

Amber Waves of Green

The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan Volume 6, No. 2 Elections 2004



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**Focus on elections – GPMI convention in Traverse City –
Caucuses around Michigan – USGP convention in
Milwaukee – Candidate statements – and more ...**

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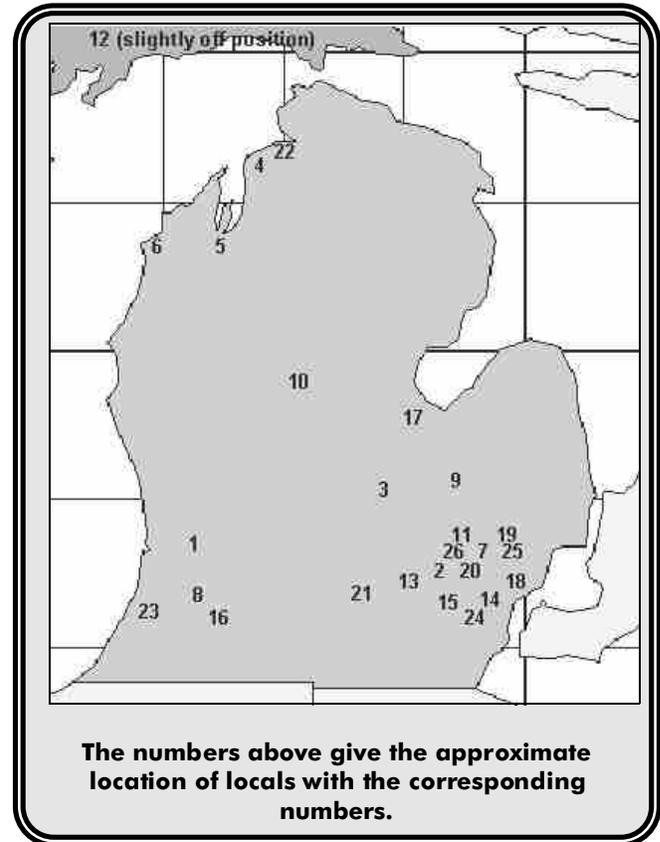
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The Voice of the Green Party of Michigan

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40 Candidates in the GPMI Column – A New Record

Michigan's November 2, 2004 general-election ballot should have 42 candidates on it from the Green Party of Michigan – 40 running as Greens, and two in non-partisan races. This is a new record, breaking the total of 33 Green candidates in 2002.

Conventions: The Top of the Ticket – and More

GPMI put 11 people on the November 2 ballot – and laid the groundwork for more, including a Presidential ticket – at its state convention May 22-23 at Eagles Ridge Conference Center in Peshawbestown north of Traverse City.

Four of the Greens nominated at the state convention are running for seats in Congress, and one Green each for the State Board of Education and the three major university boards. Two Green candidates were nominated for state representative, and one for county commissioner.

The convention also commended ten Green candidates to their county parties, and endorsed two Greens running in non-partisan races.

Greens also heard from attorney Jim Olson, who helped Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation win an injunction to stop Néstlé's Ice Mountain water extraction and bottling plant in Mecosta County, on how the case will affect the future of water as a public trust.

And GPMI voted to give its delegation to the national convention (June 23-28 in Milwaukee) flexibility in considering the results of a Presidential-preference straw poll ... and taking appropriate action if Greens nationwide do not either nominate or endorse a Presidential ticket.

Green Candidates for Everyone in Michigan

Green Congressional candidates from the convention span the state:

- David Newland of Bellaire is running in the 1st District, which includes all of the Upper Peninsula and 15½ counties in northern lower Michigan.
- Harley Mikkelson of Caro will again campaign for the 5th District seat, which serves Genesee and Tuscola Counties and parts of Saginaw and Bay Counties as well.
- Randall MacPhee of Schoolcraft is running to represent the southwest corner of the state as the 6th District's member of Congress.
- And Jason Seagraves of Adrian – and formerly of

the Democratic Party – is now the Green candidate for the 7th Congressional District in south central Michigan.

And voters all over the state have four Greens to consider for offices involving education:

- Peter Ponzetti, III of Kalamazoo started campaigning 1st November for a seat on the State Board of Education.
- Nathaniel Damren of Ann Arbor is running to join the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan.
- Ben Burgis of East Lansing is Damren's counterpart candidate, campaigning for a seat on the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.
- And Margaret Guttshall of Detroit is running close to home, too – for the Board of Governors of Wayne State University.

To this “hometown team” could be added Jason Glover of Traverse City, whose candidacy for the non-partisan Northwest Michigan College Board of Trustees was endorsed. All these candidates were approved by consensus, as were three more:

- Robbie Kull of Monroe won the GPMI's approval to run for the 56th District seat in the Michigan House of Representatives – serving Monroe County (where no caucus is scheduled).
- Similarly, Jessie Olson of South Haven was nominated for the District 1 seat on the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners.
- And Rebekah Mikkelson of Caro, Harley's daughter, was nominated from the floor for the 84th State House seat – serving both Huron and Tuscola Counties.

Olson: “Give Water a Voice”

Olson admitted he was preaching to the choir when speaking to Greens about the importance of giving water a voice. But he added that the voice needs to go beyond Greens – beyond Republicans and Democrats, as well – until everyone hears and understands that water is not a resource, but a commons.

Olson praised Judge Lawrence Root for deciding the *MCWC v. Néstlé* case on the basis of Michigan common law – which can't be overturned without revoking statehood – and called on Governor Granholm and state legislators to write new state laws identifying and protecting water as a public trust.

Olson's words were echoed by both Greens

running for re-election this year, Jim Moreno of the non-partisan Mount Pleasant City Commission and Jo Anne Bier Beemon, Drain Commissioner for Charlevoix County. Both have joined MCWC and the Sweetwater Alliance in protests against Ice Mountain. Beemon remarked: "Water is life – and every person is entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Olson quoted the Polish poet laureate Wislawa Szymborska – "A drop of water fell on my hand, / drawn from the Ganges and the Nile. . . ." – and concluded, "We hope people in the future can say the same of the Great Lakes – and that that's the only water diverted from them."

Preparations for a Presidential Ticket

The party confirmed an equal balance of men and women in its delegation to next month's GPUS national nominating convention in Milwaukee – and selected a slate of Presidential electors with nine men and eight women.

Michigan Greens had twice before declared strong support for running a Green Presidential ticket this year. At the convention, they decided to give the delegation guidance and flexibility in helping decide who would appear at the top of the Green column on this year's ballots.

The convention authorized GPMI's 32 delegates and 18 alternates to take action in Milwaukee if the national convention ended without a Presidential nomination or endorsement. There was also a straw poll, in which almost half the vote went to attorney David Cobb; nearly ¼ to Ralph Nader; and over 15% to favorite-daughter and -son candidates Jo Anne Bier Beemon and Harley Mikkelson. About 13% voted to have the delegates go into the convention uncommitted.

Campaign treasurer Dean Myerson spoke for Cobb; rival Kent Mesplay sent a statement to be read at the convention. GPMI members spoke to support preferred candidates – or tell what they knew about candidates with no backers present.

If the delegation voted in the same proportions as the straw poll, Cobb would get 16 votes on the first ballot in Milwaukee, Nader seven, Beemon four, and Mikkelson one. The remaining four votes would be uncommitted.

Michigan Greens also passed a resolution opposing the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, and answered an appeal to help bring to the national convention leading figures of the worldwide Green Party and movement – including:

- Ane Aadland, one of the founders of the Green

Party of Norway;

- Edward Martín Salazar Cruz, president of Nicaragua's Green Party (which GPMI and long-time member Steve Herrick helped to take root); and
- Juan Carlos Lecompte, the husband of kidnapped Colombian Green Party Presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt.

And they heard from another nation when the Medicine Lodge Singers of Peshawbestown came to sing a traditional Native American honor song and a song for veterans – including about a dozen Greens, and at least three candidates.

Cobb, LaMarche on Green Ticket Brought Home from Milwaukee

The GPMI delegation went to Milwaukee June 23-28 for a spirited national convention which nominated home-grown party organizer David Cobb of Texas and California for President, and single mother turned radio host and Maine gubernatorial candidate Patricia LaMarche for Vice President.

Cobb and LaMarche won on the second ballot with 53% of the delegates, to 40% for supporters of a national endorsement (not a nomination) of Ralph Nader and his running mate, progressive financier and two-time Green candidate for California governor Peter Camejo.

Turtle Island Institute founder Kent Mesplay was third with 5½%, and Michigan favorite-daughter candidate Jo Anne Bier Beemon fourth at 1%.

Nader, Camejo, and three other candidates who had run largely as Nader stand-ins were eliminated after the first ballot because they did not agree to run as the Green Presidential candidate on all state ballots across the country if nominated.

Michigan Greens backed Beemon strongly on the first ballot, giving her 13 of their 32 delegate votes to 10 for the Nader/Camejo ticket, eight for Cobb, and one for Mesplay. On the second ballot, the Nader position of "No Nominee" got 14 votes from Michigan, Cobb 11, Beemon six, and Mesplay one.

Beemon's strong convention speech drew support from other states as well. She got one of her 14 first-ballot votes from Tennessee, and two votes of her second-ballot total of eight from New York.

Still, as she told a reporter from home, "The real thrill for me was to be able to stand up in front of 1,000 people and talk about the beauty of the Jordan River Valley and the hard-working, grassroots environmental movements that are working to protect the natural resources of northern Michigan."

The competition for delegates was fierce, with
40 candidates continued on page 22 ...

Forward 2004

By Ted Glick

The Green Party of the United States took a huge step forward on Saturday, June 26th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And it wasn't because the assembled delegates nominated someone, David Cobb, for President.

It was because of HOW it was done.

Going into the convention there was deep concern on the part of many Greens around the country about what was going to happen. For a year or longer there has been a sometimes-bitter internal debate about what should be done as far as "the presidential question." The perceived threat of an emboldened, second Bush administration has led some to work for Dennis Kucinich. A small group is now working for Kerry, although it is a very small group. Some have said that they will be voting for Kerry and are urging others to do the same.

The three main positions going into Milwaukee were to neither nominate nor endorse anyone, to nominate former GPUS general counsel David Cobb, or to nominate no one and then endorse Ralph Nader. A variant of the pro-Nader position, one pushed by California GP leader Peter Camejo, called for no nomination and then an endorsement of both Cobb and Nader.

A nominated candidate would get the Green Party ballot line in 22 states and Washington, D.C. An endorsed candidate would get some measure of political support but not necessarily a state Green ballot line; it would be up to each individual state party to determine what it wanted to do. In some states a lack of a nomination would probably mean no candidate would be on the ballot because of state election law.

The political struggle over these positions was intense, and it went down to the wire.

Convention week was begun on Monday with a huge announcement by Nader that he was choosing Camejo to be his Vice Presidential candidate. Score one for the pro-Nader forces.

Two days later Medea Benjamin, like Camejo a California Green Party leader, issued a statement headlined, "Want to Get Rid of Bush and Grow the Greens? Support David Cobb." Touche.

As people gathered in Milwaukee for the official first day of the convention on Wednesday, the battle was joined. A primary "stage" for the on-going debate was the lobby of the Hyatt Regency hotel, a union hotel where many delegates were staying and where many meetings and caucuses were held.

Proponents of Nader/Camejo and Cobb, as well as those supporting other positions, set up their leafleting and lobbying teams and for three days mingled with each other and with other delegates trying to gather the necessary 50% plus one needed to win.

