



Green Focus

The Newspaper of the Green Party of California - December 2005

California Green Party In the News

Greens Take Lead in Several Major Anti-War Actions at the CA State Capitol

By Cres Vellucci,
Press Secretary of the GPCA

SACRAMENTO - As the rhetoric increases regarding whether the U.S. should immediately begin a withdrawal from the occupation of Iraq - as the Green Party has called for from the beginning of the war - Greens in California have emerged in the forefront of many of the strongest actions calling for that withdrawal.

For instance, Greens in the San Francisco Bay Area helped pass a local initiative Nov. 8 - "College not Combat" - which calls on San Francisco to discourage military recruiters in schools, and former Green Oakland City Council candidate Aimee Allison continues her hard work as a Gulf War conscientious objector counseling others in the military and in the school about their options.

And, in Sacramento, the State Capitol of California, a contingent of Greens with Veterans for Peace have helped organize a series of aggressive, hardhitting actions designed to stop recruiting in schools, and at the Northern California Military Entrance Processing Station.

Pat Driscoll, a former Green Party congressional candidate and founder of the VFP Sacramento Chapter, was one of many Greens to participate in daily 5 a.m. vigils in front of the MEPS facility, where all new recruits are processed. The very early morning vigils drew peace activists from throughout Northern California, including Cindy Sheehan.

At least one recruit - after seeing the pickets and reading counter-recruiting literature - decided to walk away and not enlist, said Driscoll, who explained that "this is where our children will line up to die in an unjust war that can have no winners. The war in Iraq has nothing to do with terrorism - it is just using our troops as cannon fodder."

And, on Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Driscoll and VFP began a campaign - which is expected to go national - that targets "War Profiteers," companies that make a profit off the recruiting and killing of Americans in Iraq.

At the first target of the "War Profiteer" campaign - the Radisson Hotel, which

Continued on Page 2

LA Greens Take It To The Streets



The Green Prix: Gentleman Stop Your Engines: More than 20 members of the LA Greens turned out in the hot sun at the 2005 Doo Dah parade in Pasadena to bring a strong sustainable energy, conservation and anti-war message to the parade. More than 40,000 people turned out to watch the annual spectacle, which is a parody of the city's Tournament of Roses Parade.

Greens' Doo Dah Appearance Deemed a Great Success

By Don Boring

PASADENA - Under a hot Southern California sun the Los Angeles Greens met in Pasadena to bring a 'green presence' to the 29th Annual Doo Dah parade. This was the third year for the LA Greens bringing a socially conscious message to the estimated 40,000 or more people who showed up to see the 'doins' at the parade.

"The Green Prix: 'Gentleman STOP Your Engines,'" was this years theme for the Green entry in the infamous Doo Dah extravaganva. Complete with banners, homemade signs, puppets, bicycles, a SEGWAY, electric motorscooters, unicycles and other forms of transportation, including a biodiesel powered automobile, the entry was designed to reach out to one of the Green Party's main constituency, the commuting public.

Since many LA Greens ride in Critical Mass bike rides, the LA local flyer-ed at rides and received inquires from LA Critical Mass riders, Bicycle Kitchen, LA County Bike Coalition, Santa Monica Critical Mass and wheelman clubs concerning participation in the event. They also did substantial email outreach to these various groups including a SEGWAY email group that attracted Mike O'Brian a local member of the community who rode his SEGWAY in the parade.

LA Green member Denise Robb and friend brought a shopping cart and dressed as street people to emphasize the harmful effects to the public welfare of the Bush administrations preoccupation with pre-emptive war and imperialism. Several people at the event noted it is a shame that all the money we as a nation are spending on a war for oil is being taken out of the social program budgets that feed and clothe the nations poor.

Daniel Streebin, of the Biodeisel Coalition, brought his 1984 Mercedes Benz biodiesel car with him to show-

case in the Green Prix march for energy alternatives. He was particularly proud of the banner and decals that his car 'wore' as he drove it in the parade. "Biodiesel - No War Required," and "This Car is a Vegetarian!" Streebin stressed that if the US would make a priority of biodiesel fuel production that we could easily cut our dependence on foreign oil in just a few years.

Marching with the Green's at the Doo Dah parade was Congressional candidate for 2006 (28th District) Byron DeLear. "I'm marching to get war profiteers out

Continued on Page 2



Green Party of California
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Place
Stamp
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Greens Participate in Antiwar Protest: *continued from page 1*

devotes an entire wing of its operation to hold "orientation" meetings for young recruits, who are later processed at MEPS and sent to Iraq. These recruits are housed nightly at the Radisson.

A picket of nearly 100 activists, organized by Driscoll and VFP, confronted the Radisson on Veterans Day to "take the profit out of war." Weekly, and eventually daily, pickets are planned at Radisson Hotels throughout the state.

After the first picket, Driscoll's tires were slashed at the protest site scene.

"I have now been clearly identified by those supporting the war as an opponent of the policies of the Bush Administration, and the war. Our local Veterans for Peace president has had threatening phone calls, and now my tire has been slashed," said Pat Driscoll, who did not directly accuse any particular person of the crime. However, he noted the tire-slashing happened after a

confrontation with about a dozen, pro-war motorcycle riders who jostled peace demonstrators. Greens also held a protest at a prominent conservative talk-show station — the home station of Rush Limbaugh—in Sacramento, which was the site of a "counter" caravan to Cindy Sheehan during in Crawford, Texas stay.

"The reactionary right represented by the caravan, and sponsored by a radio station using the public airwaves, is attacking a mother grieving for her son. It's not right and that's why Greens and others confronted them," said Driscoll.

Finally, in early November, the Sacramento City Council became one of the first cities in the country to not only oppose the Iraq War but to issue a resolution calling for a withdrawal from Iraq to "commence" in a "rapid" manner - in effect, an immediate withdrawal. Greens helped organize the behind-the-scenes effort to convince the council members to vote against the killing. "Despite public opinion polls which clearly show the vast majority of Americans want the war to end, and the killing stopped, Democratic politicians refuse to call for an immediate withdrawal. They continue to de facto support the Bush Administration. The only honor that remains, the only moral and ethical thing to do to dignify, in any way, this loss of life is to immediately begin withdrawal from Iraq," said Driscoll.

Doo Dah Parade:

Continued from page 1

of our politics and out of our lives," DeLear said. "The drive for profits and the greedy people who pursue them is what has addicted our civilization to oil and to WAR! It's all about profits—and there comes a time when people need to care enough to clean up the republic AND the environment."

