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, hard-hitting 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 is expected to go national - that "War Profiteers," companies that make a profit off the recruiting and killing of Americans in Iraq.

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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 re- cruits are housed nightly at the Radisson across the protest site scene.

“I have now been clearly identified by those supporting the war as an oppo- nent of the policies of the Bush Admin- istration, and the war. Our local Veterans for Peace president has had threatening phone calls, and now my tires have been slashed,” said Pat Driscoll, who did not directly accuse any partic- ular person of the crime. However, he noted the tire-slauling 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” cara- van to Cindy Sheehan during in Craw- ford, 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 Sac- ramento City Council became one of the first cities in the country to not only oppose the Iraq War but to issue a reso- lution calling for a withdrawal from Iraq to “commence” in a “rapid” man- ner — in effect, an immediate with- drawal. 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 with- drawal. They continue to de facto sup- port 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.

Above Top: Green Pat Driscoll and Denise Christine, both vets, holding banner at the Vets for Peace, George Main Hotel. Below: Vets for Peace, George Main and others reading names of the dead in Iraq at Radisson “War Profiteer” protest.

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. Washing- ton resident Jim Leong rode his bright yellow electric microcopter in the pa- rade with a large bumper sticker on the front that said, “War is Not the An- swer.” 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 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 work- ing the crowd and reminding them that, “We’re Bipartisan - we buy Democrats AND Republicans.”

The California Clean Money Cam- paign 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 sup- port of CA assembly bill 583 to take the corporate interests out of politics.

A great amount of work and prepara- tion was put into this effort during sev- eral 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 En- gines!’ 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- looking for freebies.

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

Correction
In the spring issue of GF, no byline appeared for the Aimee Alliss 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.
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 broad statewide initiative on the ballot in 2006 to dramatically raise the state minimum wage for millions of Californians. Greens Party activists initiated the campaign in early 2005, and have formed a statewide coalition — called Californians for Fair Wages, or CFRW — 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 at least $1 an hour. After 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 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 CFRW’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 CFRW.

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 Marshak, Maricela Guzman, LGBT Green Shane Que Hee, and Orange County GP Congressional Candidate Tom Lasky and myself, Congressional Candidate in the 28th district, Byron DeLear. (DeLeaforCongress.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, 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 Sherman was one of her interviews on location as well as other Goldstar family members of fallen victims to the Iraqi war. (www.gsfp.org)

Fleming and Manning visited the site and 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 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 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 like to be honored with a ceremony of love and forgiveness. "There comes a time when the people..." said Peter Dudar in an interview on the Global Peace Network. Peter talks about many of the dirty secrets of this war, "the empty graves", and how the dead are 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, 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 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 wall up into any pacemaker'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.

Calling All Greens: Barry Hermanson of Californians for Fair Wages is flankled 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.
By Mike Feinstein, Santa Monica, CA

In November 8th elections, California Greens won four of the five races they contested. Perhaps the most impressive is Hilary Bradbury-Huang's election to the Board of Trustees of Pasadena City College (PCC), defeating a 27-year incumbent, in what appeared 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 on listening more to students, 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 focused her strength on 'living within the College budget', stressing the importance of building sustainability and creating a more walkable campus and creating a more walkable city to deal with traffic and parking issues.

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."

Bradbury-Huang worked hard to personally reach every voter in her district, getting 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 right) won re-election.

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

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 a momento 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 those people are desperately needed by our economy. The Minutemen are saying that these people are criminals, 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, Zapataista 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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California Greens Win Four of Five Races in Nov. 8 Elections Pasadena City College Board Tops Victories

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 right) won re-election.

Continued on Page 5

Continued on Page 5
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 that “corporate funding of elections” for leading to “political corruption, tax politics that favor the rich, and the theft of public funds through non-bid contracts.

“Legislative districts in California have become so large that only the wealthiest citizens have a chance of winning office. Finally, our antiquated water district systems ensure the continued monopoly of the two party system over all facets of our political lives,” said Hill.

Bradbury-Huang Tops Green November Election Victories -

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 Community 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).

By Cres Velluci

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.

Bradbury-Huang Tops Green November Election Victories -

continued from page 4

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 different 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 Coastal 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 groundwater.
At the 2005 National Delegates Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Green Party faced a fork in the road. The delegates voted down resolutions offered by Greens for Democracy and Independence designed to ensure proper representation of the left wing of the Green 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 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 stand up and demand to be represented. Only an uprising by the membership will reinvigorate the Green Party,” added Zeese.

And while 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 stand for something different than the Democrats or Republicans.

The GDI forces led delegates in doing “The Star Spangled Banner” (with the lyrics changed) and “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” (with Peter Carnego and David Cobb speaking to the body, respectively).

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 over the Green 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 won the election of 2004 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 Reagnite, John Roberts to the Supreme Court.

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 Green Party organizations can connect to, and thereby have an opportunity to present an alternative to 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 the corporate agenda. The Greens have an immense opportunity to present an alternative to the corporatist elections that lie ahead.

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 Party organizations can connect to, and thereby have an opportunity to present an alternative to the two corporate parties.
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 concurs) to the local level... Grassroots participation of large numbers of people at the local level... Grassroots democracy. The challenge is to find, decentralization and grassroots participation of large numbers of people at the local level... Precinct workers can be a way to build the Green Party as possible to be ready to collect signatures on petitions: The Minimum Wage Initiative will need signature gatherers; GPCA statewide candidates will need signatures collected to avoid filing fees for ballot access; and County Council candidates will need 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 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 and Candidates Working Group. You must be the change you want to see in the world.

Can’t walk a precinct? Read Ad on Back Page to see how else you can help GROW the Green Party!
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 top-line 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 highlights 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 contradiction 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 breakdown of internal security procedures 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 Brett 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/2vtt