Significantly, there were no physical altercations or, as far as I am aware, even any nasty emotional outbursts between those on the respective sides, while there was a great deal of reasoned discussion, as well as robust, vigorous and competitive debate.

This same process of debate and discussion went on at state caucuses, in the room full of literature tables, in the hallways and throughout the convention.

A Close Race

Everyone knew that it was close. David Cobb went into the convention with about 33% of the delegates pledged to him. Those supporting Nader, as well as candidates Camejo, Lorna Salzman, Carol Miller and Paul Glover, all of whom personally supported Nader, had about 28% of the delegates. 23% of the delegates were officially uncommitted, 12% were for no nominee, and the remainder were for Kent Mesplay and other candidates.

Thursday evening was set up by the Green Party convention planners as the one time prior to Saturday's decision-making when all the candidates would meet in an open forum. For close to two hours Camejo, Cobb, Mesplay and Salzman (Miller and Glover were not there) answered a series of questions put to them by the moderator in front of a room completely jammed with many hundreds of delegates, observers and press.

Camejo and Cobb, as the two main protagonists, were both "on their game." Both came across as articulate and passionate in support of their positions. Toward the end of the forum/debate, things got heated as Camejo accused Cobb of being a supporter of John Kerry and Cobb countered by articulating what he has been calling a "smart growth" strategy which prioritizes building the Green Party while also running a campaign which helps to get Bush out of office.

One piece of hard news emerged at the debate when Cobb announced that his campaign had chosen Pat LaMarche, a 43 year old single mother of two and radio personality from Maine, to be his Vice Presidential running mate. In 1998, running as the Maine Green Party's candidate for Governor, she received 7% of the statewide vote, winning ballot

status for the party.

Friday morning began with the Cobb campaign distributing a statement they called, "The True Position of the Cobb/LaMarche Campaign on the Iraq War: End the Occupation, Bring the U.S. Troops Home Now." The statement quoted from press releases issued in April and May and posted on the votecobb.org website, while also criticizing Camejo for "misrepresent(ing) the position of the Cobb/LaMarche Campaign on the Iraq war" at the Thursday evening debate.

Throughout the day the pro-Nader people distributed a leaflet urging those who supported Nader-Camejo to vote a certain way on Saturday. In the first round, they said, vote as mandated by your state. In the second round, when almost all states released delegates to vote their conscience, vote for no nominee, the Nader forces urged. If a majority on the second round voted no nominee, this would then allow for a vote to endorse Nader/Camejo, or endorse both Cobb/LaMarche and Nader/Camejo, on the third round.

In late afternoon both campaigns put out another piece of literature. The Nader campaign distributed a letter from Ralph Nader in which he explained that he would not be coming to the convention but articulated the rationale for why the convention should endorse him. Nader spoke later that evening via telephone hook-up to a pro-Nader rally of, according to reports, about 200 delegates and observers.

The Cobb campaign leaflet highlighted what it called an inconsistency between Ralph Nader's position of trying to influence Kerry/the Democrats and "retire Bush," and Camejo's position, articulated Thursday evening, that "Greens should never, ever vote for a Democrat." The leaflet asked, "What is the Nader/Camejo strategy?"

Day of Decision

As people began arriving at the Midwest Airlines Convention Center Saturday morning the politicking

continued. Cobb forces were buoyed by an unexpected endorsement in that morning's major Milwaukee daily newspaper, the Journal Sentinel. The headline read, "David Cobb for the Greens."

The day's historic events began with the adoption of a comprehensive and impressive, updated national Green Party platform that had been worked on for many months with much input prior to Milwaukee from Greens all over the country. Then we got down to the main event.

Matt Gonzalez had been decided upon as the Election Administrator by the GPUS' national coordinating committee. Gonzalez is the Chair of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and nearly won last year in a nationally publicized election for Mayor of San Francisco.

In the first round there were no major surprises. David Cobb led with 308 votes, followed by Peter Camejo with 119, Ralph Nader with 117, no nominee with 109, Lorna Salzman with 40, Kent Mesplay

with 24 and various other candidates with smaller numbers, including Joann Beemon, a "favorite daughter" and elected drain commissioner from Michigan.

Both sides were nervous as Gonzalez adjourned the session for lunch. Over lunch caucusing continued with appeals to hold firm by Camejo to both the California and New York delegations, two Nader/Camejo strongholds. Cobb campaign leaders felt hopeful but not certain that they could win on the second round. The outcome depended primarily on how the 109 first round no nominee votes were cast on the second round.

Prior to Saturday both the Cobb and Nader campaigns had "worked" the no nominee delegates. The Cobb campaign argued that those who held that position – people who, in general, wanted the Green Party to focus its limited resources on local campaigns this year – should see a Cobb nomination as their second preference, that a Nader endorsement

Forward 2004 continued on page 25 ...



The Michigan Delegation at the national convention

David Cobb – President and Pat LaMarche – Vice President

The Cobb/LaMarche ticket is campaigning on the platform of the Green Party of the United States, with its commitment to peace, social justice, grassroots democracy and ecological wisdom. Priorities include:

- Ending the occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- Universal single-payer health care;
- A living wage for all;
- Building schools not prisons;
- Ending the transnational corporate empire;
- Dismantling the military industrial complex;
- Creating a multi-party democracy with publicly funded elections and which uses Proportional Representation and Instant Runoff Voting;
- Ending the racist War on Drugs, and
- Repealing the Patriot Act.

The Cobb/LaMarche tickets plans to run a strong, aggressive and strategically smart presidential campaign in 2004 that builds our party at the local, state, and national levels and which culminates with Bush out of the White House.

Candidates come and go, but the Green Party is here to stay. In fact, we are getting larger, stronger and better organized with every election. The Green Party will exercise its fundamental right to participate in elections, recognizing that with growing strength comes the responsibility to do so wisely.

Our specific goals in 2004 are to increase Green Party registration, help elect local candidates and win initiatives, gain ballot lines and consistently articulate Instant Runoff Voting and Proportional Representation. In a nutshell, we believe we can build and grow the Green Party and help unelect Bush.

Biography of David Cobb

Raised in a small shrimping village in San Leon, Texas, David Cobb worked as a construction worker for several years before attending college. He saw up close and personal how the system is designed to prevent working class people from getting ahead; how working hard usually just got you calluses. Waiting tables to put himself through college, he graduated from the University of Houston Law School in 1993. The grandson of a Baptist preacher, David received awards in Moot Court and Mock Trial competitions, served on the Law Review and worked in the Public Interest Law Clinic.

He had a successful law practice until early 2000,

when Ralph Nader asked him to manage the Green Party effort in Texas. He coordinated the ballot access drive in Texas that collected over 76,000 signatures in 75 days. When he ran for Attorney General there were four local chapters of the GPTX. At the conclusion of his campaign, there were 26 chapters.



David lectures and facilitates “Rethinking Corporations/ Rethinking Democracy” seminars and workshops across the country, which explore the social, legal and historical context of how corporations have become the dominant institution of our times. These seminars focus on how corporations have become unelected governing institutions, and how we can provoke (and win) a nonviolent democratic revolution in response.

He serves on the Steering Committee of Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County (www.duhc.org), a citizen’s group dedicated to contesting and challenging the illegitimate corporate usurpation of our Constitution and our government.

Biography of Pat Lamarche

Patricia Helen LaMarche was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the fourth of five children. Her family moved to Bangor, Maine, in the 1970s and she enrolled at John Baptist High School. She pursued her education with four years at Boston College.

She returned to Maine in 1982 and married the following year. After working as a high school math teacher for a few years, she had two children, Rebecca in 1985 and John in 1987. In the late eighties, she moved into the broadcasting field and was variously employed at television and radio stations in the Bangor area. LaMarche has taught Public Relations at Husson College’s school of Communications and headed the Bangor chapter of the Children’s Miracle Network, which she saw go from one of the worst in the nation to the most successful.

Cobb/LaMarche continued on page 23 ...

Harley Mikkelson – 5th District, US Congress

I am running for Congress from Michigan's 5th Congressional District. I want to tell you why I feel I am qualified to represent you. I know what it is like to raise a family. I have five children and I am proud of how they have turned out. I am proud I have been a member of the working class and have successfully worked at a wide variety of jobs. I know what it is like to work seven days and sixty plus hours a week in a factory, and I know what it is like to start working at dawn and work until after dark on a farm.

I retired after working for the State of Michigan for 27 years for three different Departments. I am a veteran who served in Vietnam and came back with the firm conviction that war creates more problems than it solves. And last, I have continued to educate myself after I graduated from Michigan State. I keep up with what is happening in the world, and I would like to use this knowledge to work for you and make the world a better place.

I will be stressing the need for universal health care coverage. Harry Truman proposed a national health care program over 50 years ago. Democrats and Republicans have failed to pass a universal health care program even though they have had 50 years to do it. Because of inaction by Democrats and Republicans we as a society pay about 40% more for health care than necessary; yet when you measure health care in terms of life expectancy, several countries in the world surpass us. We need a single payer health care system now.

The second issue I will be stressing is the need to regain control of corporations. Corporations control our country because we allow them to move anywhere they want at will. We have given them rights like individuals, but we have not required them to be socially responsible. If an individual destroyed a city he/she would be sued for everything he/she had; but a corporation can move a plant and destroy a city with no consequences. General Motors is responsible for destroying Flint and many other cities by moving plants, yet no one is taking them to court. Workers do not ask for raises they deserve because they fear their employers will move to a cheaper

labor market. We need to ensure workers here and abroad are treated fairly and are allowed to bargain for their fair share of their company's profits.

The major issue I will be stressing is the need to immediately withdraw combat troops from Iraq. Two years ago when I ran for Congress I said we would have no trouble winning the war, but I said it would be much more difficult to win the peace. We got rid of Saddam but have not brought about peace. Let us trust the people of Iraq to do what is best for their country.

If things do not go well in Iraq after we leave we can always go back there as part of a true United Nations peacekeeping operation. We need to stop trying to impose our will on the people of the world and become part of a world peace force.

Our tanks, missiles, bombs, planes, and helicopters are real weapons of mass destruction. We need to cut back on our weapons of mass destruction.

One reason people become terrorists is that it is the only way they can fight against our or Israel's weapons of mass destruction. We need to understand the reasons people become terrorists and then work

towards eliminating those reasons.

In order for a democracy to work there needs to be a real difference between the parties, but in our de facto two party system the Democrats and Republicans have become more and more alike. It is hard to tell the difference between the two major parties because they both are bought and paid for by corporate money.

Vote Green and send the message you want solutions to problems which benefit you; or vote for Republicans or Democrats and get solutions which benefit corporations and then watch the gap between the rich and the rest of us widen.

If you want to learn more about me visit my web site at www.harleymikkelson.com, email me at voteharley@centurytel.net, or write to me at Harley Mikkelson for Congress, P O Box 314, Caro Mi 48723-0314.

*Peace,
Harley Mikkelson*



Jason Seagraves – 7th District, US Congress

My name is Jason Seagraves. I am 26 years old, and I live in Adrian, MI with my wife, Jessica. I graduated from Addison High School (alma matter of Congressman Nick Smith) in 1997, and attended Siena Heights University in Adrian. I worked this year as a personal instructor for students with special needs. Prior to that, my wife and I owned and managed a mail-order sales business.