Longtime Green, and Mt. Washington resident Jim Leong rode his bright yellow electric microscooter in the parade with a large bumper sticker on the front that said, "War is Not the Answer." He took pride in the fact that his vehicle emitted no pollutants and was a fairly efficient means of transportation.

In addition to members of the LA Greens who marched in the parade, a



Above Top: Green Pat Driscoll and Denise Christine, both vets, holding banner at the Military Entrance Processing Station demonstration. **Below:** Vets for Peace, George Main and others reading names of the dead in Iraq at Radisson "War Profiteer" protest.

couple of other groups marched with and near the Greens in solidarity to their principles. I'ma WarMonger and I'saih Hogg, two well dressed members of the Billionaires for Bush were seen working the crowd and reminding them that, "We're Bipartisan - we buy Democrats AND Republicans."

The California Clean Money Campaign also had 3 members marching with pig faces, handing out fake \$100,000 bills and emphasizing the importance of taking big money out of politics. They were promoting the support of CA assembly bill 583 to take the corporate interests out of politics.

A great amount of work and preparation was put into this effort during several weekends prior to the event. Members met at the Peace Center on 3rd street to coordinate their activities and put together their props. "We put

in a huge amount of work to craft our theme, 'Green Party Green Prix: LA-DIES and Gentlemen, Stop your Engines' distinctive to the crowd and I think we should give special mention to the artistic mastermind of our local, Cathy McKnight," said LA Green Lisa Taylor.

This was the largest Green Party Doo Dah unit in 4 yrs, thanks to all the outreach they did. They used their pro-transit theme to outreach to groups which should be a natural constituency. The unit passed out over 2,000 flyers to parade goers with their arms out-reached looking for freebies.

The LA Greens may be seen marching in the Doo Dah parade on an upcoming special broadcast on Travel TV channel with commentary by host Fred Willard. Check your local directories for details.

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Correction

In the spring issue of GF, no byline appeared for the Aimee Allison article on page six. The author of the article should have been noted as Mike Feinstein of Santa Monica. We apologize for the accidental omission of Mike's name



Top Left: Biodiesel car with bicycle escort. **Bottom Left:** Clean Money Campaign 'pigs' march in parade. **Pictured at Right:** I'ma War Monger and I'saih Hogg from Billionaires for Bush.



Greens Support California Fair Wage Initiative

Greens statewide initiative would raise state hourly minimum wage. Goal is to place initiative on 2006 ballot.

By Cres Vellucci

SACRAMENTO – In what will be the most progressive ballot gambit in its brief history, the Green Party of California has endorsed, and will begin circulating petitions in December to put a bold new statewide initiative on the ballot in 2006 to dramatically raise the state minimum wage for millions of Californians. Green Party activists initiated the campaign in early 2005, and have formed a statewide coalition – called Californians for Fair Wages, or CFW – of social justice, political and labor organizations to collect the estimated 600,000 signatures to put the measure on the November 2006 ballot. Early endorsers include the Mexican American Political Association.

The campaign will be an all-volunteer signature-gathering campaign and all Greens, and social justice activists are urged to become involved. While it will not be a "living wage," the new minimum will immediately help underpaid workers, and will help build a political organization for the under-represented public at the ballot box.

With the state minimum wage languishing at only \$6.75 an hour – nearly \$4 below the purchasing power of 1968 wages for minimum wage workers – the initiative would raise workers wages by between \$1 and \$2 over the next few years, a long overdue hike.

The key to the wage increase will be an annual cost-of-living-allowance (COLA) which will allow minimum wage workers to not fall further behind as inflation increases. It would be the first increase in the minimum wage since January 2002.

The coalition announced its intention to file shortly after Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed legislation for the second straight year to modestly increase the



Calling All Greens: Barry Hermanson of Californians for Fair Wages is flanked by Julia Vera, left, and Hugo Vera, right of the Mexican American Political Association, one of the early endorsers of the initiative in addition to the Green Party of California.

state's minimum wage.

"At \$6.75 per hour, the current minimum wage is so low that it does not allow full-time workers enough income to adequately feed, clothe, house and provide health care and childcare for their families. A full-time job at minimum wage is far too low to provide for California families' basic needs," said CFW's Barry Hermanson, a major funder/organizer for the successful 2003 San Francisco minimum wage

initiative.

"The governor has demonstrated again that he bows to the corporate special interests who would rather line their pockets with even more profits than accept a reasonable, long overdue and fair minimum wage increase for the roughly two million California workers who labor at the bottom of the wage scale," said Hugo Vera of CFW.

Those interested in helping, see: www.cafairwage.org - 916-484-5888

Greens Join Procession of Coffins on Veterans Day

■ Huge Crowd Turnout at Arlington West - Santa Monica for 2nd Straight Year to Protest War in Iraq

By Byron DeLear, Los Angeles

SANTA MONICA - Early Saturday morning about 300 peace activists gathered on Santa Monica Beach to make an incredible visual statement about the human costs of war. One hundred life sized flag-draped coffins were laid out in rows adjacent to the Arlington West Memorial of 2000+ crosses on Santa Monica Beach. Each grave marker representing a US casualty in Iraq. There were various Green Party members from all over Southern California showing their support and participating in this special anti-war demonstration on Veteran's Day: including San Fernando and Los Angeles Greens, Ceil Sorenson, Linda Piera-Avila, Lisa Taylor, Sasha Karlik, Perias Pillay, Amy Marshak, Maricela Guzman, LGBT Green Shane Que Hee, and Orange County GP Congressional Candidate Tom Lash and myself, Congressional Candidate in the 28th district, Byron De Lear. (DelearforCongress.org)

After assembling on the beach, hundreds of pallbearers dressed in all black T-shirts saying, "2000 DEAD: HOW MANY MORE?" gently carried the flag-draped coffins and marched off the beach pier and turned north onto Ocean Blvd. This was such a great visual opportunity for independent media and documentary film makers to capture such a moving representation of the anti-war movement, and the entire procession had photographers moving in and out of the formation, buzzing about and recording the whole event. Cindy Sheehan gave a couple of interviews on location as well as other Goldstar families of fallen victims to the Iraqi war. (<http://www.gsfp.org/>)

Film maker Mark Manning visited the site and marched before screening his new film that night entitled, "Caught in the Crossfire: The Untold Story of Fallujah". As a film project produced between Iraqi and American film makers, "Caught in the Crossfire" starkly shows the realities of how many

innocent Iraqi civilians, women and children suffered and perished in the brutal all-out assault by US Forces on the city of Fallujah. Indeed, a small sign always posted at Arlington West states that if Iraqi victims had grave markers here, the cemetery would cover the entire beach.

