

# Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan Volume 5, No. 2 Spring 2003



February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – Lansing, Michigan

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The Greens and the Democrats – Wal-Mart: Bad for Portage, bad for any community – Green media – Demonstrations around Michigan – Engler's legacy – How long can we rely on fossil fuels – Bush and the Third Reich – and more ...

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# Green Party of Michigan Locals

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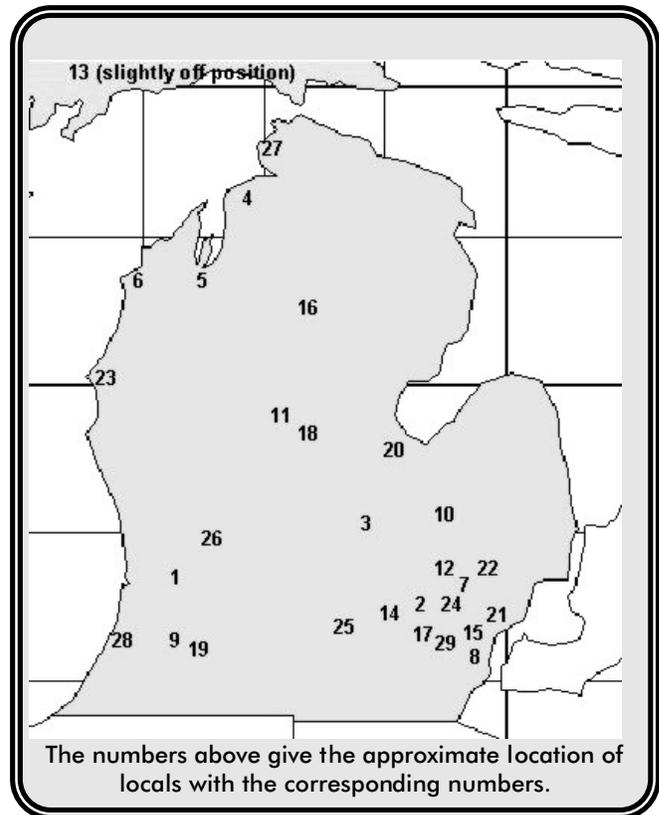
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*Amber Waves of Green*, published quarterly, is the official publication of the Green Party of Michigan. It is written by members and friends of the party and assembled by Linda Manning Myatt. Aside from celebrating spacious skies, and purple mountain 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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## GPMI Stays the Course in the Peace Movement

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*By Marc Reichardt  
Chairman, GPMI*

Responding to calls and requests from all corners of the state, GPMI hit the streets in full force from December to April to protest the Bush Administration's invasion of Iraq.

Protests and demonstrations emerged on a regular basis in Ann Arbor, where a poll by the notoriously conservative Ann Arbor News revealed that citizens who disapprove of the government's actions outnumber those who approve by a 2-to-1 margin. The Ann Arbor Committee for Peace and the Ann Arbor Coalition Against the War both organized regular marches and demonstrations at the city federal building. Day-long activities took place on March 20, when hostilities began. The highlights from that day included 2000 people marching down Main Street, and several hundred high school students surrounding the federal building with red hand prints to represent the blood that is on the hands of the US government. The students had cut class in response to a national call to do so.

Shortly thereafter, GPMI was invited to join a coalition of groups from across the state but concentrated in the southeast area. The coalition has been organized by Congressman John Conyers from the 14th District in Detroit. Conyers, while a heated critic of Ralph Nader and the Greens in 2000, has abandoned the squabbles of the past and remains one of the few genuinely progressive Democrats in Congress. The group that he assembled included religious leaders from all of the major faiths, labor leaders, community action groups, and political organizations. However, the only political party represented (aside from Conyers and his staff) was GPMI.

UAW member David Sole suggested holding a major march down Michigan Avenue from Tiger

Stadium, with a rally culminating at Hart Plaza. With some rapid planning, the event was held on April 5th.

Many Greens from around southeast Michigan gathered on the bitterly cold Saturday morning in the shadow of the abandoned baseball stadium. Because of the inclement weather, the turnout was far lower than was hoped for, eventually growing to around 1000 people. However, as Congressman Conyers mentioned, quality should be valued over quantity at such events, and the quality of the speakers was evident.

Several individuals spoke from the flatbed truck parked at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull, including Hamid Al-Arian. He is the son of Sami Al-Arian, the Palestinian-born professor at the University of South Florida who was recently "detained" by the FBI on suspicion of terrorist activity. Other speakers were Dan McCarthy from the Labor Party, a representative from the Gay/Straight Alliance, and the writer of this article.

After the speeches, the crowd marched down Michigan Avenue, with Alan Kaufman and Patti Smith making sure to keep the GPMI banner hoisted above the crowd. The rally at Hart Plaza featured more speakers and music from local bands, although it began to thin rapidly as people sought shelter from the cold.

In the aftermath, GPMI has kept up its contacts with what is now informally known as 'the Conyers group', meeting in the Congressman's offices at the federal courthouse in Detroit every week. Currently, the group is hoping to coordinate the national meeting of United for Peace and Justice, which is interested in gathering in the Midwest for its first conference. □

*Marc Reichardt is treasurer as well as chairman  
of the Green Party of MI*

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### Do the Math on Bush Jobs Program

Speaking in Ohio in mid-April of this year, George W. Bush said, "We need tax relief of at least 550 billion dollars to make sure our economy grows." The tax cut will, he claims, create 1.4 million jobs by the end of 2004.

Instead of arguing with him, let's take him at his word. Let's see, 550 billion dollars, divided by 1.4 million jobs, is ... \$392,857.14 per job created. Is there not a cheaper way to create jobs? Would it not

make more sense to just give \$55,000 to each of 11 million people who need it – or to pay for health care on behalf of the more than 40 million who have no health insurance and prescriptions for the millions more who can't afford the medicines to keep them alive? Is it really best to give immediate benefits to the super-rich on the nebulous possibility of more jobs? □

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## "In The Green" Begins Third Season

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By Eric Borregard  
*West Oakland Watershed Greens*

In a time of virtual corporate monopoly on the news media, local cable access is the one place where the Green perspective can be presented undistorted and unspun. Made famous in the Saturday Night Live skit "Wayne's World," cable access really does exist and is available in most areas of the state. Public access is the place where the town's café society meets, and anybody can become the local community access channel's star just by showing up for a cable training class.

The "In The Green" series began in the summer of 2000 as part of Matt Abel's U.S. Senate campaign and was so much fun we never stopped producing it. The number of shows produced has grown to over 40 in the series with new shows added every month.

It has offered a ready made platform for Green Party candidates during the election season as well as a forum for presenting a diversity of ideas not found today in corporate or government controlled

broadcasting. Included in the series are remote shows like "Canflow," an hour long undercover special on the dumping of toxic waste by Canadian owned companies into the Detroit sewage system, the Democracy Rising series, and local visits by Ralph Nader, Michael Moore and Anita Rios.

We have also imported Green productions from New York, Oregon and Minnesota. As part of the series we have also produced 30 second public service announcements (PSA's). They have encouraged good citizenship and promoted the importance of voting while helping Green candidates develop their on screen talents and budding celebrity personalities.

In the coming year "In The Green" would like to bring shows to even more local cable access channels but we can't do this without direct commitment and help from the Green Party membership. Today we have little trouble in producing and copying our shows, but distribution remains a crucial obstacle.

While we do enjoy prime time slots in many cities including Livonia, Redford, Farmington Hills, Novi, Traverse City, Mt Pleasant, Southfield and points east, in most other areas of the state our show is never or only rarely seen. We need local citizens in each cable area who are willing to act as sponsors of the show. It costs nothing to do and involves only signing a form at the local station and then delivering the shows every month to the cable station. All we need is your an address and phone number and you will be put on the monthly tape distribution mailing list. So to start sponsoring the "In The Green" series in your area call Eric Borregard at (734) 427-2250 or E-mail [EBorregard@aol.com](mailto:EBorregard@aol.com). □



### Stations Where In the Green Needs Sponsorship

Linda Loftis  
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Access TV, Channel 5  
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Brooklyn, MI 49230  
Phone: 517-592-2616

Allan Dodds WCET-TV  
5037 32nd Avenue  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
Phone: 616-669-3332

Steve Easley (ask for Lue Lee)

AT&T Broadband  
1401 E. Milter Road  
Lansing, MI 48911-5322  
Phone: 517-394-9188

Steve Easley  
AT&T Broadband  
1070 Trowbridge Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517-351-0214

Phil Hutchins  
AT&T Broadband

1901 Horton Road  
Jackson MI 49203  
Phone: 517-782-9353

Julie VanderLaan  
B6TV, AT&T Cable Channel 25  
8500 Burlingame  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
Phone: 616-878-6860

Kelly Taylor  
Cable TV Commission

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## It's local! It's live! It's Green!!!

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By Patricia L. Smith, J.D.

Co-Chair, Huron Valley Green Party

Are you fed up with the corporate media? Are you tired of hearing the same old Milquetoast songs and the pre-programmed disk jockeys? Are you tired of getting the news from the corporations who get the news from the Pentagon which gets the news from the current presidential regime? Well, so are we at Ann Arbor Alive ([www.annarboralive.com](http://www.annarboralive.com))

As many of you know, a few large, multinational corporations (Clear Channel, Viacom, AOL/Time Warner to name almost all of those few) own the majority of the TV and radio stations that you hear and see every day. CNN? It's owned by AOL/Time Warner. MSNBC? It's owned by General Electric. Lo and behold, these multinational corporations have ties with our current presidential administration. The corporations give the news to the talking heads. The corporations get the news from their friends at the Pentagon. The Pentagon doesn't want you to know *everything* so they only give the information that they want to give. The talking heads only read the information given to them by the Pentagon and other corporate sources. In other words, the audience only gets what the current regime wants them to. And so on, all in the house that Jeb built.

Luckily for us, a progressive group of radio veterans started an internet station called Ann Arbor Alive (channels can be found at: [www.a3radio.com](http://www.a3radio.com)). While the station is based in Ann Arbor, it can be heard worldwide. Unlike most radio stations, Ann Arbor Alive is not owned by anyone. Further, since it is an online station, it is not subject to FCC regulations. Therefore, we are free to say pretty much anything we want.

Given the broadband capabilities, the channel possibilities are practically limitless. Already, the station is airing the following channels: jazz, blues, cornucopia (mixture of the entire library), big band, local/indie, electronica, reggae/world music, dance, classical and News and Views. Thanks to the efforts of some Ann Arbor-based Greens, the News and Views channel has a definite "Green" flavor.

Weekly, Green Party chairperson Marc Reichardt and I tape a show called "A Quest Called Truth." The show is exactly what the title implies—a search for what is really happening in the world. Rather than merely recite facts and numbers, we take an in-depth look at social issues. With the recent war, a number of our shows have focused on the bumbings of the

Question authority, question what you hear and read and see. (Yes, you can even question us!) ... Think critically and don't ever, ever be afraid to speak

Bush regime and the reasons behind the war. (Hint: it's not to "liberate Iraq.") AQCT has also tackled such issues as affirmative action, the death penalty, the war tax, the "war on terror," abortion, the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, the Bill of Rights and a "rant" show about the "president."