I began my political journey as the lone contender for the Democratic Party's nomination. Inspired by Dennis Kucinich, I decided that if I didn't run to represent progressive values, no one else would. I naively thought that the best vehicle to do so would be the Democratic Party, but I quickly learned, as David Cobb says, "the Democratic Party is the place where progressive politics goes to die."

The good news is that I learned a lot from my flirtations with the Democrats. I now consider that campaign to have been a "trial run" for my Green candidacy. I received lots of media coverage, I appeared in debates with the six Republicans (as the only Democrat), and I won a debate against the other Democrats, with 64% of the post-debate poll.

As a Green, I was barred from a recent debate sponsored by the "Citizens For Traditional Values," but if the group's aim was to silence me, my banishment was ineffective. Douglas Campbell came to the debate to "ensure my personal safety," as my volunteers circulated literature entitled "Censorship Is Not A Traditional Value." Instead of being one of ten candidates on stage, I was the one candidate not allowed to participate. I ended up being a sympathetic figure to the conservative Christians whom I met as they filed out. One man even compared me to Alan Keyes – what a compliment!

The media gave more coverage to my exclusion than they did to any candidate who actually participated in the debate. In fact, our district's most prominent paper, the Jackson Citizen Patriot, did not even cover the debate, but they did run a story entitled "Green candidate sees red" about my exclusion.

Since I have established "credibility" with the

people and the press, it will be difficult for the major parties to bar me from future debates. In fact, each of the partisan frontrunners have told me that they would rather have me debating them than waiting outside to greet voters as I recently did. If barred from future debates in the general election season, I will follow the heroic example of the esteemed Mr. Campbell and go to jail, if necessary.

A few Republican congressional hopefuls have asked me why I dropped out

of the Democratic race. They say that they all believed I would be their opponent in November. I first say to them that I will be their opponent in November, as the Green candidate, and then I ask them what makes a Democratic nomination so much more valuable? Our Democratic Party is so inept that their 2000 nominee, an African American woman by the name of Jennie Crittendon, was able to raise only \$3,500. This is all the help the Democrats could give her!

I have already received more help and support from the Green Party in just a few weeks than I ever did from the Democrats. People like David Palmer and John Anthony La Pietra, among others, have extended a helping hand, whereas Democrats were too busy to be concerned with much more than looking pretty at their meetings.

I intend to run a very serious, credible campaign. Whereas the Democrats have just one goal – to win the election – I will not consider my campaign a failure if it so happens that I fall short of victory. First and foremost, I want to help build and establish the Green Party in my area of Michigan, so that the voting public is aware of an alternative to the corporate parties. I think I can do this by running an aggressive campaign, which will be the foundation for future efforts by local Greens. Secondly, I want to help educate the public on issues that are ignored by the major parties

My Web site, www.jasonseagraves.com, is designed to be an educational resource. I have outlined plans for electoral reforms, as well as a mathematical formula to give America a living wage.

I am working full time on this campaign, and

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Adam Wright – Sheriff, Tuscola County

We can not win a war on drugs, a war on terrorism, a war on poverty or crime, until we first win a war on corruption. Many would think, “Tuscola County, it’s small, there’s no real crime and therefore there is no real corruption.” That’s a delusion.

Sheriff Tom Kern is part of a “good-ol’-boys” network that grants special privileges to contributors, drinking buddies, and narcs, while focusing the full force of his department on the poor, the young, and political enemies. I know; I am all three and have felt his wrath.

Police should not be the feared collecting squad of high school bullies overtaxing society through traffic tickets and unnecessary searches. They should respond to crime, resolve conflicts, and preserve peace.

When I first met Tom Kern, I went to complain about abuses suffered at the hands of his officers. He led me down a dark corridor, filled with rifles, wrote my complaint on a yellow sticky note, put it on his desk, and said it was taken care of. That’s how he deals with corruption and abuse of authority.

Recently, a friend of mine was raided and handed a bill for \$78,000 in a “drug bust” that netted three seeds and a roach. \$78,000 for masked officers in bulletproof vests to bust down a front door in a house full of children, five of them between 4 and 15, with the only adult a stroke victim who could not even get out of bed. They said, “You are faking, get up.” Our police system is out of whack, it is broken, and it is abused.

When my grandpa was dying and my uncle, a drinking buddy with a few of Tom Kern’s officers wanted to intimidate me into allowing him to steal everything my grandpa owned, they sent an unmarked black helicopter out to literally hover fifty feet over me, and follow me around our property pointing a 50 caliber gun at my head. That is what the Sheriff is for, right?

As Sheriff, I would not need more funding, as in the last two failed attempts to overtax Tuscola County in Proposal T and U for more police. Now we have a Prop V, which is very bad, which seeks to do the same. I would not need more money, as Sheriff, but less. I would root out and fire all the corrupt officers. I would stop unwarranted roadside searches, and limit traffic tickets to only those which are vital, in cases of endangerment or accidents. I would also try and close down more jails, limiting prisoners to those who are dangerous. We just can

not afford to warehouse people for profit anymore.

Law enforcement is not a method of controlling the population, harassing political enemies, or raising revenues. It is a necessary evil and needs to be limited as such. That is a sheriff’s job, to control the local thugs and ensure there is order in a community.

Raiding peoples homes for marijuana seeds and stems and roaches is much like pulling everyone over for doing even a mile an hour over the speed limit. Searching cars because we can is much like citing obese people for obesity, under existing indecency statutes because we can. Tuscola county is the last place in America where an undercover narcotics squad set up a sting to bust gay people for “attempted oral sex”. Attempted oral sex is not a crime anymore, but what Tom Kern has done with the Tuscola Sheriffs’s Department is, or at least should be.

It is time to root out the corruption in the Tuscola County police department, time to restore reason to law enforcement, and time for a change, for the better, in Tuscola County.

Contact: legalizemichigan@yahoo.com

Web site: www.geocities.com/legalizemichigan

Seagraves continued from page 11 ...

have two full-time volunteers. We are committed to raising the money that we need to do things the way we want to do them. Our first goal is to establish a campaign headquarters in downtown Adrian to increase the visibility of the Green Party. Secondly, we intend to bring young people into the campaign as “Help Wanted,” with small financial incentives to join the team. Third, of course, is all of the printing, mailing, and possibly advertising, etc. We feel \$20,000 is a reasonable budget, and we fully intend to raise this amount. We will consider 5% of the popular vote to be a building block for future Green campaigns, and that is our humble goal – but we will certainly shoot for more.

In a closing message to my fellow Greens: I ask that you visit my Web site, www.jasonseagraves.com, and consider aiding us in our efforts to run a serious, aggressive campaign for U.S. Congress. We are working very hard, day in and day out, getting press, debating, going to parades, etc. The Greens have already given us more support than the Democrats ever did, and I can only hope that this will continue.

Contact: jason@seagraves.com

Web site: www.jasonseagraves.com

Rebekah Mikkelson – 84th District, State House

I Rebekah Mikkelson, am the Green Party candidate for State Representative in the 84th District. I will bring up important issues, register individuals to vote, and in turn encourage the public to take a more active role in politics. There is an approachable, socially conscious, responsible party; that is the Green Party.

I was born in Caro and have been a resident for all of my life. I was able to experience wildlife and farming at a very young age; as a child I was able to watch deer from my kitchen window and bottle feed calves. I currently attend the University of Michigan Flint. I spend a lot of time in the city and it has given me an appreciation for the things that the country has to offer.

For this reason I feel very strongly about the impact that development has, not only on the environment but also on the community. Communities should be healthy and livable with areas set aside for recreation and wildlife. I believe that my community is already beginning to experience the affects of urban sprawl. We need to ensure that further development does not have a devastating effect on our downtowns, natural areas, and farmland.

As I mentioned before, I am a student. I love learning and I believe that a quality education is something that should be available to everyone.

Everything from day care to life long learning programs should be free and open to the public. Educational institutions should be safe environments where students are free from the influences of corporations. Schools should not need to accept corporate “gifts.”

Health care is a concern for nearly all Americans. People have been talking about universal health care for many years. With this program patients would still be able to choose their own health care professionals and they would also have comprehensive benefits.

If I am elected I will push all of these issues. I would love to have the chance to serve my community. I would be an accessible public servant; I would welcome and encourage contact between myself and the people that I represent. Politics should be important to everyone; all people need to be encouraged to play a more active role. We must move forward together!

Contact: greenstaterep@yahoo.com



Margaret Guttshall – WSU Board of Governors

Margaret Guttshall is a graduate of Wayne State University’s library school, works as a writer and a law librarian, and lives in the Wayne State neighborhood. She is a member of the National Writers Union, U.S. Labor Against the War, the Labor Party and the Green Party. She plans to use her campaign, and her position on the Board of Governors if she is elected, to build the movements for “Money for jobs, healthcare, schools, not for war!” and for “Bring the troops home now!”

Margaret thinks everyone has the right to top quality education and young people should not be forced to join the armed forces in order to get money for higher education. She wants public funds to be used to make sure everyone has decent jobs, health insurance, and scholarships, if they need them, so they can attend universities like Wayne State, instead of being sent to Iraq to kill and be killed.

“If every candidate for public office, if every

public official, uses his or her campaign, or position in public office, to build a mass movement of millions and millions of people to fight for ‘Money for jobs, healthcare and schools, not for war!’ there will be an immediate, positive, and dramatic change in our quality of life. Unfortunately, the current Board of Governors is not doing this. It’s going along with laying off student assistants, cutting funds for various departments, and even trying to abolish whole departments, like Chicano-Boricua studies. We need Governors who are willing to speak out and organize against Bush, Granholm, and their cuts, not just go along with them and say, ‘Well, what can I do?’”

Margaret is against voting for anti-labor, pro-war candidates; she is for voting for independent, pro-labor, antiwar candidates, including Nader, Greens, and socialists.

For more information, write mgttshall@peoplepc.com or call 313-831-4695

Thomas Lavigne – 13th District, US Congress

US foreign policy has reflected imperialist motives for a very long time.

Iraq and Afghanistan are the most obvious examples of totally unjustified wars we have waged recently. George W. Bush, as well as Bill Clinton before him, has worsened the condition of world poverty. When more and more people become more and more burdened with poverty and all that is tied to it, including high child mortality rates, crime and disease, people become desperate. Then Bush says to the world: "Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is a man of Peace." This was printed on front pages around the world, except in the US, and printed in the largest of print in Arab media. Right after that 9-11 happened. These conditions of world poverty and the arrogance of Bush is why 9-11 happened. Most of the people in the world live on less than \$2 per day, and half the people on less than \$1 per day.

9-11 was terrible. I would support taking measures to prevent it from happening again, but not the Patriot Act. As a constitutional law scholar, I view the Patriot Act and the Department of Homeland Security as comparable to Hitler's secret service and the hollowing of the rights of the Germans after a terrorist attack on Germany's legislature. The flag waving which followed is similar too, except it was Hitler's flag. The arrogance of the US is further manifested in their stating that the world has changed since 9-11, which discounts the terrorism suffered by the Palestinians on a daily basis, and by victims of graduates of the School of the Americas, and in Europe for a long time.

What are we doing to address the cause of 9-11? Bush is trying to kill 4000 Arabs to even the score, whether they had anything to do with 9-11 or not. Bush has categorically declared war on the Arab world. Bush's religious rhetoric of "evil empire" listing countries as part of this evil empire is a barbarous foreign policy, in total disregard of diplomacy. I speak with a doctorate in International Law: Bush is an idiot. 9-11 is nothing compared with the suffering we have levied against the world, and continue to support by supporting the Racist Zionist regime of Israel.