The Arlington West Memorial Project has been lovingly built every Sunday by volunteers organized by the non-profit org Veteran's For Peace (VFP). First built on February 15th, 2004 with 540 crosses, the project at Santa Monica pier was inspired by other Veteran's for Peace memorials most notably Santa Barbara's Arlington West which began three months earlier. (<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>)

Instrumental in getting the Arlington West Memorial Project up and running over a year ago were Frank Dorrel, Peter Dudar, Sally Marr, Larry Alpert, Chuck Nixon, Jerry Rubin and everybody else at VFP. With its visual and visceral impact, this outlaying of grave markers has succeeded at exposing the anti-war effort to beach going visitors unaware of the peace movement or the massive losses of life due to the relentless Iraqi quagmire.

Peter Dudar and Sally Marr have produced a stirring documentary about the temporary cemetery that has been shown to students in schools all over America.

"They call them transfer tubes now..." said Peter Dudar in an interview on the Global Peace Network. Peter talks about one of the dirty secrets of this war: bringing US dead back from Iraq cloaked by dark of night and hidden away from any cameras or the media.

Dudar continues, "...you can hear the planes come in and this is where they offload our children secretly, and there are many parents in America now who are wondering, wait a minute, my child, my family just paid the highest price in this country and I know my child would like to be honored with a ceremony returning back from "protecting our



Give Peace a Chance: San Fernando and Los Angeles Greens, turned out in great numbers to support the Veteran's Day Procession of Coffins at Arlington West In Santa Monica. Over 2,000 crosses were put on the beach to honor the dead in Iraq.

Constitution" instead they're hidden. So this was one of the reasons for Arlington West to begin."

The ever-present activist Frank Dorrel, publisher of "Addicted To War", was distributing his new version in Spanish, "Adicto a la Guerra", in addition to the his compilation video, "What I've learned About US Foreign Policy": a set of informative documentaries on one DVD exposing the secret wars our government has illegally conducted all over the world.

The procession of coffins paused at the Veterans Memorial at Palisades Park to lay four wreaths of flowers in front of pillars representing each branch of military service. It was here Vietnam Vet and anti-war activist Ron Kovic, gave a moving and impassioned plea to end once and for all this senseless bloodshed.

"There comes a time when the people have to speak up, to stop the violence... bring our troops home now, before any other needless lives are lost or shattered..."

Subject of Oliver Stone's Vietnam film "Born on the Fourth of July",

Kovic has been speaking up for human rights and against violence for close to forty years from the confines of a wheelchair: his loss due to war. To see a champion like Mr. Kovic give and keep on giving to build a living community is so inspirational and so very humbling. The thought of Ron Kovic's tireless efforts over the years in the midst of his disability should put a waft into any peacemaker's sails. The truth that he sees and shares from what he's been through tenderly bites with his clarity of love and forgiveness.

We then heard from Santa Monica City Council member Kevin McKeown. He spoke on the need for a more loving expression in government and that peacemaking can be realized through nonviolent social change. As he did at a Topanga Peace Alliance event earlier this year McKeown confirmed that we really need to appreciate how broad the support for our nonviolent and anti-war position is in our society despite what we think we see on television.

California Greens Win Four of Five Races in Nov. 8 Elections Pasadena City College Board Tops Victories

By Mike Feinstein,
Santa Monica, CA

In November 8th elections, California Greens won four of the five races they contested. Perhaps the most impressive as Hilary Bradbury-Huang's election to the Board of Trustees of Pasadena City College (PCC), defeating a 27-year incumbent, in what appeared months before the election to be a long-shot at best.

Bradbury-Huang was elected with 51.6 percent of the vote, winning by 377 votes out of 12,113 cast. An organizational psychologist, as well as an adjunct professor at USC and Pepperdine University, she campaigned door-to-door upon listening more to students and teachers, and being willing to question the College administration when necessary. She also pushed for 'greening' the College and bringing sustainability to the students and community, emphasizing solar energy on campus and creating a more walkable city to deal with traffic and parking issues.

At the same time, she confounded those who tried to pigeonhole her as a single-issue environmentalist, by stressing the importance of building better relations between the College and the local small business community, including through promoting local internships and scholarships, to provide Greater Pasadena will a more educated workforce.

While her conservative opponent ran on 'living within the College budget', Bradbury-Huang stressed her background of organizational management and psychology, as a way of achieving

greater synergy with those same resources among students, faculty and community.

Ultimately it was this breadth of this message, combined with the professional nature of her campaign, that put Bradbury-Huang over the top and let to her 'upset' victory.

Bradbury-Huang worked hard to personally reach every voter in her district, which contains the communities of South Pasadena, San Marino and Temple City. She walked door-to-door for the preceding two months before the campaign, and was supported in this effort by the local Green group in her area, the Arroyo Seco Greens.

At the same time, Bradbury-Huang pursued an aggressive, direct mail campaign in communicating her message, coordinate by political consultant Sharon Gilpin of the Gilpin Group, who has previously run winning Green City Council campaigns in Santa Monica. Overall the campaign raised and spent approximately \$20,000. Turnout among the district's 30,000 registered voters was approximately 40 percent, about what was expected.

The PCC Faculty Chapter of the California Teachers Association, the Arroyo Seco Greens, ACT (a Pasadena based progressive voter action network) and many community leaders all endorsed Bradbury-Huang. And despite endorsing her incumbent opponent, the local Pasadena Star-News said about her, "the newcomer challenger is such an outstanding example of the kind of people we'd like to see in local elected office."

"Fairly new to the area, South Pasadena-based Hilary Bradbury-Huang is a nationally known organizational psychol-



Among The Winners: Hilary Bradbury-Huang (above left) won a stunning victory in the City of Pasadena's Community College District race, defeating a 27 year incumbent. Elsewhere in California, two Green incumbents **Jim Harvey**, (seen on the left,) and **Paul Perkovic**, (above) won re-election to the Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) Board in San Mateo County. And in Marin County, **Nicole Vigeant** (not shown) was uncontested in her bid to return to the Community Service Area, Tomales Village.

ogist who teaches at Pepperdine and USC and consults for major corporations on management effectiveness. Born and raised in Ireland before getting her graduate education here, she got involved at PCC by taking language classes. She has creative ideas about sustainable development and about making the college even more key to the local economy."