Along with the flagship show, our channel also airs politically charged music, with a definite hard rock flavor. (Thanks to our technical engineer/editor Jeff Bletch, who also happens to be my husband!) When the channel isn't rocking out against the Establishment, it airs political speeches. Throughout the programming, bits called "news of the contrary" can be heard. These tidbits question the corporate news that we are spoon-fed by the major networks and report "what really happened." In the future, we hope to air shows that deal with alternative medicine and holistic and organic lifestyles.

You can find out more about us at our home page: [http://www.annarboralive.com/A3Radio/channels/news\\_and\\_views/homepage.html](http://www.annarboralive.com/A3Radio/channels/news_and_views/homepage.html)

Also, as the channel manager, I get to do a weekly column. I have turned it into a "rant" column and it (along with a picture of me – don't let that sweet smile fool you) can be found, updated weekly at: [http://www.annarboralive.com/A3Radio/channels/news\\_and\\_views/pattirant.html](http://www.annarboralive.com/A3Radio/channels/news_and_views/pattirant.html)

We are proud of the entire station, and especially the News and Views channel. Through that channel, we are asking people to think about things. Question authority, question what you hear and read and see. (Yes, you can even question us!) Don't be a sheep and blindly follow the talking heads on the news or in the papers. Think critically and don't ever, ever be afraid to speak up for what you believe in. And we are always looking for volunteers, so if you really want to "speak out," please drop me an email at [attorneypatti@comcast.net](mailto:attorneypatti@comcast.net). Keep on rocking in the free world, or in this case, the free 'Net! □

*Patricia L. Smith is an attorney and the GPMI's Meeting Manager pro tem.*

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## Live 365

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*Erik Shelley*

*Program Director, Green Party Radio*

"If you don't like the answers, perhaps you're not asking the right questions." Green Party Radio seeks to ask the right questions.

Green Party Radio is an internet radio station that operates on Live365, an inexpensive format which offers world wide coverage. If you would like to listen, get on-line then turn on Internet Explorer (For some reason, you can't use AOL by itself) and go to <http://www.live365.com>. You will be asked to become a member and perhaps download a player; both are free.

Once there, search stations with the keyword "Green Party" and ours will be one of two stations that will come up. Currently, we are only broadcasting music. This is a test pattern of sorts. In the future, we expect to send out news, talk and interviews of interest to members of the Green Party and those who want to know more about our philosophy and activities.

Some of the questions asked by supporters so far have been "When can we do a call in show? When can we broadcast live? Can people listen in their cars?" Good questions, but first we should find out "What are we going to say? Who is going to say it?" and "Who is going to listen?" Once we have these basic answers, then almost anything is possible; although, getting streaming internet audio to a moving vehicle might be a little tricky.



Want to become part of Green Party Radio? Here is a listing of the available positions:

**News Director** – Responsible for gathering news leads on events of interest to Green Party listeners which have been over looked by mainstream media, and assigning correspondents to cover them. Will produce a news magazine of at least 1 hour with a 5 minute newscast which can be repeated throughout the rest of the programming day.

**Music Director** – Responsible for gathering an eclectic library of music with a common theme of respect for humanity and the Earth we all must share. Must be able to convert recordings of various formats (cassette, CD, vinyl) to MP3 and arrange a listenable and constantly changing play list.

**Production Director** – Responsible for assembling news stories sent in by correspondents and producing sounders, promos, PSA's and announcements. Knowledge of sound editing software is a must!

**Promotions Director** – Responsible for getting links to the stations Player Window (<http://www.live365.com/stations/300569>) onto as many Internet Explorer favorite lists as possible. Will maintain Listener mailing lists, announcements and schedule events designed to draw more audience members.

**I.T. Director** – Responsible for maintaining and updating the radio station play list and website. This will involve converting sound files to the proper mp3 format and uploading them to the GPR server as well as keeping a current set of links on stations homepage.

**On-Air Personalities** – Will work with the Music Director to present songs and other ideas in a friendly conversational manner. Must be able to produce at least 9 stop sets of 1-5 minutes each and strictly adhere to the play list agreed upon with the MD.

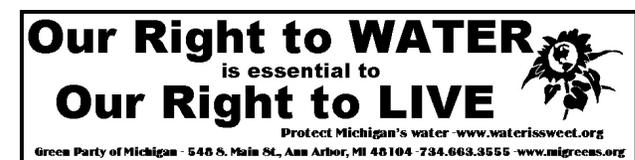
**Correspondents** – Will work with the News Director to present thought provoking stories in a clear, concise, professional manner. Reports will incorporate recorded commentary of public figures through interviews and press events as assigned by the ND. Candidate must have strong writing skills and tape recorder with good microphone. C-SPAN junkies strongly urged to apply. □

*If you are interested in becoming a member of Green Party Radio, send an email to [GreenPartyRadio@aol.com](mailto:GreenPartyRadio@aol.com). In return, you will receive links to the station and to the GPR website.*

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### Bumper Stickers available from GPMI



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## Up Against the Wal: A Campaign Story

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By James Wilber

Co-Chair, Green Party of Kalamazoo

As always, there's a little bit more to a decision than meets the eye. Constantly throughout our campaign I was asked, "Why Wal-Mart?" Certainly there are plenty of other companies out there with bad track records. Wal-Mart may be one of the worst, but people still wondered why we had singled them out.

The answer is, "because we could do something about it." Members of the Green Party know that progressives have to pick their battles wisely. In Portage we had an opportunity.

In December of last year, the Portage City Council rezoned 33 acres next to Portage Creek that would allow a Wal-Mart store to be built. Local residents were less than pleased. They showed their displeasure by attending two city planning meetings to voice their opposition to the project. A group was formed and a petition was submitted, forcing the City of Portage to hold a referendum on the rezoning. If passed, the new zoning would be repealed.

This is where we came in. Sure we could have chosen to protest this, or boycott that, but we had an opportunity for our first action as a local to be an actual vote. This was the kind of experience we were looking for, and what an experience it was.

Things started getting rough right at the beginning. I attended a press conference hosted by the Concerned Citizens of Portage, the group which started the Wal-Mart opposition, and circulated the petition for the referendum. I assumed that the group would welcome our help, and listen to what we had to say. I assumed wrong.

The Concerned Citizens of Portage were afraid to alienate any of the "conservative" voters. They insisted that this campaign be based simply on how much traffic the store would produce, and its location. They specifically went out of their way to repeatedly state, "this is not about Wal-Mart." They refused to work with us if we raised any other issue, and in fact, insisted that we not even mention them as any part of our campaign.

I would not give into their demands for several reasons. First, I thought they were just plain wrong; campaigning on Wal-Mart's reputation would only help our cause. The mayor of Portage had already labeled this as a NIMBY (not-in-my-back-yard) cause. Our campaign elevated the issue above this. I asked Claudette Reid, the CCP's spokeswoman, "Do

you care that 14 year-old girls are forced into slavery to make goods for Wal-Mart?" Her answer was, "Yes, of course." I then asked, "What makes you think that other people don't care?"

Which brings me to my second point, I believed that it would be immoral to waste this opportunity for educating people about the evils of Wal-Mart. So few people really know how Wal-Mart brings you "Low-Low Prices." I know I didn't. I felt it was our duty to inform the public that someone always pays.

Further opposition again came from a group from which we least expected it. Certainly we thought, the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers Union) would join our side. Wrong again. UFCW had already spoken with Concerned Citizens of Portage. The union believed that their direct involvement would make this a "Union vs. Wal-Mart" issue, and once again, they raised the fear of scaring conservative voters. The union would be providing volunteers for the CCP, but did not want to be mentioned by name. UFCW went so far as to try to convince our one ally, United Students Against Sweatshops, not to work with us.

This was truly sad. The message was that the union is ashamed of their own organization, and what it represents. An opportunity for educating people on the benefits of having unions was lost.

We had high hopes for the campaign; which included lawn-signs, door walking, and all the usual election tactics. We had some successes, but unfortunately, we were unable to follow through with



many of our planned activities for several reasons, none of which were the fault of other organizations. For the benefit of everyone, here's what we learned.

The Green Party in Kalamazoo is young, so we don't have a base of money or a large pool of volunteers. We had hoped to use the campaign to generate interest, and thus gain both. Unfortunately, it didn't work that way. When planning our "Stop Wal-Mart! Rally", we tried to have it early so we could use the funds raised at the event for the campaign. Weather and time worked against us. The Wal-Mart issue had yet to generate much interest, and snow on the day of our outdoor rally didn't help either.

This illustrates the importance of constantly recruiting new members, and fund-raising all year round. If we had some resources to start with, things would have been much easier. It is usually too late to start collecting money and volunteers after an issue breaks.

Our successes came in the local media. I encouraged all of our members to write letters to the local newspaper. Two were published, and one was chosen as a guest editorial.

Also, we did send out timely media releases,

notifying the press of our activities. It seemed that at the Wal-Mart rally, there were more press people than actual participants. Our local TV station ran a clip of the event that day, and our local public radio station ran a story, with sound bites from our own Doug Campbell recorded at the rally.

Two lessons we learned were: continuously develop a base of money and volunteers, you never know when you will need them. And, always inform the local media of your plans – usually they are looking for a story, and would be happy to use yours.

In the end, though we did our best, Portage voted to allow Wal-Mart to build there. Often, the Green Party cries foul when they lose a campaign. In this case it may be appropriate. The opposition campaign was run by the executives of Meyer C. Weiner Company, the developer who had been chosen to build the proposed Wal-Mart. They formed a PAC named Citizens Concerned About Portage Jobs. The PAC had one contributor, donating \$90,000 in one lump sum. Can you guess who the contributor was? Yup, Wal-Mart .... Can anyone say, "campaign finance reform"? □

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## Why Stop Wal-Mart?

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*By James Wilber*

*Co-Chair, Green Party of Kalamazoo*

**I**t started at the second meeting of the newly reformed Green Party chapter in Kalamazoo. We were looking for local issues that our new Greens could stand behind, in order to become a political force in the community. Our only member from the City of Portage, Cathie Schau, (someone I soon came to know for her dedication and hard work growing our new chapter) told us that the citizens of Portage were against Wal-Mart building a store in their community.

I didn't know anything about Wal-Mart at the time, except what everyone else knows – on the surface, Wal-Mart is that "down-home," patriotic retailer, selling everything from cheese slices to garden hose, all under one roof, for a low price. Dig a little deeper and you will find that Wal-Mart is now the largest company in the world. It makes over \$220 billion dollars a year (more than the GDP of Israel and Ireland combined), and employs more people than General Motors.

That's pretty scary all on its own – that a retail store is now our largest employer – but that's just the

surface. I soon learned of the many reasons why Wal-Mart would be bad for Portage, and for any community.