Other examples include the US backing of the illegal takeover, by Oil executives, of Hugo Chavez' government. Chavez is the democratically elected president of Venezuela. Of course the people took back the presidential palace, when millions marched on the presidential palace. (Everyone should try to see the documentary *This Revolution Will Not Be*

Televised. It is an inspiration to us all of the power we have as the masses to force justice where justice ought to be forced.) Our so-called drug war in Latin America is nothing but US sponsored terrorist training camps, formerly called the School of the Americas. We changed the name

because too many people became aware of the crimes against humanity springing from there.

Bush's domestic economic policy can be paraphrased as treating us like idiots. Bush says: "Throw them each \$300 as an advance, then we'll take it back later, just to appease the masses." Bush just keeps those billions going to Israel so they can have universal health care and new weapons of terrorism to continue their assault on the Palestinians. Bush and Cheney's military industrial complex gets all the money to levy death and destruction pursuing imperialism. Bush then hires more tax collectors to go after small business owners trying to keep the doors open, and trying not to lay off their workers; their job is to file tax liens to close their doors and lay off their workers.

More than anywhere in the world, union leaders are killed in Colombia. Union leaders are being killed presently by graduates of the School of the Americas, sponsored by one of America's cruelest multi-nationals: Coca Cola. See www.killercoke.org I support a boycott of Coke products and a list of others.

I support the de-criminalization of marijuana. Mothers should be at home with their children, not in jail for marijuana crimes. The war on drugs is nothing but a front for invading our rights as they choose, and attacking union organizers in Latin America. Under the false pretense of the war against drugs, we sprayed poison on farms all over Latin America, displacing between 3 and 4 million people in Colombia alone, killing their crops, making way for the roadway to connect North and South America, just so our multi-nationals can sell more widgets and exploit the people more.

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Lisa Weltman – 14th District, US Congress

I am running for U.S. Congress in order to give poor and working people an alternative. We need an alternative to war, poverty, racism and national chauvinism, the oppression of women, youth and sexual minorities, attacks on wages and working conditions, the continued degradation of our neighborhoods, the denial of essential human rights (including healthcare, food, housing and utilities), and the increasing assaults on civil rights and basic democracy. In short, I want to provide an alternative to the domination of the wealthy at the expense of the poor and working class majority.



The Democratic and Republican parties are increasingly showing themselves as nothing more than two faces of oppression. Real, meaningful justice requires a movement that empowers those of us who face this oppression to fight on our own behalf.

Empowerment means more than electing someone to speak for us – it means having the resources and the confidence to stand up and speak for ourselves. As working class people we are told all of our lives that it is not our role to bring about social change – that we must leave this to the “professionals” – those wealthy politicians who claim to be more qualified than we are to know what is

best for us. Empowerment means to see this propaganda for what it is: a way that those now in power retain their power. Empowerment means to understand not only that we can impact the world, but also that it is our job to do so. Empowerment means ripping away the covers of self-doubt and self-blame that have smothered us for too long.

As someone from an extremely poor working-class background, I know firsthand what it means to be denied the chance to live a meaningful, healthy life. I have experienced sweatshop labor, the denial of medical care and

disability benefits, poverty, homelessness and hunger. But I also know that the very position that poor and working people are placed in gives us tremendous power. As working people, we know best how to produce for human needs. We know the best techniques to maximize our effectiveness and to minimize harm to ourselves and the environment. We know how to work with our communities to ensure that everyone’s needs are met.

We produce the world’s wealth; if we organize and stand up for ourselves, we can stop the world until we win justice.

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Green Candidates Show a 44% Win Rate So Far in 2004

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Green Party candidates have a 44% win rate for elections in which they participated between January 1 and April 30, 2004. Thirty nine Greens ran for office in the first four months of 2004, with 17 victories, which translates to 43.6%.

"This year, we have a percentage of wins through April 30 of 43.6% – a batting average of 436," explained Brent McMillan, Political Director of the Green Party of the United States. "Our batting average has more than doubled during the Bush Administration."

Greens tend to win more elections in the spring than in regular state legislative partisan races on Election Day in November. In irregular and special elections, Greens and other third party and independent candidates often face fewer ballot access restrictions.

The figures for Green wins were bolstered by a large number of candidates participating in the April 6 spring elections in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Green candidate Shwaw Vang was re-elected to his second term on the Madison School Board. Vang received 70% (19,987 votes), beating a well-funded extreme conservative challenger. Vang, who is Hmong, emigrated to the U.S. from Laos, and grew up in Madison, had earlier survived

a vicious recall effort by right-wing activists that was promoted by Rush Limbaugh.

In Dane County, Wisconsin, two Green Party incumbents, county supervisors Kyle Richmond and Echnaton Vedder, went unopposed because their support was so strong that both Democrats and Republicans determined it wasn’t worth the effort. Greens also counted two write-in victories in northern Wisconsin, for Portage County supervisor Taniya Fatticci and Winnebago County supervisor David Machotka.

In New Mexico, Fran Gallegos was re-elected as Santa Fe municipal judge on March 2, with 55% of the vote in a four-way election. Gallegos is popular for her innovative sentencing practices that favor community service instead of imprisonment. Gallegos, who is Latina, is currently the only Green judge in the U.S.

Steven Krulick's victory in a special election as Ellenville village trustee sustains the Green Party's momentum in New York, where Jason West, New York's first Green mayor, has attracted national attention by officiating same-sex marriages in New Paltz.

More information: *The Green Party of the United States*
<http://www.gp.org>

Jo Anne Bier Beemon

Charlevoix County Drain Commissioner

Jo Anne Bier Beemon wrote the following letter in response to an item entitled "More proof that the Green Party may be a huge joke" published in The Northern Express; Northern Michigan's largest Newsweekly. The item mentioned that Beemon is "an excellent singer."

Green Party Is No Joke

Re: "More proof that the Green Party may be a huge joke," Express, 7/8-14. I'm happy you have enjoyed my singing. It's in the pipes, as we singer/drain commissioners say.

Water is life. We cannot live without it. The quality of our lives is rooted in the quality of our water. The Great Lakes Basin holds 20% of the freshwater of the world and over 85% of the freshwater of the United States and that water is finite. The water coming into the basin and the water going out are in perfect balance. All water transported commercially out of the watershed is gone forever.

As populations increase and war and conspicuous consumption devour the resources of the Earth, water supplies have become more and more polluted. The world thirsts. Wars are being fought over water in Israel/Palestine and around the world. Here in Northern Michigan where sweetwater rushes pure and clean from the hillsides, it is becoming more and more difficult to access uncontaminated water. Petoskey and Charlevoix have had to abandon polluted groundwater sources and must now use chlorinated water pulled from Lake Michigan. "Self monitored" industries poison the air and water and unwise and illegal development destroys the last trout streams. Rather than protecting groundwater,



we drill down one more aquifer for drinkable water.

Water is more valuable than oil. Bechtel and Halliburton and other multi-nationals are buying water rights around the world. In villages of South America and South Africa, water "credit cards" give access to clean water to the few families who can pay for it. In



Stanwood, Nestlé's of Switzerland (Ice Mountain/Perrier) continues to take the water in spite of a judge's ruling that it negatively impacts a stream and lowers the water table. In the western United States, rivers no longer reach the sea and groundwater tables and reservoirs are dropping at alarming rates.

As a child, I did not aspire to be a drain commissioner. But I have always loved frogs and fish and streams. Drain commissioners are elected officials, responsible for the health, safety and well being of the public and their water. The quality of our lives, the economics of this region, the survival and abundance of creatures, ALL are rooted in the quality of our water.

I love democracy and democracy is bigger than two voices. The path the U.S. and world are on is a path leading to the death and destruction of the human race. The path of war and mindless consumption is anti-life. Who will lead in turning the great ship America around? Who will forge a new path of wisdom and conservation, compassion and diplomacy, respect and prosperity for all?

The Green Party has been a voice for justice, the environment, peace and democracy and for the people. I was honored that Michigan's delegation asked me to carry the message "Water is Life!" and "Water is a Human Right" to their national presidential convention. David Cobb, the elected Green Party presidential candidate, has vowed that he will work against the taking and diminishment of our water for profit.

And yes, I am just a drain commissioner, but my voice and my work count as much as the pedigreed and privileged. My work is most definitely not a "huge joke." It is what democracy is all about.

Contact: joanne_beemon@hotmail.com

Art Myatt – Oakland County Executive

I grew up in southern Ohio, went to college in Chicago, and was drafted in January of 1967. When the Detroit riots broke out later that year, I heard about it on Armed Forces Viet Nam Radio. Shortly after I became a civilian again, I met Linda. We married in 1971 and moved to Michigan in 1972. For the last 20 years or so I've worked as an engineer, manufacturing solar electrical panels.

We had two sons, born in 1976 and 1981. In 1987, our younger son Tommy was diagnosed with leukemia. Fighting that disease became the focus of life for our family. He died in the spring of 1991, 10 years and a few months old. The experience made me realize just how important health insurance is for everyone.

By the mid-90s I was active in the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network (MichUHCAN). My efforts for universal health care led to my support for the Green Party in 2000. Democrats were thoroughly ineffective on this issue before dropping it from their platform in the 1990s. Greens are unequivocally for it. Our effectiveness depends on your support.

Leukemia and other cancers are caused by industrial pollution that degrades our environment. That's not the only cause, but it is one cause we can affect through political action. As County Executive, I would use the county's Geographic Information System (GIS) to track pollution in the county and identify problem areas. This would involve collecting measurements (made by state and federal agencies) of heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants and other toxic substances in the water, soil and air. It would also involve having the Health Department doing additional testing as needed. The information would be made available to the public and used to plan ways of mitigating and eliminating contamination in the county.

I want to promote public transportation and to require all county-owned or leased cars to be in the high-mileage, low-emissions category. This would save fuel, it would save money, and it would take at least a step or two in the direction of saving the planet.

I also want to make the case against destroying our roads and our water with salt every winter. Road salt should be minimized with a goal of eliminating it entirely. It's an immediate way to stop degrading our environment. Not destroying cars with potholes and rust would be a bonus – direct to every driver.

I would like to bring what I call the missing parts

of county government under direct democratic control. The Oakland County Road Commission and the Mental Health Authority are now controlled by appointed commissioners, not elected officials. Each one of these agencies spends hundreds of millions of tax dollars each year. If you don't like how they



are performing, you have NO opportunity to hold them accountable in an election. In this campaign, I'll argue that this is entirely undemocratic. As County Executive, I'll speak and hold hearings to build public support for profound change.

Greens and other minor parties are frequently charged with "spoiling" elections for one or another of the major parties. This is both true and false. True, because the system is set up to favor the major parties and anyone who interferes with the system is "spoiling" it. False, because a simple technical change in how elections are conducted would make "spoiling" impossible. The rotten laws governing elections spoil democracy.

I want to make government more democratic by making Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) the standard for all elected offices, whenever there are more than two candidates on the ballot for a given post. IRV allows the voters to rank all the candidates instead of voting for only one. It's already used for all the important votes in our society. IRV sorts out multiple candidates to decide the winners of Academy Awards and the Heisman Trophy. It opens up all races to the influence of smaller parties and independent candidates, and it pushes all candidates to run a different kind of campaign – appealing in a positive way to as many voters as possible instead of relying on attack ads.