As an immigrant who came to the U.S. in 1985, speaks six languages and whose husband is Chinese-American, Bradbury-Huang has been a Green since living in Germany in the early 1980's. Yet she successfully appealed to many of the district's affluent and traditionally GOP voters, who were willing to vote Green if it meant improving education. She also campaigned

Continued on Page 5

Greens and MAPA Members Stand Up to Anti-Immigrant Minutemen

By Cres Vellucci

SACRAMENTO - A massive protest in opposition to the vigilante groups harassing Latinos at the border was held at the State Capitol Oct. 29, with Greens and allies among those saying no to "The Minutemen Project."

An estimated 700 people arrived by bus and carpool from the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and the Central Valley to participate in the demonstration, including former Green Party gubernatorial candidate Peter Camejo and Nativo Lopez, president of the Mexican American Political Association.

Just on the other side of the Capitol Building from the Immigrant Rights Rally was a gathering by a pro-vigilante group of about 100 circulating a ballot measure for the June 2006 ballot.

Lopez, who boldly declared that Democrats had done "nothing" to help Latinos and then re-registered Green nearly two years ago, spoke to the crowd at an Immigrants Rights Rally along with Camejo. The Greens and MAPA have formed a close alliance and Sacramento MAPA/Green Party of Sacramento were among the organizers of the rights rally.

Camejo - who was interviewed by Associated Press and other media outlets (the story was covered nationwide) - said the other side's effort to seal off the borders is wrong.

"The American people need to know that only a tiny number of people are entering illegally," he said. "And these people are desperately needed by our economy. The Minutemen are saying that these people are criminal, but what they are refugees of poverty," said Camejo.

Another demonstrator, Tomas Alejo, 30, of Watsonville, said: "Our people should be treated with dignity and respect," he said. "We don't believe that people should be dogged if they are from one side of the border or the other. We denounce what the Minutemen are all about."

Three people were arrested - and at least two were roughed by police and treated for injuries - at the protest. Green Party volunteers provided legal assistance, and coordinated media relations for the rally.

Among those attending the protest against the vigilantes other than the Green Party and MAPA were representatives from Bay Area Coalition to Fight the Minutemen, Deport the Migra Coalition, Zapatista Solidarity Coalition, Brown Syndicate and other statewide organizations.



Racial Prejudice: Carlos Murillo is shoved into a police van despite injuries suffered when the police jumped him for allegedly violating a simple traffic law during a march against the Minutemen. He suffered cuts and bruises and already had a broken hand. He was taken to the hospital later.

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Dr. Forrest Hill First Green To Run For Secretary of State in 2006

Nader campaign strategist announces he will run for the office of Secretary of State

By Cres Vellucci

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Forrest Hill, a former Ralph Nader and Green Party of California campaign strategist, became the first Green to officially announce for state office in 2006 when he held a news conference here to declare his candidacy for the office of Secretary of State.

Hill said he is running because "there is a great need for election reform in this country to bring about a fair and just election system, which is the reform upon which all else in our democracy depends. Without justice at the ballot box there can be no justice in our society or accountability in our government."

He pointed out that "our voting technology is highly outdated, unreliable and lacks uniformity across the state," and blamed "corporate funding of elections" for leading to "political corruption, tax politics that favor the rich, and the theft of public funds through no-bid contracts."

"Legislative districts in California have become so large that only the wealthiest citizens have a chance of winning office. Finally, our antiquated winner-take-all electoral system ensures the continued monopoly of the two party system over all facets of our political lives," said Hill.

He added that "California has the opportunity to lead the nation toward real election reform that can ensure all citizens are represented in government. It is time we instituted a fair and just election system to defend our freedom and reclaim our democratic rights."

Hill, who said he will run an aggressive Green campaign "to win," was the media and fundraising coordinator for the Nader/Camejo Campaign in California during the 2004 presidential election. He served as an elected official on the Green Party of California coordinating committee, chaired the committee on Green campaigns and is currently a national delegate to the Green Party of the United States. He worked with the Davis Human Rights Commission to pass a resolution opposing the USA PATRIOT Act and authored a resolution opposing the war in Iraq that was adopted by the Davis City Council in 2003. He also founded the UC Davis Green Party, one of the largest campus Green Party chapters in the country.

Dr. Hill is a research scientist, financial advisor, electoral reform activist and environmentalist. He currently specializes in Socially Responsible Investing using investments as a vehicle for economic, social, and environmental transformation of society.



In The Running: National Green delegate and longtime Green Party activist Forrest Hill (seen here presenting a proposal at the May Plenary) is the first to announce his interest in running for the CA Secretary of State position in 2006

CA Green Party Decries Special Election As Arnold's Propositions Flop with Voters

SACRAMENTO (Nov. 8, 2005) The Green Party of California criticized Tuesday night's Special Election the final vote count notwithstanding and charged the initiative process had been manipulated by big monied interests to control voters in the state.

Although the final results were still too close to call on the eve of the election, the GPCA said that Gov. Schwarzenegger's initiative gambit hurt the people of California no matter who won or lost Tuesday night.

"Arnold's initiatives are just another example of how big money controls politics in this state and country," said Forrest Hill, a California Green national delegate.

"How can we expect Americans to take government seriously, when what passes for leadership is trivial television ads, mean-spirited initiatives targeting working people and red-herring solutions like redistricting to solve the undemocratic nature of our government," he said.



Hill suggested that if "we truly want to stop gerrymandering and get money out of government as Arnold says he want to do, then let's move to a system of proportional representation like most every other democracy in the world."

The GPCA endorsed only Prop. 79, a drug discount measure opposed by pharmaceutical companies but supported by consumer groups. It is a sweet victory for Green's and all progressives that all of Arnold's pet propositions failed in the November Special Election he called and worked so hard to support.

Bradbury-Huang Tops Green November Election Victories - Continued from Page 4

directly in the growing Asian-American communities in her district, which make up sizeable pluralities in some areas.

With her election Bradbury-Huang becomes the seventh Green currently holding elected office in Los Angeles County and the second in the County to be elected to a Community College Board of Directors, following Nancy Pearlman (who also endorsed Bradbury-Huang) and who was elected to the 33-city Los Angeles Community College District Board in 2001.

As of November 9th, 2005, 25,513 people were registered Green in Los Angeles County, the most in any county in the nation, and more than in any other state except New York (and California itself).

Elsewhere in California, Green incumbents Jim Harvey and Paul Perkovic won re-election to the Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) Board in San Mateo County and Nicole Vigeant was uncontested in her bid to return to the Community Service Area, Tomales Village, in Marin County.

Together, these bring to 65 the number of Greens holding elected office across the state. In addition, Dana Dillworth ran a viable City Council campaign in Brisbane, placing fifth out of nine seats for three seats, while James Marsh finished third for two seats on the Coasts Community Water District. Both races were also in San Mateo County.

