

### Growing Green Power

by Dave Wass

You should be proud of your County Council. They have been taking some giant strides lately. They were challenged recently by one of their members (editor's note: this was Dave Wass) to "move our field of action from the confines of the board room to the real life playing fields of the public arena." All agreed that the local group was extraordinarily adept at presenting forums on current issues and keeping well informed on national and international concerns. They also agreed that the purpose of the Green Party was to bring Green values (the Ten Key Values), Green solutions, and Green politicians into the civic affairs of our community.

With this in mind, your County Council has undertaken a plan to prepare itself (and you) to be a vital and active political force where it counts the most—right here at home. For the next four to five months they will be studying the workings of the local political system, the local governments, local politicians, the media, local needs and demographics, etc.

At the last County Council meeting, after six weeks of study, five issues were tentatively selected to be on our action agenda for the next two years. Fourteen issues were considered, but it was decided that at this early point in the process, five issues were enough to keep us busy. Maybe too many. We will learn as we grow. The five issues being considered (the final selection will be at the October 13 Council meeting) are : 1) improving public transportation in Santa Barbara County; 2) addressing water supply issues; 3) creating affordable housing; 4) providing healthcare for all; and 5) raising the minimum wage (to \$8.50 or \$10.00/hr).

You will be kept informed about developments in this program. Your suggestions and comments (to any of our council members) are more than welcomed!

### The 'Green Alert' Election

by John Foran, with David Cobb

We face a critical decision as a nation in November: how to defeat an administration that has created a crisis of world-historic proportions and is leading the country away from our precious democratic potential, fast.

The national and state Green Party's dilemma since the beginning of the year has been how best to respond to this crisis. The truth of the adage, "Two Greens, three opinions," has been borne out as Greens across the nation have generally divided into three camps: 1) those who pragmatically see Kerry as the only alternative to Bush, and have advocated that the Greens field no presidential candidate, 2) those who see little difference between the two corporate parties and have advocated the all-out campaign of Ralph Nader and California Green icon Peter Camejo, and 3) those who see a way to both defeat Bush and build the Green Party at the same time, standing behind the presidential campaign of David Cobb and his "smart choice" strategy.

These three positions were debated at the party's nominating convention in Milwaukee in late July, where Cobb secured the nomination on the second ballot with only 55 percent of the delegates behind him. The decision was complicated by Nader's decision in January not to seek the nomination, and Camejo's "favorite son" campaign, which saw him take 75 percent of the March primary votes in California, but choosing not to run in any other states and instead pledging his votes to an endorsement of Nader at the convention. Since California's is by far the largest state party in the nation, the Nader/Camejo group felt they had a mandate in the primary, but this reading of the primary results is complicated by the facts that there was low turnout by Greens in March (only about 25 percent), and most who did vote knew too little about the strategies of the candidates they were selecting.



The acrimony continued into the summer, when Nader supporters tried to get first a "dual endorsement" of the two campaigns by the California state party, and then a special assembly of the Greens to make the decision of which to place on the state ballot line. The twenty-person coordinating committee of the California Greens engaged in extensive debate before rejecting this proposal 11-8, with the majority determining that it was improper or impractical at that late date to reverse the national decision.

As regional representative for the Central Coast (Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties), I was called upon to cast a vote on this proposal. After extensive consultation with as many Greens as I could reach in the three counties, I voted no to it, with the following explanation:

"I can report that there is overwhelming sentiment to affirm the candidacy of David Cobb (e.g. a unanimous vote on the SB County Council, and a 26-6 vote among active Greens in SB; a similar vote on the SLO County Council and 75 percent of the active Greens there; and a majority of the Ventura County Council who responded to the e-mail).

"We supported the poll on gathering signatures for the Nader campaign, and affirm the integrity of all Greens who wish to work on that campaign, including those locally.

"We do not support revisiting the question of who should be the Green Party candidate for a number of reasons, including: respect for the process established and followed in California and at Milwaukee, the active campaign conducted by Green Party member David Cobb for the nomination and the lack of a campaign by Ralph Nader, a wish to be members of the national party in good standing, which has duly nominated David Cobb, the absence of compelling evidence for the high level of grassroots Green Party

*continued on next page*

## Green Alert *from front page*

support for the 2004 Nader campaign that would warrant this extraordinary step, and a reluctance to devote further state resources to this issue.

"We realize that Greens and progressives are divided at the presidential level, and we sincerely hope that all will find a way to work together and respectfully within the party and to build it as part of the solution to the world-wide crisis of our time.