We all know that retail jobs never pay as well as they should, and retail employees are seldom treated well. How Wal-Mart treats its employees, however, goes below the norm, to just down-right nasty.

The average Wal-Mart employee makes only \$11,700 per year. This means that even living alone, many employees would qualify for Michigan Food Assistance. Many Wal-Mart employees also work hours that are never compensated. In an Oregon court, Wal-Mart was found to be forcing its employees to work off the clock, especially when the hours worked would mean overtime pay. With Wal-Mart being sued in 39 other similar class-action lawsuits, this is obviously not an isolated incident, it's policy.

You had also better be healthy if you work for Wal-Mart. Only 38% of Wal-Mart employees have health insurance, well below the national average of 60%. Wal-Mart gets away without providing these benefits by scheduling workers for "part-time" hours, and making the benefits so costly, most employees

would lose half of their take home pay.

Another Wal-Mart policy is discrimination. The National Organization for Women has noted that although over three-quarters of Wal-Mart's employees are women, only a third of the store's managers, and just 10% of its top managers, are women. The list of law suits against Wal-Mart for racial, sexual, and religious discrimination is just too long to list. Perhaps the most telling quote comes from a judge upholding a \$2.3 million verdict awarded to two women sexually harassed by a Wal-Mart manager. The judge said the manager's conduct was "outrageous and apparently Wal-Mart was aware of this, since his conduct was witnessed by high-level [supervisors]."

With all of these abuses, Wal-Mart also ensures that workers have no way of voicing grievances. Wal-Mart now has over 3,000 stores, none of which have unions. Its union-busting techniques are legendary. Wal-Mart is willing to stop unions at all costs, including firing their entire meat department in every store because one voted yes for a union.

Wal-Mart's bad labor practices do not stop at our border, they are now the number one buyer of sweatshop produced goods. 60-80% of the average Wal-Mart shelf contains sweatshop produced toys, clothes, and other products. These are items made in factories that pay below poverty wages, have dangerous working conditions, excessive overtime, and sometimes are run by repressive regimes using the slave labor of political dissidents.

**H**ow Wal-Mart treats workers is criminal, but their offenses go beyond labor relations. To many, Wal-Mart represents the fastest growing crisis to affect the American landscape - sprawl.

Sprawl is the movement away from an urban center, towards large, spread-out, suburban development. The problems this causes have had a profound impact on American life.

The sprawl phenomenon is geared towards an automobile society. Stores are built outside the range of public transportation, and require massive parking lots. Workers now must have a car in order to be employed. Shoppers must use a car, because the power of these massive corporations, have driven small downtown retailers out of business.

As people move away from the cities, they leave behind areas of blight. To make matters worse, in the name of competition, the sprawl retailers over-build their big-box stores. Here in Michigan we have a perfect example, as Wal-Mart's strategy has been to drive out of business Grand Rapid's based, Meijer's stores. Wal-Mart consistently builds new Super-

centers within yards of existing Meijer's. What happens when one of these stores goes out of business? Besides the jobs that are lost, these empty buildings remain as blight on the landscape. Michigan alone has 13 empty Wal-Mart stores, most of which will never again be used.

Last but not least, the one issue that is close to the hearts of many Greens, the environment. Wal-Mart never seems to be content to build on sites previously occupied by retail space; they want to destroy something natural. Whenever it is left up to Wal-Mart to protect the environment, they routinely break their promises, making their stores larger, and destroying more natural environment than originally proposed for the development.

Wal-Mart is currently being sued by the state of Connecticut for failing to contain polluted storm water. At many Wal-Mart stores, equipment and pesticides are stored outside, part of which are washed into local waterways. Residents of Portage are concerned because the proposed Wal-Mart site is right next to Portage Creek. □

*If you need more answers to the question, "Why Stop Wal-Mart?" try:*

[www.walmartwatch.com](http://www.walmartwatch.com)

[www.sprawl-busters.com](http://www.sprawl-busters.com)

[www.walmartdayofaction.com](http://www.walmartdayofaction.com)

[www.walmartswaronworkers.com](http://www.walmartswaronworkers.com)

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## **Michigan Democrats Seek Donations for Secret Fund**

*By Paul Egan / The Detroit News*

LANSING, MICHIGAN -- Governor Jennifer Granholm and the state Democratic Party are asking corporations and unions to donate \$25,000 to a new political fund intended to help get their message across to voters.

The names of the donors to Partnership for Progress and most details about how the money is spent will be kept secret, Democratic Party Chairman Melvin "Butch" Hollowell confirmed.

That's because the new fund will be created under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Service Code and won't be subject to Michigan campaign finance reporting requirements, donation limits or a state law that generally bans corporate donations. The funds are controversial, and advocates of campaign finance reform sometimes refer to them as "stealth PACs."

*The rest of the story:*

<http://www.detroitnews.com/2003/politics/0305/01/a01-150465.htm>

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## Engler's Lasting Legacy

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By JoAnne Beemon

It is important to understand that Governor Engler has not retired in disgrace, but in honor. To bankrupt the state, to ruin the government of, by and for the people is the AGENDA of the corporate elite. Michigan is almost \$2 billion dollars in debt. The money from school funds, environmental funds, slush funds, all gone into the pockets of special interests. Here in Charlevoix, we press forward with new larger boat slips in our marina for 40 foot yachts, while our schools struggle to keep teachers and programs.

As revenues in MI decreased, schools, youth programs, libraries, senior programs, health care and natural resource protection stumbled and floundered under the weight of budget cuts and inadequate funding. The anti-government forces of John Engler illuminated the failures of these strangled public programs and called for budget cuts and the elimination of programs.

We must know the forces that work to undermine Democracy. It is vital that every Green get hold of *Mandate for Leadership*. It's inexpensive if bought used. *Mandate for Leadership* is to Global Capitalistic Corporatists what the *Communist Manifesto* was to Communism. It was written by the pundits of the Heritage Foundation as a game plan for Reagan. The fourth edition was ready for Bush in 2001, but the language and ideas have penetrated and saturated the mainstream. (The super rich corporate Democrats love it almost as much as the super rich corporate Republicans!) It was used by George W in Texas and by Engler in MI in the "successful" downsizing and bankrupting and disabling of government. Remember, Governor Granholm's desperate ruined inheritance is the great victory of John Engler.

An insolvent government cannot protect our rivers and lakes from industrial pollutants, cannot regulate emissions from factories or stop the clear cutting of forests. A disabled government cannot protect and steward our parks and public land and water. The demise of public schools, public libraries, public health programs etc, clear the field for privatization, and privatization is good for those who stand to profit in a field unencumbered by the rules that protect the public and the public good.

While "deregulation" is sold as giving the public options through competition, the torrid soup of miserable "choices" offered by privatized telephone

companies, their abusive sales gimmicks and strategies, their lack of service, and their insidious complexity of bills, pits phone companies against the customer rather than the "competition." Instead of offering better service and lower rates, privatization encourages utilities to share tactics and to cut back on services while maximizing profits.

Deregulation creates Enrons, not public accountability because privatization is driven by *profit* and greed. CEO's pay rises to absurd amounts. Boards responsible to stock holders, "maximize profits" while bankrupting infrastructure. Where is the line between reasonable profit and larceny? And how many of us will draw that line of self restraint ourselves?

With nothing to check their opportunism and exploitation, the powerful (banks, industry, corporations, insurance companies, resource extractors, health organizations and telecommunications) write their own rules. Only when profits are contingent on service, will there be an incentive to serve.

Sadly, in most township halls and city and county meeting rooms, the *common good* of the democratic ideal has become passé and has been largely abandoned. That which generates immediate revenues, that which contributes to Growth is God. The polished agenda of the far right corporate elite, who have the resources to create think tanks and publish volumes of "studies" and materials, has crept into every city, township and county.

We are a lost people. We confuse the economic system of Capitalism (à la laissez faire), with our government system of Democracy. Today, we are willing to leave the decisions and directions of government to the market, rather than to the democratic principles of the Constitution (liberty, justice, equality) administered and enforced by servants of the *People*. *Nowhere* in the constitution is the word "capitalism" ever used!

Growing up in the 1950s and '60s, we learned that it was capitalism that defeated Godless

... Continued on page 28.

Because war is the greatest waste,  
the greatest destroyer of life and  
resources, our main goal today must  
be to oppose war ...

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## Fossil Fuels — How Far Can They Take Us?

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By Art Myatt

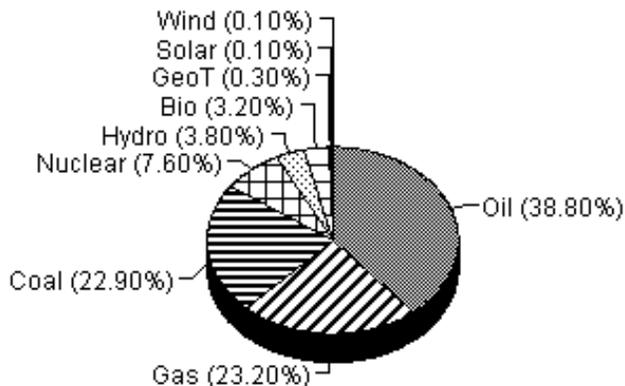
GPMI Platform Committee Chair

In the 1950s and 1960s, it was common for one working income to be sufficient to support a household; at least, much more common than it is today. For decades, stock prices have risen, not dropped, on news that a giant company was permanently cutting 10 or 20 or 50 thousand employees. For decades, American manufacturers have shipped jobs to the lowest-wage countries they can find. More recently, they have begun shipping corporate headquarters to offshore tax havens.

The conventional wisdom that economic growth means prosperity for ordinary Americans is simply wrong. It means poverty wages and job insecurity with a very tattered social safety net. It means putting up with pollution and sprawl and global warming and war for oil to sustain the economy that provides the insecure jobs. It means the emergence of enforceable rights for corporations and the shrinkage of rights for human beings. The real growth today is in unemployment and homelessness.

Greens say that this economy is unsustainable. But just how unsustainable is it? At least in simple terms, that question can be answered.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is an agency of the federal government that publishes figures for energy production and consumption for the United States and for the world. These are freely available from their web site, the address of which is [http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/energy/stats\\_ctry/](http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/energy/stats_ctry/). Their most recent figures, as this article is being written, are for the year of 1998. There's been some growth and some recession since. The figures still are close



enough to today's reality to illuminate the big picture. The USGS data has been summarized in the pie chart.

Comparing fuels on the basis of their energy content is exactly the same as comparing foods on the basis of their calorie content. A calorie is just one of the units in which energy is measured. Electricity is measured in watts (kilowatts, megawatts, and so on). Home heating might be measured in British Thermal Units (BTUs). Mechanical work can be measured in horsepower-hours. Converting from one unit to another is exact. 1 Kw-hr = 3412 BTU = 1.341 hp-hr = 849,845 calories; and so on, for many more units than there is reason to mention here. This is the comparison the USGS has made.