In their time in office and as community activists, Harvey and Perkovic helped make local water policy history

As of November 9th, 2005, 25,513 people were registered Green in Los Angeles County, the most in any county in the nation, and more than in any other state except New York (and California itself).

by gaining water powers for the then Montara Sanitary District from a private company. This came as a result of a condemnation action filed in May 2002, following an 81 percent approval by Montara and Moss Beach voters to authorize up to \$19 million in general obligation bonds to purchase and rehabilitate the water system

Harvey and Perkovic ran for re-election on both improving local water quality and supply, and on retaining responsive and representative community control over a critical environmental/community asset.

"Money was going to corporate profits and not getting back into the community. That was my first goal, to get the public takeover done", said Harvey, a Laboratory Technologist at Stanford Hospital, during his campaign. "Now we're making repairs on the system and successfully finding new sources of water."

"When the system was privately owned," added Perkovic, "the company was not willing to dig test wells to seek new water, because they didn't believe they could recover costs if the wells came up dry. Now that we have community control, we are making dif-

ferent choices based upon the public interest, and have found new sources of water in the process. This makes us more self-reliant in meeting current water needs, as well realizing the goals of our local coastal land use plan, which has limited growth objectives."

Both Harvey and Perkovic were endorsed by Sierra Club and the San Mateo County League for Coasts Protection, as well as the Green Party of San Mateo County, the latter of which distributed a newsletter to all registered Greens in the County with their picture and profile, precinct walked and put up

yard signs for them. The MWSD provides water, sewer, and trash disposal services to the coastal communities of Montara, Moss Beach, and adjacent areas located north of Half Moon Bay and south of Pacifica, in San Mateo County. The District owns and operates water storage, treatment, and distribution facilities that provide potable water to about 5,000 people. The water served comes from one surface source, Montara Creek, and several wells that withdraw water from the Montara Creek and Denniston Creek groundwa-

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Opinion

Which Way Forward for the Green Party

GDI Looks at The Outcome of the Tulsa National Convention

A Statement by: Ashley Smith, Forrest Hill, James Leas and Cara Campbell & Cat Woods

At the 2005 National Delegates Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Green Party arrived at a fork in the road. The delegates voted down resolutions offered by Greens for Democracy and Independence designed to ensure proportionate representation within the party, accountability to the expressed will of the membership, and political independence from the two corporate parties.

This vote seems to fly in the face of everything that the Green Party stands for.

As Kevin Zeese, Green Party senatorial candidate in Maryland, rightly points out, "the overwhelming majority of Greens support real democracy - based on the principle of one person-one vote - and want the Green Party to stand for something different than the Democrats or Republicans."

"The Tulsa decisions exacerbate the already growing rift in the party. The ramifications of these decisions must be reversed if the Greens are to truly challenge the corporate parties. This can only happen if Greens across the country are willing to fight to take back their party. Only an uprising by the membership will reinvigorate the Green Party," added Zeese.

At Tulsa, two currents came into conflict over the future of the Party, a radical wing embodied by the Greens for Democracy and Independence (GDI), and a liberal wing which is reluctant to pose an electoral threat to the Democratic Party.

GDI argues that the Green Party must become the political expression of the living social movements in order to challenge the corporate duopoly at the ballot box. It came into being to resolve the political and organizational crisis that wreaked havoc in the Green Party during the 2004 election.

The crisis started in the period leading up to the nomination of Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb, who argued for a "safe states strategy" in battleground states during the 2004 election campaign. This tactic was viewed by many Greens as a political strategy of capitulation to the Democratic Party in order to defeat Bush.

The safe states strategy was supported primarily by small state parties, which were disproportionately represented at the 2004 national convention. Based on this unrepresentative and therefore undemocratic apportionment, Cobb won the nomination by riding on the minority political current of lesser evilism.

The Cobb campaign for president garnered only about 120,000 votes, or about 1/3 of the registered Greens in the country. More importantly, there was virtually no support for Cobb from activists outside the party. As a result of this disastrous showing, Green Parties in fifteen states lost their ballot lines.

Since the election, the division between GDI supporters and the liberal wing of the national Green Party has become more apparent. Many in the liberal wing have aligned themselves

with organizations like the Progressive Democrats of America (PDA), whose stated aim is to transform the Democratic Party from within. In fact, David Cobb has appeared on many PDA panels and is prominently featured on their web site.

The PDA is organizing to bring progressive activists into the Democratic Party, with the hope that it can be transformed from within. If the AFL-CIO - heavily integrated into the Democratic Party and backed by millions of members - has failed in this effort, the PDA with its meager forces stands no chance of succeeding. The PDA has a greater chance of derailing the Green Party's efforts than moving the Democrats to the left.

Greens for Independence and Democracy seek to re-assert the central mission of the Green Party as the political arm of the social movements. GDI has been the driving force in developing proposals to institute democratic reforms and assert the independence of the Green Party from the duopoly. GDI has presented these proposals publicly on its website and at state party meetings, where they have won majority support from state parties in New York, California, Florida, Vermont, and Utah.

Divisions Intensify in Tulsa

The Tulsa meeting was essentially a contest between the two wings of the party played out through the same unrepresentative apportionment scheme that distorted the outcome of the 2004 Milwaukee Convention. Under the present apportionment scheme, California and New York account for only about 16% of the National Committee, even though more than 2/3 of all Green Party members live within these two states. Liberal delegates to the National Committee overwhelmingly represent smaller state parties - many with less than a few 100 members - and yet they control almost 2/3 of the vote; delegates from states supporting GDI represent most of the Greens in the country, yet constitute a minority voting block on the National Committee.

Conflict between the two wings erupted early in the convention over which delegates to seat from Utah, a state where two groups claim to be the official Green Party. The original Green Party of Utah split into two factions in 2004 over whether to put David Cobb on their state's ballot line. The Green Party of Utah decided to not put Cobb on the ballot line, so the Cobb supporters, with the support of a few leaders in the GPUS, attempted to purge from the party those who did not support putting Cobb on the ballot line. The Utah courts upheld the original decision of the Green Party of Utah, and the "purged" group has since regained ballot status and been official recognized by the state of Utah as the GPUS political party. By contrast, the Cobb faction is a non-profit, rather than a political party, basing its legal case on alleged trademark infringement.

During role call, the "Cobb Party" delegates were automatically seated by the leadership body. GDI delegates later protested this decision, and a pro-

GDI delegate from Florida proposed seating one Utah delegate from each faction. This proposal was voted down 57 to 34 (with 4 abstentions).