"The party, the nation, and the world deserve our best, good faith efforts on all this. Let's all move on now to support our preferred candidates for local and national office. Let's learn from this for next time about how to improve our processes and procedures, to campaign for the nomination at the presidential level, and to resolve our differences with mutual respect."

The local Santa Barbara Council has worked hard this summer and fall to support the campaign of David Cobb, since it is our analysis that this is a "green alert" election, meaning that it is crucial to defeat the Bush administration at the polls in November nationally, and to build the Green Party in every corner of the country to deal with the evident and glaring inadequacies of the Kerry administration that we hope will follow.

David Cobb made a campaign stop in Santa Barbara in late August, and stated eloquently:

"First, what others call spoiling, we call participating. If our participation is spoiling anything, it just shows that the voting system is flawed because it forces voters to feel like they have to vote against what they hate rather than for what they want. The solution is instant runoff voting (IRV), where voters, instead of just having to pick among three or four candidates, can rank order their preferences. It guarantees that whoever wins has earned a majority of the vote. And let's be clear. I can't steal anyone's votes. John Kerry doesn't own votes. He has to earn them. The Green Party is articulating a progressive agenda and it's drawing more and more people.... Shame on Al Gore for not fighting to secure the election that he actually won.

"Let's remember this: Third Parties have

## Stuart Bechman, local candidate for Congress

*Note: Stuart is the Green Party candidate for the Twenty-Fourth U.S. Congressional District, running against nine-term Republican incumbent Elton Gallegly and his Democratic challenger Brett Wagner in a district that starts in southern Ventura County and runs through the Santa Ynez valley of Santa Barbara County. It does not include the city of Santa Barbara, which is in Lois Capps's safe 300-mile long coastal Congressional district, and where there is no Green candidate this year. You can learn more about his campaign at: <http://ventura.cagreens.org/bechman/>, or contact him by e-mail to [bechman805-congress@yahoo.com](mailto:bechman805-congress@yahoo.com), or by calling (805) 522-4524.*

My campaign is going into its final few weeks with a slew of interviews and panel forums. We have spent the past few months walking neighborhoods, passing out literature, and getting the Green message out; and we are now rolling out our yard signs

played a profound role in American history. The abolition of slavery, women getting the right to vote, the creation of the Social Security Administration, unemployment insurance, workers' comp laws, pure food and drug laws, ending child labor—the entire fabric of what we today would agree to be the bare minimum for a just and compassionate society, that fabric was woven together by third party activists before us,

who were accused of being spoilers, accused of being unrealistic, naïve, dangerous, and un-American. Today, the Green Party is the party advocating an end to war as foreign policy, single-payer universal healthcare for all, ending three strikes and you're out, ending the racist war on drugs, overturning the PATRIOT Act. There's a genuine progressive agenda

that only the Green Party's advancing and articulating. We can look point by point at John Kerry's positions on those issues, and he is not a progressive.

"The Green Party opposed the war before it began, we opposed the war while it was being prosecuted, and we oppose this occupation. In order to stop breeding terrorism and restore global security, the U.S. has to

across the district. Over the past month, I have appeared at a half-dozen candidates' forums from Lompoc to Simi Valley, with another half-dozen or so rallies and forums planned before the actual election. I am also participating in a national Green Party ad appearing in the October 28, 2004 issue of *The Nation*, where all of the national Green candidates have signed on to a Statement of Unity and Purpose; I hope you see that ad when it comes out.

I know I must be making an impact, because I am starting to get calls from progressive Democrats and "light" Greens asking me to consider bowing out of the race to avoid taking votes away from my Democratic opponent. At this point, my campaign has raised over \$4,000, almost all of it going for literature, outreach booths, buttons, and yard signs. In a few weeks, you and I will both know how well that money was spent! Don't forget to vote on Nov. 2!

withdraw forces from Iraq.

"As a genuine progressive who understands the need for systemic social change, I understand that social issues and environmental issues are interconnected. For example, the war in Iraq is being fought for oil. It's our addiction to oil as an energy source that's driving not only the war in Iraq, but also global climate change and ecological catastrophe. There are so many different energy sources that are not being adequately developed and applied because we the people don't actually control our own institutions in this country. And the Green Party will tell the truth about that.

"The truth as I see it: John Kerry is a corporatist and a militarist sellout. By every objective measure, John Kerry is no progressive. George W. Bush is qualitatively worse than Kerry. There's no doubt about that, either. Kerry is bad, Bush is worse, and the American people deserve better."