We can see that fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal) make up about 85% of United States energy use, so we can fairly say that the economy depends on fossil fuels. All these fuels, regardless of their individual characteristics, are sources of energy. All are commonly used, for instance, to produce electricity. They are interchangeable, but only to a limited extent. It is possible to have a car that runs on compressed natural gas, and it is possible to have a coal-fired locomotive, but gasoline and diesel powered cars trucks and trains are far more common for a variety of practical reasons.

According to USGS, the US economy in 1998 consumed 6.906 billion barrels of oil, 21.34 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 1038 million short tons of coal. Natural gas consumption was equivalent to the energy of another 4 billion barrels of oil. The coal consumption was also equivalent to 4 billion barrels.

For the whole world, energy consumption is very similar to the United States. Energy from oil is 40% of the world's total; gas, 22.5%; coal, 23.3%. (USGS, figures for 1998) Fossil fuels provide 85.8% of the world's energy. In 1998, the world consumed 26.864 billion barrels of oil.

If you go to the US Department of Energy web site ([www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)), you can find figures for the world's oil reserves. In the "Oil and Gas Journal" column, the world total given is 1032 billion barrels of oil reserves. Since these are only estimates, it is possible and even reasonable to argue that the "real" figure should be as low as 800 billion barrels or as high as 1250. Simple elementary school math tells us that, if we - the world economy - keeps using oil at the present rate, it will all be gone in about 40 years.

When the reserves of the big three fossil fuels are

added together, the result comes out to the energy equivalent of 6190 barrels of oil. The world's yearly energy use is equivalent to burning 61 billion barrels of oil. Even if it were practical to fully substitute one fossil fuel for another, if the world continues to use fossil fuels at the current rate, there is enough for about another hundred years, and then it is all gone.

Coal, it appears, is the king of the fossil fuels. It contains 2/3 of the energy of all the fossil fuels, and it only accounts for less than 1/4 of the world's energy use today. Coal was the fuel of choice during the birth of modern industry, and it will be the last one left to power its death - if we go on by "stimulating" the economy we have now.

Of course, in the real world, we will not continue to use fossil fuels at the current rate until suddenly, the supply is zero. The peaceful free-market model says that as the supply of oil shrinks, the price is bid up and the demand shrinks accordingly. With higher prices, people are increasingly motivated to find substitutes, or will have to do without. That's the theory.

The reality is that higher prices for oil will ruin the American economy, if the measure of success or ruin is corporate profits and stock prices. People won't buy new cars, and especially will not buy the poor mileage behemoth SUVs with high profit margins. People won't buy new homes located on former farmland a 45-minute commute away from the city jobs. People won't casually fly to Florida in mid-winter to play a few rounds of golf, and they won't drive their motor homes from Colorado to Lake Superior for a little change of scenery in the summer.

We experienced this during the "oil shocks" of the 1970s. Then the shortage was artificial, and the high prices could not be sustained. In the coming decade, the Bush plan is to keep oil prices artificially low in spite of a real shortage. This "works" only in the sense of making the eventual adjustment abrupt and disruptive to the society.

The short story is, if American consumers start economizing, it will wreck "the economy." Sure, oil companies would make a great profit margin on the oil they would sell, but the hopes and dreams of all the other marketing and manufacturing organizations would be dashed. The real function of oil companies in the American economy is to maintain the technical conditions that allow continued profits and rising stock prices for the rest of the "industries."

As the oil runs out, this is more and more difficult to manage. For some decades, the idea of a "global" economy has been forced on the American

public. Now it appears there is not quite enough oil to go around to keep the global economy growing on the American model. Thus, the Bush regime has switched course from globalism to military occupation of the oil fields of the Middle East. It is supposed to ensure that the oil flows here, at prices that will keep the American consumer from deciding to economize. The intent is to keep at least the American economy running as it is, perhaps at the expense of the global economy.

Well, it's a theory; not provable, but certainly consistent with the facts. It accounts for many of the ways in which Bush has put America in opposition to most of Europe and the United Nations. What is provable is that the global economy and in particular the American economy is not sustainable. The comparison between fuel consumption and reserves demonstrates this mathematically.

The only possible scenarios that could postpone an economic oil crisis by a decade or two would be the discovery of some giant previously unknown oil field or the development of some new technology that is able to get astounding quantities of oil out of previously pumped-out oil fields. On these subjects, we have wandered from the realm of knowledge into the realm of faith. Nobody knows, or can know, how much undiscovered oil is "out there," simply because it is undiscovered.

My guess, for what it is worth, is that there is no huge undiscovered amount. This guess is based on the fact that some very well financed teams of intelligent and educated people have been hunting for oil for the last century, and they have had access to satellite images and other effective technology for some decades. But that is just my guess; you believe what makes sense to you.

I also expect techniques to be developed that might get 10-15% more oil out of fields that were believed to have been pumped dry. These techniques might well require the expenditure of more energy in drilling and pumping, making the oil recovered in that fashion way more expensive to produce than it is in the big fields of the Middle East. Again, it is just my guess, no more provable than any other.

It may be reasonable to expect new oil and new techniques to provide a cushion of 5 to 15 years. Maybe that won't work out any better than the speculation, common wisdom around 1950, that nuclear power would make electricity too cheap to meter. In the event, nuclear power has proven to be one of the most expensive ways to generate electricity. Detroit Edison has not offered to remove any meters.

It is technically possible to create, with known methods, a society adjusted to the end of cheap oil. We need to create (or re-create) communities in which work, shopping, schools and health care are within walking distance of housing; communities in which we do not need to own or even use a car at all. We've seen examples of this type of community in college campuses, small towns, and the occasional urban neighborhood.

**W**e know that gated clusters of condominiums with walking access to nothing more than a golf course, bedroom suburbs in general, and shopping malls with their own freeway exits are examples of the wrong sort of construction, places that will be obsolete as soon as the price of gasoline makes them so. With all the best of today's technology, and all that we can reasonably expect from tomorrow's, rebuilding communities that require much less consumption is the only direction that makes sense.

We could build a society on which the exhaustion of fossil fuel has minimal impact. In a sustainable society, energy will have to be used both sparingly

and efficiently. We need to develop wind power, and solar power, and biomass, and the infrastructure for using hydrogen as a means of storing and transmitting renewable power. We need energy efficient lighting and energy-efficient transportation and energy-efficient everything. An energy-efficient method of doing a hundred-mile daily commute on the freeway is not going to be a sufficient solution to the problem. We have to eliminate the energy wasting practices and the energy wasting institutions in our current society.

The cheap oil is going to run out. Nothing that the Bush regime is doing will prevent that. On the contrary, his policies accelerate the process while doing virtually nothing to prepare for the end result. Apparently, he believes in the Apocalypse, and is doing what he can to bring it on.

We who believe in creating the conditions for a peaceful life on earth have to do what we can to get rid of him and his oil company allies. □

*Art Myatt is an engineer in the solar cell industry and was a candidate for state representative in 2002.*

## **Redefining Abortion as Murder**

**I**f any "born child" is a "legal person with full constitutional and legal rights," and the child is deemed to be "born" as soon as "any portion" of the body of that child has been "passed beyond the plane of the vaginal introitus," then most abortions would be defined as murder. All terminology quoted comes from the text of bills in the Michigan legislature now. These bills intend, apparently, to outlaw most or possibly all abortions by this exercise in definition.

On April 23, 2003, Michigan State Senate Bill 395, sponsored by 20 State Senators, was introduced. On April 30, the identical companion House Bill 4603 followed. It was sponsored by 67 State Representatives. The Senate Bill went to the Committee on Judiciary; The house bill, to the Committee on Family and Children's Services.

Both are entitled, "A bill to define legal

birth and the commencing of legal personhood and rights; and to provide immunity for certain acts." The full text of the bills is available on the web at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>. All sponsoring Senators and Representatives are also listed there. The Republicans dominating both houses of the Legislature, it appears, want to "fast-track" the pair of bills, pushing them onto Granholm's desk as quickly as they can.

Old-time con artists, like the ones shown in the Newman/Redford movie "The Sting," had a term for that stage of their profession when they believed "the mark" (their victim) had been completely convinced by their setup. Then it was time for them to "rip and tear," to show no mercy in taking all the mark's money. Republicans at both the state and national levels now believe it is time for them to rip and tear. Their success depends on our willingness to remain their marks. □

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## February 15 in Lansing

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By John Anthony La Pietra

Where were you on February 15th? I was in Lansing. I gave a ride to a photographer and ex-corporal I'd seen before at St. Philip's Catholic Church – but not really met until the peace vigil.

I parked behind the Capitol, as march organizers said the police had suggested, and we met a carful from Calvin College. We all stopped off in a coffee shop to warm up, then ran to catch a bus to the starting rally ... rather than wait another ten minutes in the cold.

The bus was *full* ... until we got to the Grand River & Abbott stop at the main entrance to the MSU campus – and near the march assembly point at Beaumont Tower field.

I met my Green Party friends outside the Student Union; then I roamed while people fiddled – or talked, or sang, or drummed, or otherwise gathered. *Lots* of people kept gathering – from a range of faiths: *Catholic Worker* Catholics and “sisters” doing it for themselves; Universalist Unitarians and United Methodists, even Pagans for Peace. There were families, veterans, musicians, politically active citizens from Libertarians to Greens ... and media.

The march “stepped off” shortly after 12:30 – to the accompaniment of more drumming and singing, especially “Ain't Gonna Study War No More.” I put in a request to one bunch of singers for “Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream” and sang it with them.

The crowd kept looking bigger and bigger yet as it left campus; I decided to estimate how big. Here's how to do it:

- Get in front of the march. (Easier to get through the crowd if you have a camera, perhaps.)
- Check the time the leading edge of the parade passes by.
- See how fast the rows of people are moving, and how many people are in each row.
- Check the time the trailing edge of the parade passes by, and figure out how long it took for everyone to go past.
- Multiply the number of seconds by the number of people passing by in an average second.
- *Voilà!* You now have an estimate of crowd size.

In our case, the parade took seven minutes to pass by the given point at which I stood, walking about 10 or maybe 12 people a row in the west-bound lanes of Michigan Avenue. 420 seconds x 10 people per row passing by in a second = 4,200 people. 12 people a row would be 5,040 in total. (I don't know

how the official figure got so much lower. Do our officials suffer from innumeracy?)

Letting the whole parade go by also gave me another good look at the variety of people – and of signs. Some signs were variations on a theme: “Axis of Diesel,” “Asses of Evil,” “Axes of Evil” (one for each for several budget cuts). Duct tape didn't go unmentioned, either. But there were others:

- Stop Mad Cowboy Disease
- Real Americans Don't Shoot First
- John Wayne Never Fired the First Shot
- First Strikes Are Murder
- the emperor has no brain
- Strategy: A Dangerous Plan Is Better Than No Plan at All
- Either You Are With Us (Jesus, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr.) or You Are With the Terrorists (Osama, George, Donald, Saddam)
- War Is *So* 20th Century
- Disarmageddon Is Near

There were a very few counter-demonstrators. The police outnumbered them; so did well-wishers waving and/or honking for the march. One counter-sign read: “European / You're a Peon” ... I don't suppose he *meant* to suggest Lincoln's quote: “God must have loved the common people, he made so many of them.”