Following this skirmish, Peter Camejo and David Cobb spoke to the body, each describing a different strategy for the future of the party.

Camejo stressed building the Green Party as the political expression of the mass social movements, advocated tolerance of the many political tendencies within the party, and sought to build unity among them, going so far as to apologize to David Cobb for any misstatements he may have made against him during the campaign. Finally, he called upon the Green Party to stand up to the Democrats and Republicans, promoting its independent challenge to the two party system as "the spirit of the future."

Cobb repeated some of Camejo's best points, but then emphasized an exclusionary message. Condemning what he called "sectarianism" - his label for anyone who opposed his safe states strategy or advocated independence of the Green Party from corporate partisan interests. Cobb denounced Counter-Punch's Alexander Cockburn, saying that he "represents why the sectarian left has failed." The not-so-subtle message was that the Green Party should exclude anyone to the left of himself, such as those who oppose supporting liberal Democrats in their election campaigns.

Leaders of the liberal wing on the National Committee made their position clear after the speeches. "I didn't join the Green Party to fight against Democrats and Republicans... I'm not willing to define us as a party independent of the corporate parties," Illinois delegate Phil Huckleberry declared. Similarly, Jodi Haug, a member of the national Steering Committee (SC), declared her opposition to independence from the two corporate parties by arguing, "We should not paint ourselves into a corner."

The GDI Proposals

The liberal wing did not argue against the content of the proposals. Instead they raised objections concerning by-laws, implementation, and procedure. They repeatedly ignored when the concerns they expressed were pointed out as factually inaccurate or already resolved. They disregarded amendments which had been accepted to have the proposals simply create working groups to formulate procedures based on the general principles presented in the proposals. After a long period of debate - during which the governing Steering Committee left the room to caucus (without explanation) and anti-GDI forces led delegates in doing "The Wave" and singing "Oklahoma" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" (with its refrain of "one, two, three strikes, you're out!") - the National Committee defeated all three proposals by an average vote of 58 to 34 (with 3 abstentions).

The vote on the GDI proposals closely mirrored the vote to seat both Utah delegations and drew a clear delineation between the two factions of the party. There is no question that the

undemocratic apportionment scheme has allowed a liberal block of delegates to gain the upper hand in the national leadership body of the Green Party.

The test now for GDI is to determine how to rally the majority inside the party, and appeal to activists outside the party, in order to build a more democratic structure which reflects the will to provide a real option for voters. As one GDI member put it, "If the liberal wing is able to maintain its dominance of the party and orient the Greens into subordinating themselves to the Democratic Party, the Green Party will likely wither away like the Working Families Party and the New Party before them."

The Future of GDI

The opportunity and responsibility for GDI is immense. The Democrats continue to ratify the Bush administration's program and thereby keep stoking frustration with the two party system. The Democrats continue to support the occupation of Iraq, voted for the renewal of the Patriot Act, gave the margin of victory for the passage of CAFTA in the Senate, and confirmed the nomination of anti-abortion Reaganite, John Roberts to the Supreme Court.

Today, millions of workers, women, gays, Latinos, blacks, Arabs, Muslims and other oppressed populations find no electoral expression for their demands and aspirations within the two corporate parties. Many have grown frustrated with the failure of the lesser-evil strategy of voting for Democrats and are looking for an alternative. In 2004, leaders of all the various social movements suspended their efforts in order to mobilize the vote for Kerry, even though Kerry opposed almost all of their demands. Nine months after the election, those social movements are still demobilized. Hopefully, upcoming demonstrations will mark the return of mass social movements after the long hiatus.

The Greens have an immense opportunity to give electoral voice to such mobilizations and to grow rapidly in the process. The disenfranchised in America form a large latent electoral force, which GDI and supporting state Green Parties can connect with to renew the Green Party. Such a coalition offers the hope of galvanizing the Greens and the broader social movements to build a genuine third party, rooted in this country's excluded majority. Unfortunately, the present leadership of the GPUS is set to direct them right back into the arms of the Democratic Party.

The contest between the two visions of the Green party, as expressed by the two wings of the National Committee, is not just a fight for the soul of the Green Party; it is a fight to win the hearts and minds of people to break with lesser evilism and to build an effective challenge to corporate politics.

While many in the current liberal wing of the Green Party are taking the road of surrender to the Democratic Party, the GDI current is considering

Opinion

End the Squabble in the Green Party - A Call For A Bicameral Legislature in the National Assembly

By Glenn Hopkins, Member of the State of California Greens International Protocols Group

I first want to thank Ashley, Cat, James and Forrest both for their cogent summation of the Tulsa meeting, and for clearly identifying themselves in the GDI camp rather than the Cobb-liberal camp. Those of us who didn't make it to Tulsa can now get a good overview.

As several of my friends and I were groping toward a solution to this split, we noticed that the problem of potential big-state domination because of high population, and little states having only miniscule input has been addressed for 200 years by the nation's bicameral Congress. I therefore suggest that Greens immediately reframe their national governing body into a Senate of sorts, where each state has two grand-falloon representatives, and a House of Representatives by population in which "one person, one vote" is honored. I suggest we also try to parallel the national government (money bills start in the house, the Senate advises and consents on a shadow cabinet, etc.)

Thus we and our structures will be immediately less arcane and more understandable to the public. We are looking for them to join us in the logic of the ten key values, are we not? I suppose the "old guard" will be the Senate and our young bucks will campaign for house seats. Fine. It was telling and hurtful to me while camping with a pretty wild bunch of guys in Oregon last summer two weeks before Tulsa when one of them flatly stated, "Oh The Greens. They're crazy." Let's move away from that persona, shall we? A bicameral national body does this.

You'll notice I used Kurt Vonnegut's term for "president of the club who wears the funny hat" - grandfalloon. Maybe if the Green Party's Senators are called the Grandfalloons both we and they will bear in mind that the enemy is patriarchy and an unthinking "herd mentality." For all Ralph's crowing "Go, we go!" there was never any doubt that he was the alpha rooster, after all. Had he departed more significantly from the herd and comitted to a Shadow Cabinet to parallel-campaign with him representing Green

values in 2000 I firmly believe he'd currently be finishing his second of two terms in a very, very different world right now.

The attention now being given to Warren G. Harding's...err, I mean George W. Bush's disasterous staff appointment to FEMA, the indictment of the Vice Presidents Chief of Staff and the discrepancies between the Bushco story on WMD and the truth, gives us a good window of opportunity to express our belief in a collegial circle of intelligence to run this country, such as that formed by Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy. (Democrats are our feeder group, not vice versa.) website www.progressivegovernment and www.projectbackbone are working to form such a circlce of intelligence, "shadow cabinet."