I also want to make it more democratic by getting a county government channel on cable. For most of the time, it would be used as city channels are now used. From Labor Day to Election Day in election years, I would want time on this channel given to candidates for county office – equal time for

Myatt continued on page 27 ...

Jessie Olson – Van Buren County Commissioner

Jessie Olson is running for County Commissioner in Van Buren County. She has three adult children, who live throughout Michigan, and two grandchildren. Jessie has a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Michigan; a master's degree in business administration earned in the US Army overseas Extension College, a juris doctor from Thomas Cooley Law School. She is completing a doctorate in comparative religion.

Jessie has a private legal practice; her work is split between criminal defense, appellate law, and working with juveniles and families in trouble; usually at the request of local courts. Before opening her own firm, Jessie worked for the State Appellate Defender's Office and the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Prior to going into the legal profession Jessie worked as a police officer [reserve] in South Haven and was in the US Army. While in the Army, Jessie received numerous medals and citations – including the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaves, the Overseas, NCO Academy and Good Conduct awards, among others. Jessie was injured in the line of duty and received an Honorable Discharge as a Staff Sergeant. She is one of the few local women seriously injured “under combat conditions” (not in actual combat, but preparing soldiers for the invasion of Grenada). The Army helped pay for law school.

Jessie has a spotless record as an Attorney and is licensed for all Michigan and local Federal and Appellate courts. She has always worked for individual rights and responsibilities, applied equally and without regard to any personal characteristic. Her firm's motto, since 1996, has been: “Working for Peace through Justice & Equality.”

Jessie was born in South Haven, leaving in 1975 to attend the University of Michigan, and returned in 1996 to live in one of her family's homesteads in South Haven Township with her partner Tabitha Flatau and many animal friends. Jessie has never run for office, but while working in the courts in Paw Paw she has seen a real need for some progressive changes.

One of Jessie's main issue right now is creating a drug court in Van Buren County. A drug court would streamline the system, making it more efficient (and therefore cost-saving), and allow more appropriate sentencing for first-time offenders and

drug users. A drug court would make it possible to help some of those offenders change their ways and make something of their lives. (Prison is not much more than a college for criminals.) Early intervention and creative alternatives are the key to hopeful futures for many of these disadvantaged young people, especially low-income families. This is a serious problem because the back-up of cases affects everyone living in Van Buren County. Taking first time, non-violent drug users out of the system would benefit everyone – the judges can focus on the serious cases, offenders can be rehabilitated and all at a cost savings to the taxpayer!

In addition, moving home after 20 years in the Army and at school, she is appalled at the amount of development and the disregard of public officials for the green earth. It seems that the only ones getting their concerns addressed by the present county board are the land developers. For instance, South Haven used to be a beautiful area, but it appears that the goal is to make it resemble a Detroit suburb. Strip malls and housing projects are replacing the woods and fields. Condos and private beaches completely destroy the scenic beachfront. Pastureland has been paved over to build a new strip mall, just across the street from another strip mall that has never had enough business to survive as it is.

Local officials seem to be begging hotels, fast food joints and chain stores such as Wal-Marts to build store after store, with the effect of putting all the local family businesses out of business overnight. Every mile or so there is another housing project sprouting overpriced, oversized, poorly built homes on postage-stamp sized lots. The only ones benefitted are the few big developers, many of whom do not live in the county.

Jessie also believes there is a need for better health care services and education here in our county, especially for low income family's, children and seniors, with services for all that keep up with what is available in other counties in Michigan. She promotes not just minority rights, but equal access and opportunity FOR ALL – which means independence and treating everyone with dignity and respect. She does not believe that minorities are looking for a hand out, but for equal access to better paying careers and employment – just like everyone else.

*Contact: Jessieforcommissioner
@alsonlegalservices.com*

Pete Ponzetti, III – State Board of Education

My name is Pete Ponzetti and I am running for State Board of Education. In December 2004, I will graduate from Western Michigan University with a BA in Secondary Education. Over the past three years, I have made education my life by working as a writing tutor, youth mentor, substitute teacher and classroom intern. In 2002, I was a Green Party candidate for State Representative in Genesee County's 51st District. In addition to being a member of the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO), I have been a member of both the ACLU and Green Party of Michigan for the past five years.

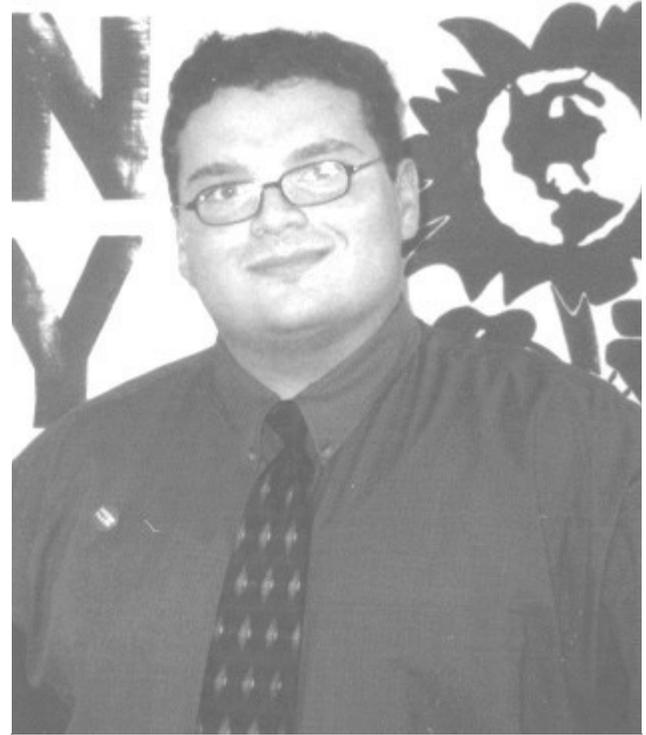
The promise of my campaign is simple. Bring up the issues that truly impact education, the issues that rarely garner mention. Issues such as how schools in Michigan are subject to "separate and unequal funding" and how our public educators are prohibited from effective collective bargaining.

During this campaign, I will take these issues to voters across the state and ask questions like:

- Do you think corporations should be allowed to market their products to kids in schools?
- Do you think standardized testing helps students to learn?
- Do you think teachers should be allowed to bargain collectively and strike like other public employees?
- Do you think a public school should be funded based on the socioeconomic status of its pupils and their parents?
- Do you think state university boards should be elected instead of appointed?
- Do you think the State Board of Education should act as a "bully pulpit" to the Michigan Legislature when it comes to education policy-making?

To paraphrase 2002 State Board of Education candidate Karen Shelley, the Michigan Board of Education should utilize its standing as a publicly elected entity to advocate for the public interest. It should act as no less than a "bully pulpit" for education in the "Great Lakes State."

Inasmuch, the State Board of Education needs a strong voice, advocate and advisor for students, educators and parents/guardians. My candidacy will provide not only an alternative to the two major parties come November, but push to make the board live up to its constitutional responsibilities. "Leadership and general supervision over all public education ... is vested in the State Board of



Education. It shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the Legislature as to the final requirements in connection therewith." [Article VIII, Section 3 (in part)]

The board, as such, needs no less than an advisor who will stand up and speak out against privatization schemes such as vouchers. An advisor who will stand firm against the marketing to and corporatization of our children, and their intellectual futures. An advisor who advocates for the funding of public schools based on enrollment and need, not merely property tax dollars alone. An advisor who vehemently supports the preservation and promise of affirmative action at our public colleges and universities. A state board of education member who never wavers in their commitment to educational opportunity for everyone, not advancement for a privileged few.

A vote for me is a vote for progressive education advocacy and the growth of America's most progressive political party, the Green Party.

Visit the Peter Ponzetti for State Board of Education campaign web-site at www.votepete2004.tk Tell your family and friends, and keep spreading the word! We can help give the Green Party of Michigan major ballot status and a chance to bring a "bully pulpit" of progressive public policy to Michigan's Board of Education. Thank you.

Jim Wilber – Kalamazoo County Clerk

Jim Wilber was born on May 5th, 1971 to Michael and Julianne Wilber. His father passed away a mere three years later, leaving his mother to care for him and his two brothers alone. She was often forced to work two jobs just to support the family.

Jim grew up in the suburbs of Illinois, though he spent many summers on the shores of Magician Lake, staying with family friends and then later at his grandmother's home on the shore of Big Crooked Lake in Keeler Township.

After the death of his grandmother, Jim's mother faced even more financial burdens, and due to ailing health was forced to an early retirement, moving to Michigan permanently with her three boys.

For the last two years of high school Jim attended Dowagiac Union High. He has no shame in saying that unlike many students, he did not go directly from high school to college. He spent almost five years working various jobs. From being a line worker at Burnett Foods cannery in Keeler, Michigan, to helping on his brother's farm in Berrien County, Jim learned the value of hard work, and helped his family financially.

He married his wife Marianne, a friend from high school, at age twenty-one, and she encouraged him to return to school. He enrolled in Southwest Michigan Community College, earning an associate's degree in less than two years. Afterwards, Jim and Marianne moved to Kalamazoo, where he worked full time at the Holiday Inn at night and attended Western Michigan University during the day.

In 1999, Jim earned a BA in Comparative Religion from WMU, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from a university.

Jim has always been interested in politics, but once again it was the encouragement of his wife that moved him to form the Green Party of Kalamazoo, a local chapter of the Green Party of Michigan, affiliated with the Green Party of the United States. In just over a year Jim and Marianne made Kalamazoo one of the most active locals in the state and helped work on the successful campaigns of Kalamazoo City Commissioners Don Cooney and David Juarez.

Through the Green Party Jim has been involved in the community and political life of Kalamazoo County, including being a member of the Earth Day planning committee for 2004, and attending the Kalamazoo Community Task Force on Poverty.

When asked why he is running for office, Jim Wilber says, "I have always believed that the greatest

aspiration is to empower others. I talk to people daily who are frustrated, who don't believe that our system is looking out for them, and they don't know what to do. They don't think that our government listens or cares.

"Through my candidacy I want to show people that they have the power to make the changes that they want, here and now. You don't have to wait until the President, or someone in the federal government decides to change things, you can do it in your community and your state, and you can make people's lives better. You can create a society of justice and compassion. All you have to do is get involved."

Jim Wilber's campaign focuses on three key issues: Health Care, Education, and Responsibility. These problems, which many feel have reached a critical stage, are also the ones that many feel powerless to change.

In only four years the price of health care has risen 41%, that's over \$2,500 per year for the average family. We now also have over 43 million people without health insurance, the majority of them children. This has put an incredible burden on families and caused untold suffering to millions who have had to wait, or go without medical treatment.

A major-ity of Americans wants a universal health plan, yet we have no voice in our government advocating universal coverage. We have the ability to form, right here in the state of Michigan, a Universal Single Payer Health Care System, where all of the people of the state are covered by a single insurance provider, which reduces administrative costs, and can bargain collectively with health care providers for the least expensive rates.

Under this plan insurance will be provided for all of Michigan's citizens, paid for from a single source, funded by everyone, based upon their ability to pay. Unlike private insurance, which spends 4 out of every 10 dollars on administrative costs, executive



Wilber continued on page 28 ...

Mike Madias – 6th District, State House

I am running in a representative district that is more or less controlled by the Kilpatrick -MacNamara political machine. Were I a Republican or a Democrat seeking election here my strategy would be primarily one of vote getting.