There were certainly many people, common or uncommon – and many sights to see along the way. Among the watchers were people looking on from a covered walkway over the road, some of them taking photographs and waving as well.

Then, we crossed a bridge when we came to it, and there we were at the Capitol. The crowd bunched up again, filling the steps ... and the whole eastern approach. The drums came out again – and either the Drum Percussion Brigade is normally the size of a regiment or there were a lot of irregulars and volunteers swelling its ranks.

(There were still watchers, too: two figures in white ski-suit-looking outfits up on top of City Hall across the street from the Capitol.)

In one of several welcome speeches, Lansing mayor Tony Benavides expressed his certainty that everyone would agree on “supporting our troops.” That spurred the crowd to a chant on the best way of supporting the individual human beings in the military: “Bring them home!”

First to speak for the marchers was Addie Ulrey of Olivet High School, who designed the “Facing

Iraqis" Plywood for Peace mural that led the march. She reminded the crowd that marches to stop wars, any wars, all wars, were worthwhile, even if they didn't always look like it at the time ... "because one day we will stop the war. And maybe – maybe – it'll be today."

**R**osina Hassoun spoke of her heritage as the child of a Quaker mother and a Palestinian father, told of the Arab American community's "fear that this war will be the end of prospects for peace in the region", and urged Bush to "come out of the bunker and see life on the other side of the duct tape."

Also featured speakers were Joe and Jean Gump, a couple from Kalamazoo who'd been in the peace movement 50 years. They are parents of 12, grandparents of 15, and members of Kalamazoo Non-violent Opponents of War (KNOW). As part of a Voices in the Wilderness delegation, they violated UN/US sanctions and took medicines to Iraq in 1996. Both have done time in Federal prisons for Plow-shares nuclear-disarmament actions on Minuteman II missile silos in Missouri. (As Tom Lehrer once said, "It's people like that who make you feel how little you've accomplished. It is a sobering thought, for instance, that when Mozart was my age he had been dead for two years.")

Then came the party speakers: a letter of support from Ingham County Democrats; a House Republican staff member declaring his opposition to war even if it hurt his political future as a candidate.

And then it was the turn of Michigan Greens chair Marc Reichardt, echoing one of the crowd's earlier chants, "This is what democracy looks like!"

He spoke of the need for people to come together to stop the war, and to succeed in other vital political struggles – for universal health care, real election reform, a fair economy for all. He also reminded the crowd that Greens in Michigan and nationwide are on record many times over as being for peace and justice in dealing with both the people and the nation of Iraq, and opposed to the terrorism of 9-11 as well as the trampling of US rights and the terrorizing Afghani civilian since then.

As the ceremonies wore on, the crowd standing in the snow on the Capitol lawn thinned. A veteran

spoke through her tears about what people would see if their big-screen TVs showed the real image of war and not the sanitized CNN version. A speaker from the MSU Students for Peace and Justice carried on a third generation of protest in the tradition of her parents and grandparents from Vietnam days. A choir sang a medley of "Give Peace a Chance" and "We Shall Overcome." And then came that song I'd never gotten to sing, the one to the tune of *Finlandia*:

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;  
But other lands have sun-light too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine:  
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

**A**fter that, the rest was silence for a moment, and a gentle "Go in peace." Where *I* went was toward City Hall and a comfort station with soup and hot lemonade – served up by 2002 Green Secretary of State candidate Ray Ziarno – and then home. □

*All credit to GLNAWI (the Greater Lansing Network Against War in Iraq, [www.peaceforiraq.org](http://www.peaceforiraq.org)) for organizing this march – and pulling it off.*

*Even the official media reported that there were no incidents, and called it the city's largest protest since the Vietnam War. (I wouldn't know about that; I wasn't here then.) Kudos too for a rally just as big in Detroit and another as spirited in Petoskey ... with Greens in the lead again.*

*What's next? Well, the drumbeats (and plastic-tub beats and giant-can beats) for peace go on.*

*What they are all doing is what we all really need to be doing. In the jargon of the day, they are "pre-positioning" themselves – and us, and our nation, and our world – for peace.*

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

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## Crime and Punishment in a World Gone Mad

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*By Ben Burgis*

Since Bush's war of conquest started, there have been mass demonstrations around the world, in pretty much every country where protest is possible. In San Francisco, thousands of people have been arrested in massive acts of civil disobedience and non-violent confrontation with the powers that be, which is still going on as of this moment. Already it seriously rivals the 1999 "Battle of Seattle" demonstration against global corporate rule in size and scope. In Jordan and Yemen, huge crowds have tried to storm the American embassies even when police and soldiers have tried to beat them back with lethal force.

In at least one military base in the United States, [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com) has reported that base authorities have threatened to "shoot to kill" any protestors that somehow manage to non-violently sneak into the base to do civil disobedience. In New Mexico, hundreds of protestors have trashed one of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's houses. And in the much smaller and more isolated locale of East Lansing, Michigan, once home to the largest SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) chapter in the country, this spring saw its largest act of civil disobedience in a generation. Well over a hundred protestors filled the street in defiance of the laws and ordinances that protect "business as usual" as our armed forces indiscriminately slaughter both the Iraqi soldiers fighting to defend their country from conquest and, worse, the civilian population of Iraq.

A stridently anti-war song recently put out by the Beastie Boys is entitled "In a World Gone Mad." Every day that this criminal war against the people of Iraq goes on, the appropriateness of that slogan is dramatized. If so much human suffering was not taking place, the ironies would almost amount to dark comedy.

Americans are still traumatized by the events of September 11th, 2001, when terrorists whose actions were not supported by any particular nation-state destroyed two buildings full of innocent people. By doing this, they murdered a grand total of 3,000 people. The altered appearance of the New York City sky line is still a source of genuine grief to many Americans and others, and I certainly have no wish to make light of this emotion.

At the same time as some continue to come to grips with this tragedy, our nominal "president," speaking in the name of the American people, has

directed the American armed services to engage in an attack that they call "Shock and Awe." Thousands of missiles are being fired at the city of Baghdad, home to about 5 million people, over half of them under the age of 15. Not two, but rather hundreds of buildings full of innocent people are being demolished.

One TV commentator recently pointed out, with no particular sense of shock or outrage, that the Baghdad sky line, full of skyscrapers that it took the Baath Party government decades to build as part of their efforts to modernize the country, has basically already been flattened. Even the footage that somehow slips into the corporate media looks, as one woman I talked to said, like "ten 9/11's happening at the same time."

Still, if any one is yelling about September 11th at anti-war demonstrations, it is not the demonstrators--who have every right to bring up the obvious comparison, but are generally too classy to do anything that might look like exploiting people's grief to make a political point -- but rather the flag-waving hecklers.

The original justification for our country's current crusade to annihilate Iraq's civilian infrastructure, take away their national self-determination and seize their oil (about 11% of the oil reserves in the entire world) is the possibility that this already impoverished and devastated third world country may someday succeed in developing "weapons of mass destruction."

Or, perhaps, that they are already hiding a stockpile of such weapons. And yet the United States is destroying that country with some of the most advanced weapons known to man, certainly including depleted uranium shells and possibly including some chemical weapons like napalm. Rumsfeld has confirmed that MOAB, which the military refers to informally as the "Mother Of All Bombs," the largest conventional weapon ever built whose effects would be similar to an atomic weapon, is "in the arsenal" of our forces.

Ellie Kennedy, a disabled Gulf War veteran who spoke at the last major rally at our state Capitol, asked her listeners in that speech to envision and work towards the day when "Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush will shake hands, after agreeing to mutual disarmament."

This war is in extreme violation of American and international law. The Constitution requires that any

war be preceded by a declaration from Congress. Bush was exempted from this requirement by Congress. The Constitution demands in Article 3 that a war be in accord with any treaties that we have signed. This means specifically that it must be approved by the United Nations – which it was not – and that it must be in accord with the Geneva Conventions, which our indiscriminate blitz of the civilian population of Iraq totally ignores.

The Nuremberg Tribunal, in which the USA participated, ruled in 1946 that the only difference between an offensive war (i.e., a “first strike”) and other war crimes is that this *is* the first crime that encompasses all the rest. Belgium, which honors the principle of universal jurisdiction for war crimes and crimes against humanity, has allowed Iraqi families to file suit against U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in a Belgian court for war crimes. This prevents him from visiting that country, which inconveniently is where most international institutions are headquartered.

**Y**et when war criminals like President Bush and Secretary of State Powell travel around the United States, they are protected everywhere by small armies of state and local police. These same police, however, arrested 14 peaceful protestors in East Lansing. Those arrested were participating in a non-violent and well-organized demonstration against these war crimes.

This is not intended to lay blame on individual police officials. Rather, it reflects the dangerous irrationality of the system as a whole – from corporate Boards of Directors to the Department of Justice, from the Marines (whose local recruitment office was right down the street) to the East Lansing Police Department that society charges with protecting that office. If any more proof was needed that the Beastie Boys are right in calling this a “world gone mad,” if any more proof was needed that American society in general has gone through the looking glass, this is it.

### **The Action Begins**

Protestors began gathering about 7:45 in the morning in front of the Michigan State University Student Union. They waited there for about an hour, as the numbers grew to something like the critical mass needed to take the streets. At about 9:00, with the efficiency of a military operation, the protest started.

The center of the area in the street – Grand River eastbound, facing the campus rather than westbound facing the downtown business – was secured by

wedging a car belonging to one of the protestors in the middle of the street. Some one looped police-style “caution” tape around the area. About 20 or so of us “locked down” around the car to help delay the eventual crackdown. Sitting on the wet ground, we interlocked our arms and legs with each other to make it as difficult as possible for police to untangle us and drag us away. We had been taught this tactic in a short training session earlier that morning.

About a hundred other protestors, to take the conservative number printed in the corporate media, filled the rest of that section of the street, holding banners saying, “NO BLOOD FOR OIL!” and “RESIST THE WAR/FIGHT THE SYSTEM!” Onlookers immediately gathered around to stare.

Our position, consistent with Nuremberg Principles, was that we cannot have “business as usual” at home as we slaughter Iraqis abroad. Social peace and empire-building must become incompatible in people’s minds – as segregation and social peace were made incompatible by the civil rights movement a generation ago – if the war machine is to be stopped.

It is difficult to imagine what, short of shutting down large segments of society, can even come close to being effective in stopping this unjust war after it has started. The normal routines cannot be allowed to re-start in East Lansing and New York and San Francisco while schools and hospitals are becoming “collateral damage” in Baghdad because we fail to do our part to stop it. People must not be allowed to forget what is going on 24/7 in all of our names.