Why have we dropped the ball on this?

I propose that our national coordinators move forward with this. The vote to explore a Green Cabinet has never be rescinded. Only our leadership has dropped the ball. Some of us created a bulletin board on this at the Davis and

Elkins College national meeting over a decade ago.

I agree with the writers of "Which Way Forward for the Green Party" if they are implying that "leaders" departing the stage to caucus in the middle of a giant plenary leaving a huge group stranded is totally unacceptable procedure. But I wish I'd been there for the singing of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." True, the particular song is trivial but there is huge power and focus in group singing and we need a green anthem to begin and end meetings with. I commend Fred Hosea, co-chair of our working group who is searching for one. We could have a national contest.

The thoughts here are my own. No endorsement by my working group is implied.

Glenn Hopkins, Mootney123@aol.com Is a member of California Greens International Protocols Working Group

You must be the change you want to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

Now is the 'Best' Time to Organize Your Precincts

By Warner Bloomberg, Interim Coordinator, Campaigns and Candidates Working Group

"We are committed to mobilizing the participation of large numbers of people at the local level... Grassroots democracy... is a type of democracy in which we, as individuals... create our own futures..."

(from the GPCA Platform)

qThere is a basic method for organizing voters: It's called the pre cinct worker.

Precincts are the smallest official groupings of registered voters in an election district.

Campaign organization, ideally, has at least one person in each precinct who

has volunteered (or is paid) to be responsible for distributing literature, organizing fund raising events, and keeping track of voter information (e.g, who is registered in which political parties; who votes regularly; who is likely to vote which way in an election).

Because the Green Party is almost completely a volunteer organization, precinct organization is one way for County Green Parties to evaluate their Local level of organization. Precinct organization is consistent with valuing decentralization and grassroots democracy. The challenge is to find, train, supervise, and keep the volunteers busy and engaged.

There are three imminent election related needs for as many California

Greens as possible to be ready to collect signatures on petitions: The Minimum Wage Initiative will need signature gatherers; GPCA statewide and local

candidates will need signatures collected to avoid filing fees for ballot access; and County Council candidates throughout the state will need to collect signatures for the June 2006 Primary Election (most Registrars of Voters do not list County Council elections on the local ballot unless the number of candidates is more than the number of positions).

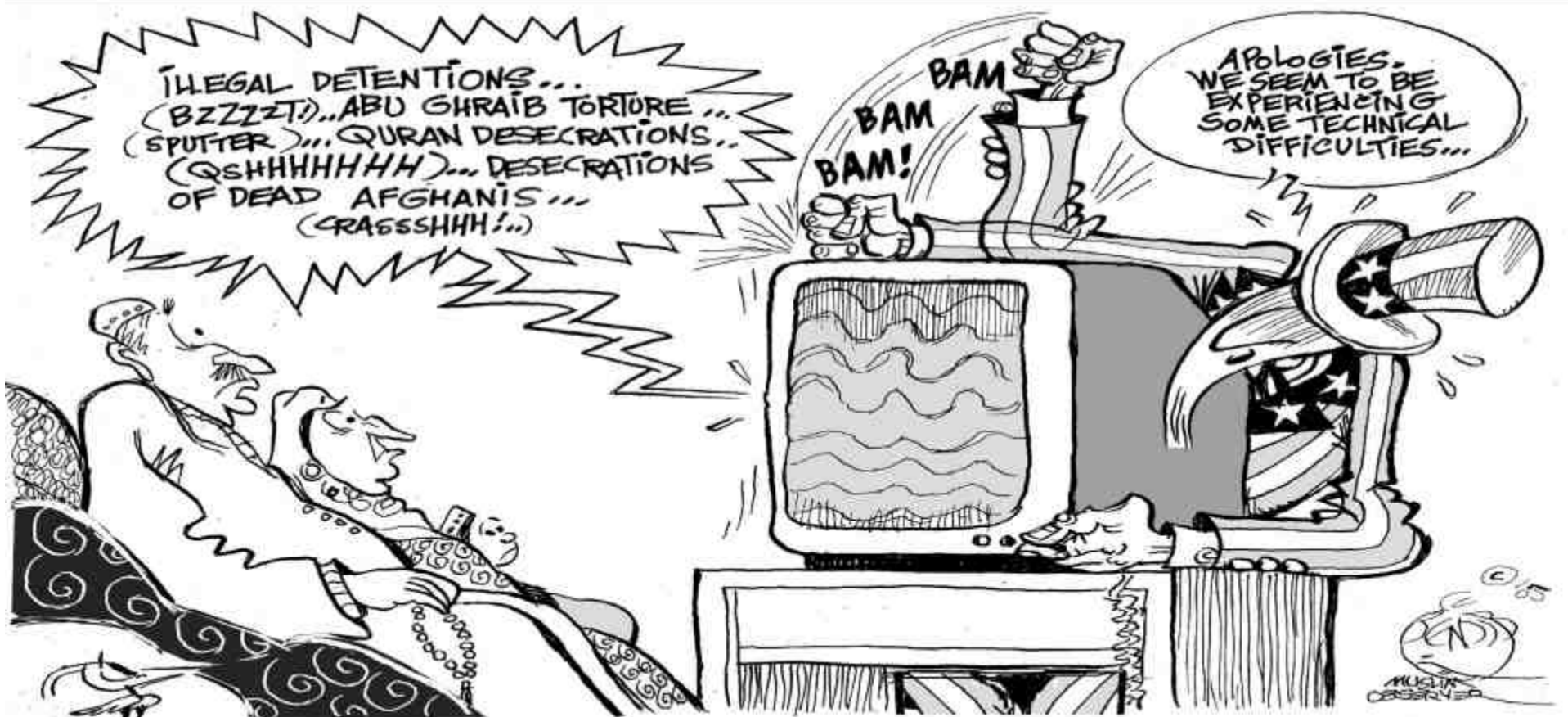
Even if all precincts cannot be covered in a county, this approach can be a year round way to build the Green Party. Precinct workers can be a way to

recruit volunteers, encourage people to attend local events, and generally create personal connections that are the foundation for a sense of community. Let's do this... NOW!!!

Warner S. Bloomberg III is a former County Council member (Santa Clara County) and a past candidate for State Assembly (San Jose). He currently is Interim Coordinator for the GPCA Campaigns and Candidates Working Group.

Can't walk a precinct? Read Ad on Back Page to see how else you can help GROW the Green Party!