As a new party in the district my primary goal is the creation of a new electorate. I intend to win this election. My plan is to establish a viable and useful presence for the Green Party in the 6th district.

Here are some telling statistics about the city of Detroit that are the underlying conditions for politics in the 6th state rep district.

First, 44 percent of the working age adults are either unemployed or have given up looking for work. More than half the residents do not have a high school education; in fact 47 percent of the adults are functionally illiterate. There is a litany of dismal statistics about Detroit. But with these three statistics you can draw some conclusions that they should drive this political effort.

First low voter turnout is not necessarily a sign that voters are disaffected and/or apathetic. In order to be engaged in the political process one must be able to read. The reason it was a criminal act for slaves in the old south to be taught to read was that language skills, reading, writing, and arithmetic were the basic tools of political and economic freedom.

One of the “10 Key Values” of the Green Party is ecological wisdom. But this is not rocket science. If someone is trying to fix an element of a complex system, and despite time and effort the damn thing does not fix, then in all probability they are doing the wrong thing to fix it. And they should try something else. Despite millions of dollars spent, literacy is not a reality in Detroit. Educational reform in Detroit has failed. We need to do something different, some new approach.

From “Head Start” through charter schools to “No Child Left Behind” there is this fixed idea that the top priority for education is to teach young children to read, write, to use numbers. I say that the top priority is to teach the adults first.

With the great political and economic barriers

imposed upon adults who do not know how to use English, it is clear to me that the way to achieve cultural justice is by teaching adults how to use the English language. Adults first, and then they will help teach the children. This might not be the right approach in other localities or districts, but in mine (the 6th state rep district) an important part of the support for children’s education, an adult population that is functionally literate, is not there.

The Republicans and the Democrats have it all wrong. The educational theory has been that money spent on education of the young is a starting place for social change. “I believe the children are the future. Teach them well, and let them lead the way,” say the lyrics of the popular song. It is practically an anthem. It is probably true in other areas. Not here. Here the adults are the foundation. Without them to do it, no one can teach the young.

In order to distinguish ourselves from the failed policies of both the Republicans and Democrats, I intend to position my campaign behind efforts to deal with adult functional illiteracy in my district. I want people to read, write, and be able to think critically. Gaining literacy is a good investment. Adults who are taught to the point of having functional literacy do not relapse into a condition of being unable to read again.

There are excellent dedicated people running for office from the Green Party in the Detroit area. I am honored to have been chosen to run for office in their company. If we, as a slate, take adult functional illiteracy a key platform of our campaign, saying it is a fundamental element behind the problems of the city, we will be campaigning and serving our people at the same time. That is how it works when a political party tells it like it is.

If I as a candidate and we as a party make sense, the people of the district will join us, vote for us, and put us and our allies into office.

Contact: motownhardball@yahoo.com

Web site:

www.geocities.com/motownhardball/Kermit/

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Progressives Prolong the War

By Paul Felton

Progressives hate Bush. They hate Bush because of the war in Iraq. They hate Bush because of the Patriot Act and for a lot of other very good reasons. They hate Bush so much that they'll vote for any Democrat running against him. They wish John Kerry would take a stand against the war in Iraq. But they don't even realize that by proclaiming that they will support Anybody But Bush, they lost all their leverage to influence the Democratic Party. John Kerry feels no pressure from them to take a stand on the war; he already has their vote. These progressives think they're being "smart" this year, as opposed to 2000 when they supported Nader. But they're really outsmarting themselves. And the tragedy is, they are helping to prolong the bloody and senseless war in Iraq.

This dynamic began in 2000. Progressives blamed Nader for giving us Bush. After 9/11 and Bush's reactionary response, the cries of "Anybody But

Bush" began – along with the mantra of "Ralph Don't Run." An article by that title, by Ronnie Dugger, appeared in *The Nation* before the war in Iraq began. It sent a signal to the Democrats: "You don't have to oppose Bush's policies, you have our votes regardless."

So, even though progressives protested the war, their "Anybody But Bush" stance relieved any pressure on Democrats to take a stand.

Remember the atmosphere in February 2003. Neither major party had taken a stand against the impending war. But the war was very unpopular. Millions of people marched in America and around the world on the same day to protest the war. More than a hundred city councils passed resolutions against it. Quite a few churches condemned the war – in advance. There were marches in cities that never have marches – it wasn't just New York, San Francisco, Madison, Ann Arbor, etc. The opinion polls were sharply divided. And that was without sharp criticism from the media or from either major party. It seems a long time ago now, but think back. George Bush had to work very hard to gain even a reluctant acceptance of the idea of going to war. Our movement was almost strong enough to stop it, but there was one missing element – an opposition party in Congress. Had the Democratic Party made "Stop the War" a rallying cry in the fall and winter of 2002-2003, we could have prevented the war.

Could the Democratic Party have been pressured to take such a stand? We'll never know. The party leadership already knew they would pay no price with progressives for their acquiescence in the war. Progressives had already given up one of the most important weapons in our battle with the war machine – the promise (or threat) that we would not support a candidate who supports this evil war.

The Democratic Party position on the war is pathetic. First they were afraid to oppose it because it was popular (during that brief period of time when it looked like there would be a swift military victory and that might be the end of it). Now, the war is such a disaster that they feel they don't need to take a stand against it – they can gain votes by saying nothing while Bush's war becomes more and more of an embarrassment. The point is, the Democrats feel no pressure to take a stand, because the progressives have already promised Kerry their votes. If the Democrats felt some pressure, then they might put pressure on Bush to get out of Iraq quickly. And, given that the war is such a disaster, if he felt such



In Whom We Trust – Military by Marie Tapert

pressure, he might look for a face-saving way to do just that (perhaps while declaring victory). But there is no such pressure. The progressive movement must shoulder a share of the responsibility for prolonging the war, because we have not fulfilled our responsibility to hold the Democrats accountable.

Oh yes, we have demonstrated and we have written letters to the editor, and we have made known our feelings about the war. But progressives spent just as much time excoriating the most articulate progressive voice in the political arena – Ralph Nader – as they spent fighting Bush’s policies. In so doing, they have made the pro-war, pro-corporate politicians of both parties so much more comfortable.

I know a person who sincerely hopes that Dennis Kucinich will make a difference in the Democratic platform debate at the Convention this summer. He will not sign my petition to get Nader on the ballot in Michigan. Why doesn’t he understand that the only possible way that Kucinich will gain the leverage to have an impact on the platform is if Nader is on the

ballot and running strong in the polls. If the Democrats are afraid of losing votes to Nader, you’ll see their platform and their campaign say a few of the things we progressives want to hear. And they’ll have a better chance of beating Bush as a result.

Unfortunately, too many progressives who think they are being “smart” this year are really being manipulated by the DLC.

I, for one, will not vote for John Kerry. I will not cast a vote for someone who voted for the war, the Patriot Act, Free Trade, and so many hideous pro-corporate, militaristic, and anti-human policies. If Ralph Nader is on my ballot, he will get my vote. If Nader is not there, but there is a Green Party candidate, that’s who I will vote for. I firmly believe that if most of the progressive people in this country took the same approach as I, and were vocal about it, we would have a better chance of ending the war before our votes ever get cast in November.

Paul Felton is co-chair of the Detroit Green Party Local and an Executive Board member of the 480-481 Area local of the APWU.

Cobb/LaMarche continued from page 9 ...

In 1996, LaMarche moved to Portland, Maine, to take a job as the first and only female host at the venerated heritage talk radio station, WGAN. She soon became known for her liberal views and was approached to run for governor of the state of Maine in 1998 on the Green Independent Party ticket. LaMarche led a grassroots campaign that generated 7% of the vote from a budget of just \$20,000. She



became the first woman in the history of the state of Maine to gain ballot access for a political party due to her campaign.

A year after running for governor, LaMarche moved to the Netherlands to pursue a Master’s Degree in European History at the University of

Amsterdam. LaMarche and her children are confident that their time in Europe greatly changed and improved them as citizens of our planet. Additionally, it gave LaMarche a vital taste of life outside the United States and placed her in a position from which she is able to make better informed

decisions regarding what course of action is best for America and Americans.

In the years since Holland, LaMarche has been employed at a radio station in Maine’s capital under the pseudonym Genny Judge, which she borrowed from her late mother. Genny Judge is known throughout central Maine as an altruist in the truest sense of the term. She has found kidneys for dying children, raised money for poverty-stricken youth, and helped to garner support for the relief crew after September 11, all the while voicing her concerns for and opinions of the state of affairs in the community, state, nation, and world at large.

For more information, please visit www.votecobb.org

40 Candidates continued from page 6 ...

new informational and tactical literature from the two biggest campaigns coming out hour after hour. However, notes GPMI elections coordinator John La Pietra, it was easy to tell that the rivalry was friendly at bottom.

“Whenever a state delegation would announce its vote totals, it told everyone else about the good things Greens in the state were working to protect – and the bad things they were working to prevent. And everyone was cheering and booing right with them – in unison and in harmony. It shows how united we really are – in the Green values David

Cobb has so rightly described as the better instincts of our country.”

When his turn came to report the GPMI delegation's first-round votes, Mount Pleasant city commissioner Jim Moreno reminded the convention that Michigan was (among other things) the home of the 1937 sitdown strike that founded the UAW – and the home of Rosa Parks, who sat down on the bus for freedom.

The Nader-Camejo ticket has been offered a Reform Party nomination in Michigan, which has since been challenged by the Bureau of Elections. Democrats are protesting Nader's alternative route onto the ballot – qualifying petitions to run as an independent – claiming Republicans gave him too much help.

Michigan Greens of all shades would welcome Nader's joining Cobb on the ballot. GPMI national representative David Spitzley commented, “If there's room on our ballot for the two big pro-war candidates, there must be room enough for more than one peace candidate.”

Early July: Filling the Column

The first caucus, for Kalamazoo County, was held upstairs at 4th Coast Café (816 S. Westnedge) July 1 starting at 7pm. Green Party of Kalamazoo co-chair James Wilber won his local's nomination for county clerk – and will have company on the ballot from sheriff candidate Stephanie Frizzell.

Wilber is “proud to be representing the Green Party. This is what Grassroots Democracy is all about – concerned citizens taking an active role in their government on all levels.

“I feel that the position of County Clerk is the perfect way to have Green issues heard, and have a highly visible and active role in our community,” he adds.

On July 10, Wayne County Greens nominated two Greens for Congress, and two more for seats in the state House. Their neighbors in Oakland County nominated two county-level Green candidates . . . one of them for county commissioner, and the other for county executive.

Art Myatt seized the opportunity to give Oakland County voters an alternative to incumbent chief executive L. Brooks Patterson. And keeping Myatt company in the Green column on the ballot will be Hillard Williams, candidate for County Commission District 23.

Wayne County Greens filled their two slots for Congressional seats with activists Tom Lavigne in the 13th District and Lisa Weltman in the 14th. Andrea Lavigne was nominated for the 1st District

seat in the Michigan House, and Mike Madias is running to be the 6th District's state representative.

On July 11, Bay County Greens nominated Tony Kozubal and Lloyd Clarke for the 7th and 8th District seats on the Bay County Commission, and Ed Mueller as a candidate for one of the seats on the Bangor Township Board of Trustees. And Roger McClary got the Kent County Greens' nod July 14 to run for State Representative in the 76th District.