**W**e sat on the ground, our arms and legs interlocked, and I and my fellow protestors chanted ourselves hoarse. After about 20 minutes I saw the police coming in force. They parked several cars on both sides of the median separating eastbound and westbound Grand River, ironically shutting down traffic that we had left open. From my viewpoint – on the ground looking up at them – the line of policemen moving towards us was terrifying.

Dozens of policemen were moving forward in an organized line, with a demeanor more appropriate for an assault on Saddam Hussein’s compound than for a trivial matter of stopping a civil infraction. They were wearing riot helmets and full gear. Images of every civil rights documentary I had ever seen started flashing through my suddenly panicked head.

Then I thought about Rachel Corrie, the beautiful 23-year old American peace activist who was murdered in Israel the previous week while practicing non-violent civil disobedience in the Gaza

Strip. She was run over by an American-supplied bulldozer twice as she sat down in between it and a Palestinian civilian home targeted for demolition. She knowingly risked her life to answer the call of conscience. And here I was, with cameras rolling everywhere, terrified by this line of police. I knew that as a white American in a comparatively privileged locale, the worst consequences that I will face are a lung full of teargas or pepper spray and a night in the local jail. I knew I might even be able to avoid those outcomes. Pathetic.

It's hard to even guess the numbers of officers they wasted on this. My brother said he counted 30 in the frame of just one picture in the newspaper.

After a period in which the police moved up and started to clear the protestors filling the streets standing up, they started in on those of us down on the ground. The police, more than anything, seemed to want to make a point.

One officer, carried a can of mace that he never used but also never put down during the whole morning. He warned a girl standing at the edge of the car that she would face immediate arrest if she didn't split. She seemed unable to decide what to do – as if she wanted to leave, but she also didn't want to let down the front. We all started yelling to her, "It's OK, you can leave if you want to, we've already done a lot," and things like this. Too lost in his porcine mind-set to notice what we were all saying, the policeman chided us for trying to keep her there. She left, and the police moved on to the next person, who was unwilling to leave.

### **Arrests Made**

They aggressively grabbed several of the protestors, untangled them and carried them away. Some of the people being arrested went limp in the classical manner of the civil rights protests of the '50s and '60s. The police carried them away on stretchers after holding them down on the ground to put plastic handcuffs on their wrists. After each arrest, we all started chanting, "Shame! Shame!" The background music for the tense interludes between arrests was the chant, over and over again, "The world needs us in the streets, we won't back down, we won't retreat!"

When one 16-year-old high school student was arrested in a particularly aggressive-looking way, we chanted the age again and again. After a time, it looked from where I was sitting like the police had given up on warning people one by one. I hadn't seen anything like that for about ten minutes, and I wondered if they were going to conclude that those still locked down around the car were hopeless cases

and just arrest whoever was left.

After talking it over with the people on either side of me and with Amy Field, the driver of the car, I left with their blessing and stood behind the car so I could continue to delay things for as long as possible.

Once they had arrested every one who refused to be kicked out of position, they started clearing out those of us still standing in the road. They wanted to tow Amy's car and re-start eastbound traffic. Some protestors realized that walking on the crosswalk (which was in the middle of the block and had no cross-light) was still legal, especially since there was no automotive traffic. They honored the letter if not the spirit of the law by keeping up a continuous circle of dozens of people crossing back and forth on the crosswalk.

Eventually the police decided that this too was unacceptable, and threatened to arrest any one who continued – resulting in the nasty sight of a black woman being held down on the ground by several angry white cops for the crime of stepping in the crosswalk, even though no traffic was coming.

As Bob Alexander, facilitator of the Michigan Peace Network, pointed out later, it would have been perfectly easy after the caution tape had been cut and traffic was re-routed, for the police to react in a more rational way, the way indeed that they sometimes do. They could have waited a reasonable period of time and maybe negotiated with the protestors to open up one lane while allowing the rally to proceed in the other without inconveniencing any one.

Once traffic finally restarted, we held a rally in the median and on the sidewalks for about an hour. By the end of that time, we had heard that our arrested comrades were being held on a bond of \$500 each, a figure doubtless intended to be impossible for us to pay. Any one who has even glanced at the Eighth Amendment to our constitution should have sharp questions about this figure, but I suppose in the age of Ashcroft that's more or less null and void.

Over the course of the next couple of hours, three people raised bail money. At least one person went around to all of the dormitories at MSU with the simple message that MSU students – among others – had been arrested protesting the war and they needed bail money. The three managed to raise about \$2500.

At 12:30, we held a press conference outside of City Hall, where those arrested were being held.

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# Bush, the War, and the Democrats

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*By Paul Felton  
Detroit Green Party co-chair*

The invasion of Iraq by the United States this past March was shameful. When you add that to the attacks on civil liberties, the war on labor and poor people, the giveaways to corporate America on a scale previously unheard of, I'd have to say George Bush is the worst President we've had in my lifetime.

The events of 9/11 provided the springboard. In the aftermath of 9/11, most Americans rallied round the leader, and looked to George Bush for answers, and for comfort. Many of us were shocked, confused, angry, and somewhat disoriented. We needed someone to trust. And George Bush abused our trust.

What George Bush did, was to take every reactionary idea on his wish list, everything he had kept on the back burner because no sane person would allow him to get away with it, and include it in the package he called the War on Terror. And he sold it to us when we were the most vulnerable. His ideas included taking away our civil liberties, a permanent war footing (with now two wars fought and more very likely to come), huge tax breaks for corporations while workers face layoffs and concessions, and a phony kind of patriotism that makes it difficult to question any of this while we glorify our military triumphs.

Yes, Bush is a horrible President, from the standpoint of anyone who cares about peace, about social justice, about humanity, about any of the Green Party's values. And recently, calls have come from Ronnie Dugger, the Alliance for Democracy, and from some elements of the peace movement, for the Green Party not to run a candidate for President next time around, because we've got to defeat Bush and the Democrats offer the only chance to do that. They say anyone would be better than Bush. I disagree. And the reasons why I disagree start with an analysis of the antiwar movement.

## **The Antiwar Movement**

In the 6 months leading up to the war, we built a movement that we can be proud of. I heard one estimate that 10 million people marched worldwide against the impending war. And in the heartland of America, these demonstrations occurred not just in the usual places (N.Y., San Francisco, Washington, and college towns like Ann Arbor), but also in towns and cities that were untouched by previous antiwar

movements. Close to 150 City Councils passed resolutions opposing the war. Churches of almost every denomination came out against the war. Generals who fought the last war spoke out against it. In spite of nothing but pro-war propaganda from the media, the polls showed the American people deeply divided.

Our movement was almost strong enough to stop this awful war from ever taking place. Only one critical element was missing: an opposition party in Congress willing to stand up and cry out that this war is wrong!!!!

To put this in perspective, I'll ask you to imagine what could have happened if the Democrats in Congress had taken a strong stand. I'm not talking about the handful of people who did speak out; I'm talking about the party as a whole. Imagine more than 200 of them holding press conferences, making speeches, stumping the country in an all-out effort to stop this war before it ever got off the ground. Imagine the Democrats making "Stop the War" the battle cry of the Congressional elections last November.

The media coverage would have had to change, and a real debate over a major issue between the two major parties would have been a newsworthy story to cover. And considering that the polls already showed the country divided on this issue, vigorous debate from the Democrats would have boosted sentiment against the war. The opinion polls would have swung sharply in our direction. I believe you would have seen cracks within the Republican ranks, and Bush would have had to back down (perhaps by declaring that Saddam had disarmed and declaring "victory"). Yes, if only the Democrats had taken a stand for peace.

Now, back to the real world. I did not write the preceding paragraph from the point of view from someone who had high hopes for the Democrats and is now disillusioned. The Democrats are what they are: a corporate-dominated party, a little less extreme than the Republicans, devoid of principles. They have a handful of progressives at the grass roots level who have no influence on party policy. They would like to convince us that joining them in their futile efforts to transform the Democratic Party is an effective way to change our society.

I wrote the preceding paragraph because it is what I say to people who say that Bush is so bad that we have to support the Democrats. The Democrats

could have stopped this war, but they allowed it to happen. They will not get my support.

### **A Critical Period**

The six months leading up to the war was a critical period in American politics. There was a real chance to challenge the direction Bush was taking our country. The near-hysterical atmosphere following 9/11 had died down. People were willing to look critically at George Bush again.

While I opposed the war in Afghanistan, which I think had more to do with getting us an oil pipeline than with fighting terrorism, I understand that it would have been hard for the Democrats to challenge that war. And maybe I'll give the Democrats a pass for not challenging the overall direction of Bush's phony War on Terror from the outset. (I'm being a little generous here.)

But a year after 9/11, when Bush started gearing up for war in Iraq, there was a golden opportunity to turn American politics around. Bush was fighting world opinion, and much of the American public, but he was determined to go through with this unprovoked invasion.

Had there been a progressive opposition party in

Congress, it could not only have stopped the war, it could have challenged everything else Bush included in the package he called the War on Terror. It could have connected with a movement to change the domestic priorities to put people first and corporate interests last. The opportunity was missed, and it is a mistake, but no accident. As I said, the Democrats are what they are.

### **2004**

So where does this leave us for 2004? Obviously, the Green Party should reject any pleas from progressive Democrats to bow out of the race so we can help them defeat Bush. This would amount to rewarding the Party that sat back and permitted this atrocity to occur. I, for one, am not going to vote for somebody that is "not quite as bad as Bush."

Show me a party that is willing to stand up to Bush, to oppose his warmongering, his attacks on civil liberties, and his inhumane domestic priorities across the board. Today, there is only one party that fits that description. The Green Party must compete in the 2004 elections, because only by building and growing a Party that really stands for something will we ever change the direction of American politics. □

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Amazingly, the press actually came. A speaker from the radical Direct Action movement which had been deeply involved in organizing the protest, made the necessary points about the bail. He also said that the anti-war movement will keep this sort of thing up until this insane criminal war is over.

### **Protestors Arraigned and Released**

Later that afternoon, we all trucked into the courthouse for the arraignment. The lawyer that the Peace Education Center had found for 13 of them, (the minor having been arraigned separately) was wearing "office casual" clothes. Obviously he had no idea that he would have to be in court that day. The courtroom was so packed with supporters (the only observers there), that some had to be kept outside because of the fire code restrictions on occupancy.

The police had compounded the minor civil infraction of blocking traffic with misdemeanor charges like "disorderly conduct" to justify keeping them in jail. None the less, the judge was much more rational and level-headed than the police. Instead of taking the city lawyer's argument that they might just go out and do the same thing again very seriously, he realized what a waste of city resources all this was

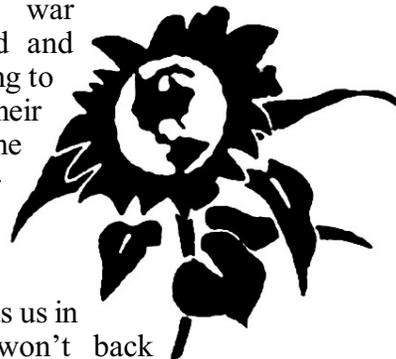
and decided to release them all on personal

recognizance. This meant that they didn't have to pay the bond unless they are absent from the court date. It required only their word that they would not block traffic in East Lansing in the meantime.