THE U.S. TRIES TO PROJECT A POSITIVE IMAGE IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES BY PRODUCING ARAB-LANGUAGE TV CHANNELS SUCH AS "AL HURRA"



Book and Movie Review

Movie: *Syriana*, 2005
Director: Stephen Gaghan
Studio: Warner Brothers, Inc.

Based upon suggestions from the book entitled: *See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism*, by Robert Baer Copyright 2003, Three Rivers Press

It isn't often that I recommend anyone seeing a motion picture. The last one I saw was "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy," but in this case I am suggesting that all Greens go to see a movie which at press time was not even released yet.

Based loosely on facts and situations in the Book *See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism* by Robert Baer, the film *Syriana* promises to bring the evil truths of the developed world's addiction to oil to the attention of the average movie going audience in a big way.

Featuring topline stars George Clooney, Matt Damon, William Hurt, Amanda Peet and others, this film is a spy thriller set in the murky world of

corporate oil deals, international politics, CIA clandestine assassinations and a view of Muslim terrorists as disgruntled, unemployed indigents who are drawn to terrorism by destitution and lack of hope for the future.

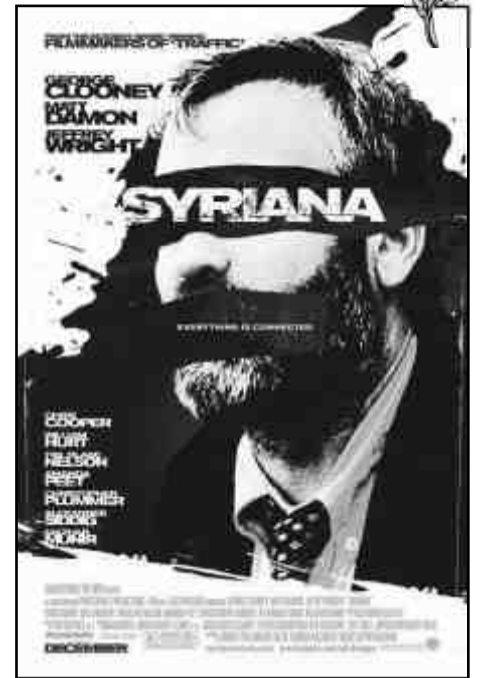
Robert Baer, the gentleman who wrote the book that inspired the movie is a retired CIA middle east operative who spent many years in the region and tells all in a book that condemns not only the inept abilities of the CIA to gain meaningful intelligence on terrorist groups, but also spotlights the agencies close support for the imperialist oil ambitions of the United States.

Here is what Robert D. Steele, (a retired CIA middle eastern operative himself,) wrote about Baer's book in a review on Amazon.com. "As a former clandestine case officer, leaving the Agency in 1988 after unsuccessfully chasing terrorists for a few years, I knew we were in bad shape but I did not realize just how bad until I read this book. The author, working mostly in the Near East (NE) Division of the Directorate of Operations, and then in the Counter-Terrorism Center when it was just starting out, has an extremely important story to tell and every American needs to pay attention. Why? Because his account of how we have no assets useful against terrorism is in contradic-

tion to what the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) told the President and his top advisors at Camp David on Saturday 15 September."

Further, he suggests: "The author uses his own investigation for murder (he was completely cleared, it was a set-up) by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and at one point by the Secret Service, to shed new light on the complete break-down of internal security processes within the CIA. At its lowest point, he is pressured by DO management with a psychological evaluation to determine his fitness for duty--shades of Stalinism! I know this technique, of declaring officers unfit for duty based on psychological hatchet jobs, to be a common practice over the past two decades, and when Britt Snider was appointed Inspector General at CIA, I told him this was a "smoking gun" in the 7th floor closet. That it remains a practice today is grounds for evaluating the entire management culture at CIA.

There is a fourth story in the book, a truly interesting account of how big energy companies, their "ambassadors" serving as Presidential appointees within the National Security Council, and corrupt foreign elements, all come together." Robert D. Steele, review at: <http://tinyurl.com/a2vtt>



The movie *Syriana* promises to be a blockbuster for Warner Brothers and I suggest that all Greens in California see this movie so they can relate to many individuals who will pay the money for a spy thriller. The more 'uneducated' people we can relate to, the greater our base can become. Intelligent criticism of this movie will provide you with a powerful tool in discussions with friends and associates about true alternatives to war and business as usual in the oil friendly world of George Bush and Dick Cheney. Go see it!

"If you want 1 year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people." Proverb

Ten Key Values of The Green Party of CA

Grassroots Democracy – Develop participatory ways to control the decisions which affect our lives.

Social Justice – Create a system which promotes equality and dignity for all.

Nonviolence – Develop alternatives to current patterns of violence at all levels.

Ecological Wisdom – Operate our human society knowing we are a part of nature, and learn to live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet.

Decentralization – Move power and responsibility away from larger and more distant institutions toward individuals and communities, with the goal of a decentralized, democratic society.

Toward Community Based Economics – Redesign work to encourage employee ownership and workplace democracy, and establish basic security for all and a fair distribution of wealth and income.

Feminism – Replace the ethic of dominance and control with cooperative ways of relating to each other.

Respect for Diversity – Honor cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, reclaiming our country's shared ideals- the dignity of the individual, with democratic participation and liberty and justice for all.

Personal and Global Responsibility – Learn from and be of genuine assistance to grassroots groups in all parts of the world.

Sustainability – Act not for the short range narrow interest of one country or group of people, but for the collective future of the entire planet.

Be Mindful Unto the 7th Generation



The Green Party Is Planning On A Sustainable Future for All

But We Need Your Help to Make It Happen

The Green Party of the State of California is working hard to promote candidates and provide financial support to campaigns on the local and regional level that we feel we have a chance of winning, or in which we feel we can make a spectacular showing in the media.

Further, we are improving our ability to speak truth to power, provide training programs for candidates and managers across the state and gaining media access through a viable network of spokespersons and a press agent for the party. To do this, and to fulfill our dreams of a permanent office in our state capital, **we are looking for people who can step up and become Monthly Sustainers to the Green Party of CA.** And as your added benefit, you will receive a free subscription to the GREEN FOCUS newspaper. We invite you to fill out the form below and help grow the party in a meaningful way. Today!

Sustainers Receive Green Focus - Free

We Appreciate Your Support

Mail To: Green Party of California
PO Box 1632
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Yes! I will proudly donate **monthly** to the Green Party of California

\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50

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Contributions of \$100 or more must by law be returned if we do not have this information on file. Contributions are not tax deductible. Other restrictions on sources of contributions may apply.

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