Then, 2002 legislative candidate Adam S. Wright was nominated for sheriff by Tuscola County Greens on the 17th. That same day, Genesee County Greens selected three candidates of their own: Amber Carey for drain commissioner, and J. J. Shaver and Ken Mathenia for county commissioners representing Districts 4 and 5 respectively.

That boosted the total GPMI slate to 30, counting the Cobb/LaMarche ticket as one and including Moreno and Glover, the Greens running for non-partisan offices. But there were more candidates to come.

July 20-Aug. 2: A Dozen More

Eleven more Green candidates were nominated in caucuses the fourth week of July.

Jo Anne Bier Beemon, nominated on July 20 to run for re-election as Charlevoix County Drain Commissioner, will have company in the Green column on this year's ballot. Ellis Boal, a candidate for county prosecutor, and Charlevoix Township trustee candidate Joseph King worked with Beemon in the successful drive to block a Wal-Mart from moving into the area.

Meanwhile, Ann Arbor Ward 3 City Council candidate Marc Reichardt vowed to keep running despite an unfriendly declaration from the city clerk's office. Reichardt has support from three experienced Green candidates: Elliott Smith and Donnelly Hadden, running this year for the 6th and 7th District County Commission seats, and Keith Agdanowski, making his second run for Ypsilanti City Council from that city's 3rd Ward. All were nominated July 21 at Pittsfield Township Hall.

And the Greens' Congressional candidate for the 7th District, Jason Seagraves, helped the newly-forming South Central Michigan Greens nominate four more candidates in Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee Counties on Saturday, July 24:

1. Michael C. Davis will run for Lenawee County Clerk, and longtime Green Judy Seigneur will be the sole challenger to four Republicans for four Adrian Township Trustee spots.
2. Kathleen Blakely, elected the new local's first chair, is also the Green candidate for Hillsdale

County Clerk.

3. Greens also nominated James L. Seagraves for the Jackson County Commission. He will run in the 12th District, centered around Blackman Township.

Seagraves also organized a debate at the caucus site with a rival, US Taxpayers Party 7th District Congressional candidate David Horn. The two differed sharply in their views on a dozen selected issues – but a comment posted on Horn’s Web site after the event noted, “If everyone exhibited the class that the Green Party has shown to us, there would be much less rancor and ill will in politics.”

Earlier this year, Seagraves was refused entrance to a debate in Adrian, his home town – a debate he’d been invited to before he joined the Greens.

Meanwhile in Ann Arbor, the co-interim city clerk tried to use an unclearly-worded state law to block Reichardt’s candidacy – the only one from a party other than the Republicans and the Democrats. “It’s a bad law,” Reichardt noted, adding that the only city in the state enforcing it at all is Ann Arbor.

And in Charlevoix, Beemon – the first Green elected to office as a Green after the party won ballot status in 2000 – will campaign for a second four-year term as drain commissioner. For doing her job above and beyond the call of duty, Beemon has been pressured by the Republican-controlled Charlevoix County Commission – and recognized by the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners, who elected her to their executive committee as Northern District chair.

Traverse Bay Watershed Greens will have the

final chance to add to GPMI’s record candidate count. The Grand Traverse County caucus will be held Monday, August 2, starting at 7pm on the lower level of Horizon Books (243 E. Front St., across from the BancOne Building in downtown Traverse City). Local member Tom Mair is expecting to win the party’s nomination for county clerk, but other candidates may also materialize.

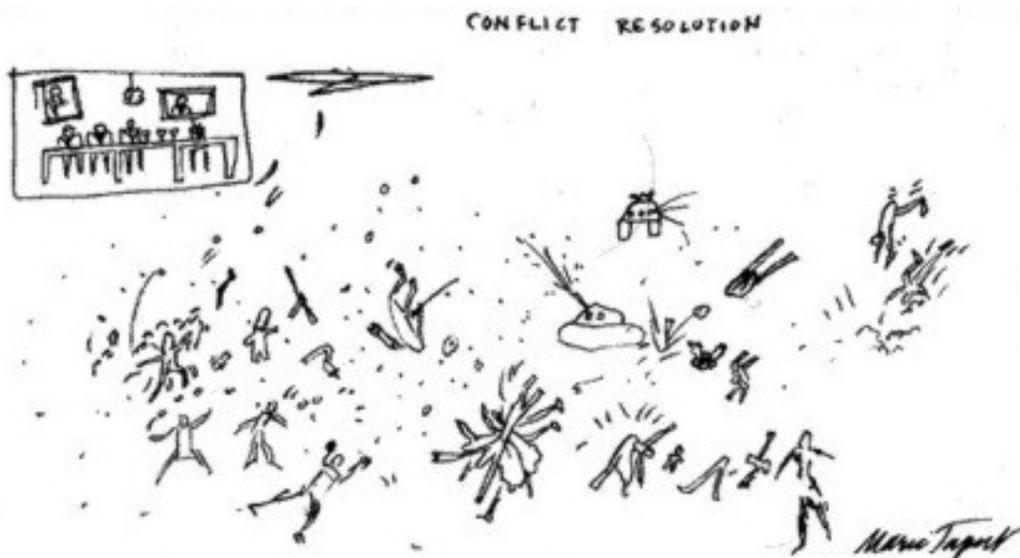
Then, with all the nominations settled, GPMI will follow in the footsteps of the Green Party of the United States (GPUS), which adopted a new platform in Milwaukee. Michigan Greens will hold an issue-oriented quarterly meeting August 21-22 at Hawk Woods Nature Center in Oakland County. From that may come policy statements and possible updates of the GPMI platform. The party has been active on issues ranging from fighting the privatization of water to instant-runoff voting and opening political debates to all ballot-qualified candidates, from pushing for universal health care to holding onto affirmative action and threatened civil rights to protecting peace.

For more information about GPMI, its platform and public positions on issues, its candidates for President and Vice President and all the other candidates it has nominated or endorsed for the November 2004 ballot, please visit our Web site: <http://www.migreens.org>

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would be a worse alternative for those who wanted to build up Green Party strength via local campaigns given David Cobb’s first priority of using his campaign to build the Green Party.

The convention readjourned about 2:30 to start the second round of voting. It was reported that there were four options for delegates. One option was David Cobb. Another was no nominee. The third was Kent Mesplay, and the fourth was Joann Beemon. There were no other options because, unlike the first round, the convention rules mandated that only



Conflict Resolution by Marie Tapert

no nominee and candidates who signed a statement affirming that they would accept a GP Presidential nomination would be eligible to receive votes after the first round. Cobb, Mesplay and Beemon were the only candidates who signed that statement.

It was obvious to everyone that the big question was whether or not David Cobb and Pat LaMarche would be able to gain the additional 77 delegates needed to have 50% plus one. If they failed to do so, that would give a major boost to the Nader/Camejo side and continue the voting into future rounds.

The first three states, Alabama, Arizona and Arkansas, reported no movement toward Cobb. But the fourth state, California, was a different story. Cobb gained 22 votes as compared to the first round, going from 13 to 35. The pro-Cobb delegates cheered.

As the reports continued, a clear trend began to emerge. Cobb was holding his own in every state, gaining one, two or three up until Maine, home state of Pat LaMarche, which thrilled the pro-Cobb delegates by going from 7 in the first round to 18 in the second.

A few rounds later, Minnesota gave Cobb an additional 10 delegates as compared to the first round, and as the reports continued the Cobb vote kept gaining ground. By the time it got to Virginia, he was right there with, unofficially, 77 additional votes. When Virginia gave him six more votes that pretty much sealed it. All that was needed was for the same trend to continue, for Cobb to lose no ground in the remaining four states.

When Wisconsin went 33-1 for Cobb, a gain of eight votes, everyone knew it was over. All that remained was for Texas, which had passed when they were called earlier, to announce that 34 of their 35 votes were for Cobb. Texas is where David Cobb was born, lived and did Green Party organizing until a year or so ago.

For many the celebration began, genuine joy over a hard-fought victory. Hugs and kisses and dancing in the aisles erupted until David burst onto the stage and introduced Pat LaMarche for her first speech to the assembled delegates. Following it, David came to the podium and spoke graciously about Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo as he called for a strong campaign by the Green Party, indicating his intention to go to Ohio, Pennsylvania "and New York, if you want me," to help efforts in those states to get Cobb/LaMarche on the ballot.

For others, the feelings certainly ranged from mixed to deep disappointment. But as the session was adjourned by Matt Gonzalez, many of us left the convention center feeling extremely proud not just

about the results but about the political maturity displayed by the convention as a whole in the way we had just dealt with a hugely difficult, months-long, often-painful issue.

Green and Growing

This was an amazing week, an emotional roller-coaster for those of us immersed in it. For large numbers of the delegates, it was a strengthening experience and not just because we successfully navigated the dangerous shoals of decision-making regarding the big Presidential question. There were the many dedicated activists we met from all over the country who we know will keep building this important organization at the key, local, grassroots level for months and years to come. There were the local Green elected officials like Matt Gonzalez, Jason West, Joyce Chen and Brenda Konkel and many others that we met and interacted with, as well as the candidates running for office all over the country. There were the valuable workshops and caucuses on a whole range of issues, the great street party Friday evening, the general spirit of unity and common purpose that pervaded the deliberations. The women's caucus, youth caucus and black caucus all took steps forward. International visitors and speakers reminded us that we are part of an international movement worldwide and that we have major responsibilities to the world's struggling peoples and threatened ecosystem.

The numbers show it: there is clear, persistent, quantitative growth on the part of the Green Party of the United States, now with affiliates in 44 states, with 205 Greens in office and ballot-qualified in 22 states and D.C. But just as important, Milwaukee '04 demonstrated that there is also qualitative growth.

As David Cobb said in his inspiring speech Saturday night, the Green Party is chock full of "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." In this time of great danger but also great possibilities, this is no small thing.

For more information go to www.gp.org and www.votecobb.org.

Ted Glick is the National Coordinator of the Independent Progressive Politics Network (www.ippn.org), although these ideas are solely his own. He was a Cobb delegate from New Jersey and worked actively as part of the core Cobb campaign team.

Lavigne continued from page 14 ...

Most of the people in the world live on less than \$2 per day, and half the people on less than \$1 per day. The US bends over backwards to support Multi-national corporations which worsen these

conditions and exploit these peoples of the world, for their greater profit. These peoples of the world will not take it any longer. We will fight back. We will prevail.

One root of the problem is a perverse patriarchal paradigm propagated by classism and sexism. The opium of the masses include: sports, entertainment, and working day and night trying to make enough to survive. Americans know less about US foreign policy than we do about the characters on our silly, sexist TV programs. Racism in America is rooted in classism. The NAACP should be standing in solidarity with the unionists in Colombia. We fight the same battle. Racism has less to do with color than it does with economics. The rich blacks are just as guilty as the rich whites in oppressing the poor blacks. National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell should be criticized by the NAACP loud and clear, if they are to be true to their mission, because the Bush administration propagates poverty and gives a blank check to the multi-nationals to oppress peoples around the world. Besides women are more oppressed as a category than any other category on the globe.