The arrestees were back on the street. They were greeted by comrades outside – happy to be given something to celebrate momentarily even in the middle of "Shock and Awe."

We protested the war again today, and we doubtless will again tomorrow. And the next day and the next. Every day until this war is ended and we come closer to a saner world. A world in which war criminals are jailed and those who are willing to risk arrest alerting their fellow citizens to the atrocities are celebrated as the heroes that they are.

The world needs us in the streets. We won't back down. We won't retreat. □



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## Say "NO" to Joe

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*By Douglas Campbell  
Oakland Greens*

Ronnie Dugger says I need to abandon my progressive populist optimism, let cynicism prevail, and vote Democratic because it's so important to remove George Duhbbya.

I'm growing weary of being told how to vote, particularly when the candidate is indifferent or hostile to my agenda.

I'm going on record. I will not vote for Joe Lieberman. Period.

I'm not falling for that old con game again. "He's not as bad as the Republican and he's the only hope we have of opposing the Republicans."

Sorry. Joe Lieberman isn't "not as bad" enough and doesn't "oppose the Republicans" enough to earn my vote.

Joe Lieberman supports Duhbbya's military adventures. (S.J.Res. 23) He voted for \$5 billion in corporate welfare for the airlines. (S. 1450) He voted for the PATRIOT act and to use NRLB funds for unfair labor practices. (S.Amdt. 2074) He supports NAFTA, GATT, FTAA, the WTO and fast-track. In an economy plagued with excess production capacity and diminishing purchasing power among the middle and working classes, he supports subsidizing capital investment. He supports reducing the estate tax, Duhbbya's unconstitutional religious subsidies, (faith-based initiatives) opposes gay & lesbian rights, (voted for DOMA) opposes a reporting requirement for corporate stock options, accepted campaign cash from Enron and other corporations & PACs, and is inconsistent on school vouchers, giving Social Security funds to Wall Street, and Affirmative Action.

In the first session last year, Joe Lieberman voted to confirm Duhbbya appointees Frederick J. Martone, John D. Bates, Harris L. Hartz, Edith Brown Clement, Larry R. Hicks, Claire V. Eagan, Laurie Smith Camp, Karen K. Caldwell, James H. Payne, Terry L. Wooten, Stephen P. Friot, Karon O. Bowdre, M. Christina Armijo, Larry R. Hicks, Claire V. Eagan, Laurie Smith Camp, Karen K. Caldwell, James H. Payne, Michael P. Mills, Barrington D. Parker, Kirk Van Tine, Reggie B. Walton, Sharon Prost, Robert S. Mueller III, Sarah V. Hart, William J. Riley, Asa Hutchinson, Richard F. Cebull, Sam E. Haddon, Roger L. Gregory, Roger Walton Ferguson Jr, Michael Chertoff, Viet D. Dinh, Howard H. Baker Jr, John Robert Bolton, John M. Duncan, Joe

M. Allbaugh, Robert B. Zoellick, Christine Todd Whitman, Norman Mineta, Tommy Thompson, Melquiades Rafael Martinez, Anthony Joseph Principi and Mitchell E. Daniels Jr while rejecting only John Graham, Theodore Bevy Olson, John Ashcroft and Gale Ann Norton.

Frankly, I expect a little more opposition from "opposition" parties.

Don't misquote me, as Greens are so often misquoted, as saying there's no difference between Republicrats and Republicrats. Of course there are differences. Duhbbya's cuter and Lieberman's more articulate. (then again, so is Alf)

But like asking whether I'd rather dine on sand or sewage, the differences don't matter. Neither one measures up.

I hear the howls already: "Be pragmatic. Balance your short-term goals against your long-term goals."

That's precisely what I'm doing.

There are four ways to remove someone from the White House. Death, impeachment, term limits, and elections.

I'm not going to touch the first one, except maybe to lament that we didn't have bigger pretzels.

Impeachment seems overdue. If a President can be impeached for getting a little nookie-nookie, then why can't a White House resident be impeached for well-documented high crimes and misdemeanors? Trouble is, impeachment takes an act of Congress, and last I checked, I could count the representatives advocating impeachment with my shoes on. Didn't America once have an opposition party?

Term limits are probably effective, if you're not in a hurry. There's a pretty good chance that, come 2008, Duhbbya's out.

Now let's be pragmatic about the 2004 election. Election and campaign finance laws being what they are, either a Republican or Democrat is going to win presidential elections for the foreseeable future. The Duhbbya regime is incredibly popular with the folks who control the media; the Republicans are going to have the campaign cash advantage; (especially if they push gasoline back over the \$2 mark, as they did to finance the 2000 elections) the Democrats don't have a credible or charismatic candidate who the big-money campaign bankrollers will support; and Duhbbya's going to be elected in a cakewalk.

Why should I consider even voting for someone who doesn't have a chance of winning and who doesn't support me anyway?

Which brings me around to election reform.

Why should voters be coerced into voting for a candidate they don't really support by an election system they don't really support?

I am not alone among Nader/LaDuke voters who would never have voted for Gore/Lieberman. Quite the contrary; there were millions of Gore/Lieberman voters who preferred Nader/LaDuke but voted for an apparent lesser evil because they know the system's rigged in favor of Republicans & Democrats.

If we had Instant Runoff Voting; if I had the option of voting for my favored candidate and an alternate lesser-of-evils fallback candidate, I might have voted for Gore as my second choice. (or third)

But we don't.

Last November, Maine elected Green Party candidate Johnathan Eder to the state legislature, the first Green elected to a state legislature.

On April 14th, by a vote of 127-7, the Democrats & Republicans in the Maine statehouse adopted a

redistricting plan that reallocates the nation's first Green Party state legislative district to two incumbent Democrats, diluting and dividing Eder's support base to undermine his chance of re-election, even gerrymandering the district boundaries to assure that Eder no longer resides in the district he currently represents.

I will not forget the Maine Spirit of Cooperation when Democrats urge me to coalesce behind Democrats "for the greater good."

On November 2, I'm voting for a candidate who articulates a progressive agenda and actually opposes the Duhbbya regime.

You want my vote, you be that candidate. □

*Douglas Campbell is a political activist in Ferndale, Michigan and was the Green Party's first candidate for Governor of Michigan in 2002. His will requests that he be buried in Chicago so that he can remain politically active.*

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# When Democracy Failed: The Warnings of History

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*By Thom Hartmann*

The 70th anniversary wasn't noticed in the United States, and was barely reported in the corporate media. But the Germans remembered well that fateful day seventy years ago – February 27, 1933. They commemorated the anniversary by joining in demonstrations for peace that mobilized citizens all across the world.

It started when the government, in the midst of a worldwide economic crisis, received reports of an imminent terrorist attack. A foreign ideologue had launched feeble attacks on a few famous buildings, but the media largely ignored his relatively small efforts. The intelligence services knew, however, that the odds were he would eventually succeed. (Historians are still arguing whether or not rogue elements in the intelligence service helped the terrorist; the most recent research implies they did not.)

*Within four weeks of the terrorist attack, the nation's now-popular leader had pushed through legislation – in the name of combating terrorism and fighting the philosophy he said spawned it – that suspended constitutional guarantees of free speech, privacy, and habeas corpus.*

But the warnings of investigators were ignored at the highest levels, in part because the government was distracted; the man who claimed to be the nation's leader had not been elected by a majority vote and the majority of citizens claimed he had no right to the powers he coveted. He was a simpleton, some said, a cartoon character of a man who saw things in black-and-white terms and didn't have the intellect to understand the subtleties of running a nation in a complex and internationalist world. His coarse use of language – reflecting his political roots in a southernmost state – and his simplistic and often-inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric offended the aristocrats, foreign leaders, and the well-educated elite in the government and media. And, as a young man, he'd joined a secret society with an occult-sounding name and bizarre initiation rituals

that involved skulls and human bones.

Nonetheless, he knew the terrorist was going to strike (although he didn't know where or when), and he had already considered his response. When an aide brought him word that the nation's most prestigious building was ablaze, he verified it was the terrorist who had struck and then rushed to the scene and called a press conference.

“You are now witnessing the beginning of a great epoch in history,” he proclaimed, standing in front of the burned-out building, surrounded by national media. “This fire,” he said, his voice trembling with emotion, “is the beginning.” He used the occasion – “a sign from God,” he called it – to declare an all-out war on terrorism and its ideological sponsors, a people, he said, who traced their origins to the Middle East and found motivation for their evil deeds in their religion.

Two weeks later, the first detention center for terrorists was built in Oranianberg to hold the first suspected allies of the infamous terrorist. In a national outburst of patriotism, the leader's flag was everywhere, even printed large in newspapers suitable for window display.

Within four weeks of the terrorist attack, the nation's now-popular leader had pushed through legislation – in the name of combating terrorism and fighting the philosophy he said spawned it – that suspended constitutional guarantees of free speech, privacy, and habeas corpus. Police could now intercept mail and wiretap phones; suspected terrorists could be imprisoned without specific charges and without access to their lawyers; police could sneak into people's homes without warrants if the cases involved terrorism.

To get his patriotic “Decree on the Protection of People and State” passed over the objections of concerned legislators and civil libertarians, he agreed to put a 4-year sunset provision on it: if the national emergency provoked by the terrorist attack was over by then, the freedoms and rights would be returned to the people, and the police agencies would be re-restrained. Legislators would later say they had not had time to read the bill before voting on it.

Immediately after passage of the anti-terrorism act, his federal police agencies stepped up their program of arresting suspicious persons and holding them without access to lawyers or courts. In the first year only a few hundred were interred, and those who objected were largely ignored by the mainstream

press, which was afraid to offend and thus lose access to a leader with such high popularity ratings. Citizens who protested the leader in public – and there were many – quickly found themselves confronting the newly empowered police's batons, gas, and jail cells, or fenced off in protest zones safely out of earshot of the leader's public speeches. (In the meantime, he was taking almost daily lessons in public speaking, learning to control his tonality, gestures, and facial expressions. He became a very competent orator.)

Within the first months after that terrorist attack, at the suggestion of a political advisor, he brought a formerly obscure word into common usage. He wanted to stir a “racial pride” among his countrymen, so, instead of referring to the nation by its name, he began to refer to it as “The Homeland,” a phrase publicly promoted in the introduction to a 1934 speech recorded in Leni Riefenstahl's famous propaganda movie “Triumph Of The Will.” As hoped, people's hearts swelled with pride, and the beginning of an us-versus-them mentality was sewn. Our land was “the” homeland, citizens thought: all others were simply foreign lands. We are the “true people,” he suggested, the only ones worthy of our nation's concern; if bombs fall on others, or human rights are violated in other nations and it makes our lives better, it's of little concern to us.

