome St.  
Lansing, MI 48912-2220  
(517) 484-4219  
<http://www.michiganpeaceteam.org>  
[michpeaceteam@igc.org](mailto: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](mailto:nlgdetroit@igc.org)

### **NORML/PRA-YES 2001**

Schmidt Law Office  
255 N. Center Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
(517) 799-4641  
[www.mi4norml.org](http://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](http://www.members.aol.com/realriver2)

### **Sierra Club**

Linda Mallon (734) 427-1761  
[mallinl@netzero.net](mailto:mallinl@netzero.net)

### **Solidarity – Ann Arbor**

2649 Southlawn  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 572-2515  
[finnegan@voyager.net](mailto:finnegan@voyager.net)

### **Solidarity – Detroit**

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

### **Sweetwater Alliance**

2020 S. Mission, #128  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 773-6874 [www.](http://www.waterissweet.org)  
<http://www.waterissweet.org>

### **Transportation Riders United**

(313) 885-7588

### **Triangle Foundation**

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 537-3323  
[www.tri.org](http://www.tri.org)

### **US/Cuba Labor Exchange**

P. O. Box 39188  
Redford, MI 48239  
(313) 836-3752

### **Vegans in Motion**

(248) 591-0543

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Election 2002**

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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