This perverse patriarchal paradigm manifests itself through child molesting religious institutions, with a long history of oppressing women, from the days of burning “witches” at the stake to today: when girls who are raped are told they are sinners to have an abortion, despite their individual choice is to do so; and when Nuns can’t do what priests do, despite the lack of priest to carry on the supposed mission of the catholic church. I am pro choice. I am more of a feminist than lots of the classist feminist women, who come from a charity paradigm, instead of an empowerment standpoint. Today many so called feminists pathologize their fellow women, who are victims of poverty and throw them a bone with some charity, medicate them with anti-depressants, and pathologize the survivors of rape. Why aren’t these survivors told that the third natural reaction to being raped: fight or flight or freeze. To the survivors of rape, I stand in solidarity, and will do what I can to empower you to move on and stay safe.

Our schools propagate a pedagogy of the oppressed. Our children are taught that they bring nothing of value; they are to sit still and listen, to the spoon fed false history of the world, glorifying the US as liberators. Our schools help propagate sales of mind-numbing pharmaceuticals, especially to our boys who can’t sit still in a hard chair for eight hours and take all the junk they are being fed, from the history to the junk food; the systemic effect: keep

those outspoken kids quiet, they are future revolutionary agents of change and greatness.

The Democrats are a little bit the lesser of two evils as compared with the Republicans. If we allow ourselves as a people to be left with only those two choices, the Democrats and Republicans, then we are feeble minded people. I believe otherwise. I believe we, as a people will do what it takes to change things.

Tom Lavigne

Contact: tom@IDEACore.com

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each candidate on the ballot, with broadcast times rotated fairly throughout the day. This would not be available for candidates to play their commercially produced advertising, but only to have the candidates themselves on camera – a level playing field for those with money and those without.

I want to be in office to act on issues we don’t even know about yet, with Green values as a guide. I put the words “Ecology – Social Justice – Grassroots Democracy – Nonviolence” on my campaign literature because these are the essential “Four Pillars” of Green Parties worldwide. They’re not just a list of disparate elements, they are intertwined. Together, they are both a goal and a map of how to get there.

We’d all like to live in a clean and healthy environment, but we don’t. If air and water and food are polluted, they are polluted for all of us. If they are to be clean, they will be clean for all. Equality of rights and opportunities – a floor, not a ceiling, as a friend of mine often says – is the essence of social justice. The way to both social justice and a healthy environment is the vigorous exercise of grassroots democracy. That’s only possible among equals who don’t use violence on each other, or tolerate it. The four pillars are connected, and so are all of us.

Corporations, not citizens, now dominate the political process. This is both blatant and common. What we have now is corporate control of our government. It’s totally absurd that each corporation is considered a “legal person” with constitutionally protected rights but no responsibilities other than making a profit. What we need is democratic control of corporations. This will only happen when enough people understand that it needs to happen – and when enough people understand, it will happen.

The reality is, democracy is hard work, and voting is almost a trivial way to participate. If I’m elected, and then voters go back to their private lives assuming I’ll take care of things from there, voters lose and I lose. My lone voice won’t

accomplish much.

Grassroots democracy doesn't leave power with a few politicians who imagine they should be powerful. It lets the government know what is needed by independent organizing and by direct action. It supports elected officials who help social justice movements and replaces the ones who try to suppress those movements. That's the kind of grassroots organizing I want to encourage. If it takes root, then we all gain – even if I lose this election.

There's more to say, but not enough room. You can find more at <http://www.migreens.org>. There's information about this campaign, other Green Party candidates, and the principles for which we stand.

Contact: art4exec@earthlink.net

Web site www.art4exec.org

Wilber continued from page 20 ...

salaries, and outside investing that has nothing to do with providing coverage, a Universal Single Payer plan can spend as little as one out of every 10 dollars in administrative costs, as has been shown by similar systems around the world.

Our quality of care will remain the same, because the health care providers themselves still have competition, and people will have more choices, because they will no longer be limited to the few doctors that participate in their HMO, but can visit any medical professional anywhere.

On top of all of these benefits, the plan also has potential to bring astronomical job growth to the state of Michigan, since the rising costs of health care have not only affected our families, but our businesses. Employers find it more and more difficult to provide coverage for their workers, and the number one cause of labor disputes is who will shoulder the burden of the additional costs. If Michigan provides coverage for all, it would be perhaps the greatest incentive we can create to draw business to our state.

Along with the health care system, Jim Wilber sees a need for a massive reworking of our public education system. While we have some schools with new computers and facilities, others go without. No longer should we require Michigan schools to go begging from their community for millage increases.

Jim Wilber stands for adequate and equal funding of our public schools. Every school should receive equal funding for each student, and each district must be evaluated individually to determine its infrastructure needs, and to fund according to those needs. According to Jim Wilber, "Its time that all Michigan students get an equal chance to learn."

Also, funding must be increased to meet the

needs of Michigan's children. These funds can easily be obtained by rolling back tax cuts to the rich, and cutting off welfare to Michigan's corporations. These increases must include teachers' salaries, so that we can attract the best professionals to the occupation, and to our state.

The third plank in Jim Wilber's platform covers a multitude of issues, but can be summed up in the idea of Responsibility. Jim wants to make our state government more responsible to its citizens by eliminating all political fund-raising, and having public financing of all elections.

"When Jacob Hoogendyk takes \$1,000 from the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, or another \$1,000 from the Realtors PAC of Michigan, who does that make him responsible to?" asks Jim. "Many believe that the problem of large campaign contributions from corporate donors only happens at the national level, but it happens at the state level, and even in city and township elections, money has polluted our democracy."

Jim Wilber also wants to see businesses be responsible to the communities that support them. When corporations like Wal-Mart or Best Buy sets up a store in our state, they pay their workers a bare minimum salary. People from our communities shop there, and spend their hard earned dollars, but those dollars go back to the corporate headquarters, not back into our economy.

We should only support business that supports Michigan – those that pay a fair wage, and invest in our state. Tax abatements and incentives must be reserved for local businesses, and any that receive money or tax breaks must return them to the community, or be penalized.

"Too many times we have given away our tax dollars, given corporations special tax breaks, and built infrastructure at public expense, only to see those corporations close up shop and move overseas just a few years later. We can no longer give away our citizens' tax dollars only to see corporations take the money and run. We can make them give back what they take if we have law-makers with resolve, and law-makers who don't take campaign contributions from the corporations that are robbing us."

Since he will be taking no corporate or PAC donations for this campaign, Jim Wilber is counting on you to help make his campaign a success. To donate, send a check to Elect Jim Wilber, 5498 Toms Place, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

The campaign is also counting on the hard work of volunteers like you. To become involved write the address above or email Wilber4Michigan@aol.com.

GPMI Platform Summary 2004

The complete platform is available at the migreens.org web site. This summary necessarily leaves out some items and over-simplifies others. We urge you to look at the complete document. The platform is our idea of how the 10 Key Values of the Green Party apply to specific issues.

Grassroots Democracy – We support citizen involvement in all levels of decision making. We urge broader access to the ballot, easier voter registration and an election day holiday. We believe Instant Runoff Voting and Proportional Representation would allow a greater variety of views to be expressed in elections. Real campaign finance reform and public financing of elections is essential. Broadcast media should 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. We do not support any form of privatization. Public resources and services should be publicly owned, democratically controlled, and managed for the common good.

Social Justice – We advocate 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. Public schools educate students on the subjects of health and sex. School funding should not depend on property taxes, but 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" has caused at least as much harm to the society as drug use. It should be abandoned. Funds spent on drug enforcement should be used for medical programs to treat addictions. Most drugs should be decriminalized (and taxed).

Environmental sustainability – Sustainability in the production of energy and goods is essential. Nuclear power should be eliminated. Spent nuclear fuel should be processed into its safest form (vitrified) before it is shipped on any public

right-of-way. 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 any 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 learning, using, and advocating nonviolent solutions domestically and internationally.

We do not advocate banning guns. We call for responsible use and licensing. We believe 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)

ARE YOU GREEN?

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

Ecological Wisdom

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

Social Justice

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

Grassroots Democracy

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

Non-violence

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

Decentralization

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

Community-Based Economics

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

Feminism

Greens are feminists, which means that we believe in the equality of

women and men (regardless of sexual orientation). No one has the right to define or limit another person.

Respect for Diversity

In ecosystems, diversity is not a pleasant goal to be aspired to, it's a bedrock requirement. Similarly, in human relationships, Greens believe that diversity is both the cause and effect of a healthy society.

Personal & Global Responsibility

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

Future Focus / Sustainability

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

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

Welcome to the Green Movement! Memberships and donations

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

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

- \$25 - Regular member
- \$60 - Sustaining member
- \$1000 - Lifetime member
- \$10 - Student, low income member

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

Membership money goes for administrative costs, party building activities, and as non-political educational efforts of the Green movement in Michigan.

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

I am enclosing \$5 to subscribe to AWOOG for 1 year.

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.

Other Organizations Supporting Green Goals

ACLU – Michigan

60 W. Hancock
Detroit, MI 48201-1324
(313) 578-6800

<http://www.aclumich.org>

Adamah/Detroit Summer

The Boggs Center
3061 Field St., Detroit, MI 48214
313-923-0797, 313-282-6983
www.adamah.org

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

(734) 789-8790
www.au.org
metrodetroitau@hotmail.com

American Friends Service Committee

1420 Mill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Amnesty International - Detroit

(313) 531-7647
ADAPTT (animal rights)
P. O. Box 725, Royal Oak, MI 48068
(810) 763-2715

www.adaptt.org
dogmaday@aol.com

BlueJean ThinkTank

Mike Madias
(313) 657-6998
hardball@madias.org
www.madias.org

Clean Water Action of Michigan

1200 Michigan Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 203-0754
www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/
elansingcwa@cleanwater.org

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

Earth Works Garden/Greening of Detroit

1820 Mt. Eliot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 579-2100
rsamyn@capuchinministries.org

Earthwatch

Claudia Seldon, Mi. Field Rep.
1965 Pembroke 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 of Metro Detroit

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

www.graypanthers.homestead.com/

Green House – Detroit

Stacie & Sue Trescott
22757 Woodward, Suite 210
P. O. Box 20076, Ferndale, MI 48220
(248) 336-9241
jamrag@glis.net

Jobs with Justice

600 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 961-0800 (313) 961-9776 (fax)
semichjwj1@aol.com

Labor Notes

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

Labor Party – Detroit

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

Massasauga Earth First!

PO Box 44173, Detroit, MI 48244
massasaugaef@yahoo.com

Metro Detroit Against Sanctions

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

Michigan Campaign Finance Network

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

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC)

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

Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR)

71 E. Edsel Ford, Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 869-8835

Michigan Peace Team

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

Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO)

313-832-0618, (fax 1409)
info@mwro.org
www.mwro.org

MichUHCAN (universal health care)

8846 Robindale, Detroit, MI 48239
(248) 477-7911 or (248) 548-3019

<http://michuhcan.tripod.com>

Motor City Blight Busters

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

National Lawyers Guild

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

NORML/PRA–YES 2001

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

Peace Action

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

www.peace-action.org

Peace & National Priorities Center

P. O. Box 240344
Orchard Lake, MI 48324
(248) 683-3363

Riverfront East Alliance (REAL)

(313) 438-4143
www.members.aol.com/realriver2

Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter

michigan.sierraclub.org/index.html
mackinac.chapter@sierraclub.org
109 East Grand River
Lansing, MI 48906

(517) 484-2372

Solidarity – Ann Arbor

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

Solidarity – Detroit

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

solidarity@igc.org

Sweetwater Alliance

2020S. 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

US/Cuba Labor Exchange

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

Vegans in Motion

Amber Waves of Green

Green Party of Michigan

548 S. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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