Playing on this new nationalism, and exploiting a disagreement with the French over his increasing militarism, he argued that any international body that didn't act first and foremost in the best interest of his own nation was neither relevant nor useful. He thus withdrew his country from the League Of Nations in October, 1933, and then negotiated a separate naval armaments agreement with Anthony Eden of The United Kingdom to create a worldwide military ruling elite.

His propaganda minister orchestrated a campaign to ensure the people that he was a deeply religious man and that his motivations were rooted in Christianity. He even proclaimed the need for a revival of the Christian faith across his nation, what he called a “New Christianity.” Every man in his rapidly growing army wore a belt buckle that declared “Gott Mit Uns” – God Is With Us – and most of them fervently believed it was true.

Within a year of the terrorist attack, the nation's leader determined that the various local police and federal agencies around the nation were lacking the clear communication and overall coordinated administration necessary to deal with the terrorist threat facing the nation, particularly those citizens

who were of Middle Eastern ancestry and thus probably terrorist and communist sympathizers, and various troublesome “intellectuals” and “liberals.” He proposed a single new national agency to protect the security of the homeland, consolidating the actions of dozens of previously independent police, border, and investigative agencies under a single leader.

He appointed one of his most trusted associates to be leader of this new agency, the Central Security Office for the homeland, and gave it a role in the government equal to the other major departments.

His assistant who dealt with the press noted that, since the terrorist attack, “Radio and press are at our disposal.” Those voices questioning the legitimacy of their nation's leader, or raising questions about his checkered past, had by now faded from the public's recollection as his central security office began advertising a program encouraging people to phone in tips about suspicious neighbors. This program was so successful that the names of some of the people “denounced” were soon being broadcast on radio stations. Those denounced often included opposition politicians and celebrities who dared speak out – a favorite target of his regime and the media he now controlled through intimidation and ownership by corporate allies.

*“... fas-cism (fash'iz'em) n. A system of government that exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, typically through the merging of state and business leadership, together with belligerent nationalism.”*

To consolidate his power, he concluded that government alone wasn't enough. He reached out to industry and forged an alliance, bringing former executives of the nation's largest corporations into high government positions. A flood of government money poured into corporate coffers to fight the war against the Middle Eastern ancestry terrorists lurking within the homeland, and to prepare for wars overseas. He encouraged large corporations friendly to him to acquire media outlets and other industrial concerns across the nation, particularly those previously owned by suspicious people of Middle Eastern ancestry. He built powerful alliances with industry; one corporate ally got the lucrative contract worth millions to build the first large-scale detention center for enemies of the state. Soon more would follow. Industry flourished.

But after an interval of peace following the terrorist attack, voices of dissent again arose within and without the government. Students had started an active program opposing him (later known as the White Rose Society), and leaders of nearby nations were speaking out against his bellicose rhetoric. He needed a diversion, something to direct people away from the corporate cronyism being exposed in his own government, questions of his possibly illegitimate rise to power, and the oft-voiced concerns of civil libertarians about the people being held in detention without due process or access to attorneys or family.

With his number two man – a master at manipulating the media – he began a campaign to convince the people of the nation that a small, limited war was necessary. Another nation was harboring many of the suspicious Middle Eastern people, and even though its connection with the terrorist who had set afire the nation's most important building was tenuous at best, it held resources their nation badly needed if they were to have room to live and maintain their prosperity. He called a press conference and publicly delivered an ultimatum to the leader of the other nation, provoking an international uproar. He claimed the right to strike preemptively in self-defense, and nations across Europe – at first – denounced him for it, pointing out that it was a doctrine only claimed in the past by nations seeking worldwide empire, like Caesar's Rome or Alexander's Greece.

It took a few months, and intense international debate and lobbying with European nations, but, after he personally met with the leader of the United Kingdom, finally a deal was struck. After the military action began, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told the nervous British people that giving in to this leader's new first-strike doctrine would bring “peace for our time.” Thus Hitler annexed Austria in a lightning move, riding a wave of popular support as leaders so often do in times of war. The Austrian government was unseated and replaced by a new leadership friendly to Germany, and German corporations began to take over Austrian resources.

In a speech responding to critics of the invasion, Hitler said, “Certain foreign newspapers have said that we fell on Austria with brutal methods. I can only say; even in death they cannot stop lying. I have in the course of my political struggle won much love from my people, but when I crossed the former frontier [into Austria] there met me such a stream of love as I have never experienced. Not as tyrants have we come, but as liberators.”

To deal with those who dissented from his policies, at the advice of his politically savvy advisors, he and his handmaidens in the press began a campaign to equate him and his policies with patriotism and the nation itself. National unity was essential, they said, to ensure that the terrorists or their sponsors didn't think they'd succeeded in splitting the nation or weakening its will. In times of war, they said, there could be only “one people, one nation, and one commander-in-chief” (“Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Fuhrer”), and so his advocates in the media began a nationwide campaign charging that critics of his policies were attacking the nation itself. Those questioning him were labeled “anti-German” or “not good Germans,” and it was suggested they were aiding the enemies of the state by failing in the patriotic necessity of supporting the nation's valiant men in uniform. It was one of his most effective ways to stifle dissent and pit wage-earning people (from whom most of the army came) against the “intellectuals and liberals” who were critical of his policies.

Nonetheless, once the “small war” annexation of Austria was successfully and quickly completed, and peace returned, voices of opposition were again raised in the Homeland. The almost-daily release of news bulletins about the dangers of terrorist communist cells wasn't enough to rouse the populace and totally suppress dissent. A full-out war was necessary to divert public attention from the growing rumbles within the country about disappearing dissidents; violence against liberals, Jews, and union leaders; and the epidemic of crony capitalism that was producing empires of wealth in the corporate sector but threatening the middle class's way of life.

A year later, to the week, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia; the nation was now fully at war, and all internal dissent was suppressed in the name of national security. It was the end of Germany's first experiment with democracy.

As we conclude this review of history, there are a few milestones worth remembering.

February 27, 2003, was the 70th anniversary of Dutch terrorist Marinus van der Lubbe's successful firebombing of the German Parliament (Reichstag) building, the terrorist act that catapulted Hitler to legitimacy and reshaped the German constitution. By the time of his successful and brief action to seize Austria, in which almost no German blood was shed, Hitler was the most beloved and popular leader in the history of his nation. Hailed around the world, he was later Time magazine's “Man Of The Year.”

Most Americans remember his office for the

security of the homeland, known as the Reichssicherheitshauptamt and its SchutzStaffel, simply by its most famous agency's initials: the SS.

We also remember that the Germans developed a new form of highly violent warfare they named "lightning war" or blitzkrieg, which, while generating devastating civilian losses, also produced a highly desirable "shock and awe" among the nation's leadership according to the authors of the 1996 book "Shock And Awe" published by the National Defense University Press.

Reflecting on that time, The American Heritage Dictionary (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983) left us this definition of the form of government the German democracy had become through Hitler's close alliance with the largest German corporations and his policy of using war as a tool to keep power: "fas-cism (fash'iz'em) n. A system of government that exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, typically through the merging of state and business leadership, together with belligerent nationalism."

Today, as we face financial and political crises, it's useful to remember that the ravages of the Great Depression hit Germany and the United States alike. Through the 1930s, however, Hitler and Roosevelt chose very different courses to bring their nations

back to power and prosperity.

Germany's response was to use government to empower corporations and reward the society's richest individuals, privatize much of the commons, stifle dissent, strip people of constitutional rights, and create an illusion of prosperity through continual and ever-expanding war. America passed minimum wage laws to raise the middle class, enforced anti-trust laws to diminish the power of corporations, increased taxes on corporations and the wealthiest individuals, created Social Security, and became the employer of last resort through programs to build national infrastructure, promote the arts, and replant forests.

To the extent that our Constitution is still intact, the choice is again ours. □

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*Thom Hartmann lived and worked in Germany during the 1980s, and is the author of over a dozen books, including "Unequal Protection" and "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight." This article is copyright by Thom Hartmann, but permission is granted for reprint in print, email, blog, or web media so long as this credit is attached.*

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... Continued from page 12

Communism, and it was capitalism that gave us cars, TVs, Mix Masters and central heating. Capitalism was the cornucopia of abundance and freedom. As a country we have abandoned ideals and ethics and Democracy as "inefficient" and "cumbersome" and time-consuming. Embracing the corporate line, our cities and counties and leaders have put their faith in the Manifest Destiny of "that which profits is good;" the Market is God

The far right Heritage Foundation and friends see all government interference as bad. (Except where it supports militarization and subsidies). They have been very successful at convincing Americans that government is evil, wasteful, unnecessary etc.

The ever vibrant battle cry is "**Cut Taxes,**" and laborers struggling under bare need incomes, yearn for the dollars that could pay for piano lessons, or prescriptions, or education. But the question is not, and has never been about the necessity of taxes. Roads, sewers, marinas, schools, libraries, medical programs, the public services we take so for granted, are funded by taxes. In reality, the goal of corporations is to eliminate government intervention (labor rights, environmental standards etc.), so they

can exploit the world unencumbered.

We must begin to cry out loudly for justice, peace, equality, a living wage, the right to clean water, the right to be secure, the right to health and medicine. Because war is the greatest waste, the greatest destroyer of life and resources, our main goal today must be to oppose war, but it is essential that we understand the driving forces behind war.

The beginning of victory of the elite, is for the people to embrace their language and embrace the replacement of ethics with economics. We must reject it. "Fiscal responsibility" is worthless if children languish without hope in ghettos, rich and poor. "Growth" of GNP and GDP is of no value if the rivers are polluted and the forests die under a haze of acid rain. "Fiscal responsibility" is shallow and meaningless if it leads to loss of parks, social programs, loss of natural resources, loss of health care and a bankrupted State. Real fiscal responsibility looks beyond immediate short term profits to the health of our communities, our state and our nation.

There is a higher good than "profit" and that higher good is Democracy and its great pillars of Justice, Equality, Freedom, Peace and the healing of the Earth. □

# 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 logist-ically 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 fami-lies, 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.

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# GPMI 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)*

## 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 Pembridge Ct.  
Detroit, MI 48207

(313) 393-9329

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

215 Exchange St.,  
Marshall, MI 49068  
(800) 630-1330 (Washington, DC)

### **Gray Panthers**

P. O. Box 37033  
Oak Park, MI 48327  
(248) 549-5170, or (248) 669-6343

### **Green House – Detroit**

22757 Woodward, Suite 210

P. O. Box 20076  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
(248) 336-9241

[jamrag@glis.net](mailto:jamrag@glis.net)

### **Jobs with Justice**

600 W. Lafayette  
Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 961-0800 (313) 961-9776  
(fax)  
[Semichjwj1@aol.com](mailto:Semichjwj1@aol.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

# **Amber Waves of Green**

Green Party of Michigan

548 S. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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