On November 2, Californians have the luxury of being able to vote their hearts and not their fears. Vote for David Cobb, or write in Ralph Nader if that's who you prefer. Vote for the other wonderful candidates profiled in this issue of the Green Scene. Vote Green on the propositions. Stay in the Greens, with all our differences of opinion. It's a long struggle ahead, but it will be exciting and rewarding to be part of it.



David Cobb

## The Council continues and deepens its work

These are exciting times for Green politics! We have been busy supporting the national and local candidates profiled in this issue, putting on forums on the 2004 elections, and continuing to develop our new working group structure. A short report from one particularly active group follows. In addition, we are working on a local "Plan de Santa Barbara," a progressive blueprint of local Green issues to guide our work and the campaigns of candidates in 2006 (see the essay on "Growing Green Power" by Dave Wass on this crucial initiative).

**Social and Economic Justice Working Group:** Coordinated by Patricia Hiles (pathiles@hotmail.com), this group is concerned with matters of fairness in our society. We put on a forum in conjunction with Santa Barbara Healthcare for All in September. Dr. Dan McCann spoke about how HMOs and pharmaceutical companies overcharge customers, make outrageous profits, and abuse their captive customers. Peter Cohen, the head of Santa Barbara Healthcare for All, spoke on how a single payer system would reduce medical costs while providing care for everyone. We held a forum for October 7 to explain the numerous propositions on this year's ballot and will hold another forum in the future on Restorative Justice. Meanwhile, we are printing and distributing hundreds of Voters Guides that briefly explain the main thrust of each proposition and show the recommended positions of the Santa Barbara County Green Party. Yes, we are busy!

Haiku

George W. Bush knows best  
If you tell the truth, you lose  
Republicans? Fright!

Iran will follow  
Afghanistan and Iraq  
Winning hearts and minds

Crusade for freedom  
Destroy Muslim jihadists  
Medieval values

-Terry Elkiss

Write clever haiku  
Fun while counting syllables  
Can it change the world?

-Gary Shapiro

Haiku

## Tom Hutchings, candidate for State Assembly in SLO

by Peggy Koteen

*Editor's note: Tom Hutchings is running a smart and exciting campaign for the California State Assembly in San Luis Obispo. We note also with pride that Green Orval Osborne is running for the San Luis Obispo City Council, as is an already-elected incumbent Green, Christine Mulholland, and that Melody DeMeritt is running for the Morro Bay City Council.*

Tom Hutchings is surely one of the most interesting individuals to run for elected office. Hutchings's background provides a sound foundation for balanced and practical political action. He is passionate about his commitment and his candidacy is fueled by indignation of the two major parties that refuse to represent the people. Hutchings believes the legislature has abdicated its independence and Sacramento has become nothing more than a corporate-controlled voting machine. His decision to run for the 33rd Assembly District as a Green reflects a passion for working to improve people's lives and his commitment to the community, not corporations.

Hutchings served this nation proudly. He is a highly decorated veteran of the American War in Vietnam and, as a California Army National Guard officer, was decorated for his outstanding military leadership. He has been in public service almost his entire life as a police officer, deputy sheriff and is now a retired California Peace Officer.

Hutchings's public service includes a stint on the City Council in Hemet, two-terms as a member of the Paso Robles Library Board of Trustees, and a current second-term membership on the San Luis Obispo City Human Relations Commission. He now works as a benefits counselor with a non-government service organization assisting the medically frail.

His education includes a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts degree in Education and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in humanities. Hutchings is very pragmatic about politics. He believes public officials should adhere to the phrase, "Government shall do no harm."

Using his skills in building collaborations, he has the following goals when he goes to

Sacramento:

- Balance the budget responsibly, and not on the backs of our more vulnerable Californians.
- Provide healthcare for all.
- Reduce college fees and fully fund public education.
- Achieve Workers Compensation reform.
- Protect the environment.
- Support organized labor.

Tom and his campaign's hard work in walking the talk has secured many usually hard to get endorsements, including the



California Faculty Association, Cal Poly Chapter; San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara Counties and California State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO; Tri-Counties Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; United Auto Workers, Region 5; PeopleFirst, a developmentally disabled peer

advocacy organization; and the Sierra Club of California, among others. Tom has been designated 100% Pro-Choice by Planned Parenthood. Nativo Lopez, State and National President of the Mexican-American Political Association also endorses him, as do David Cobb, national Green candidate for president, and Peter Camejo, independent candidate for vice president. Lopez is going throughout the state encouraging the Latino Community to register and voter Green!

Does Hutchings have personal concerns about running for the Assembly? "Absolutely not," Hutchings says. "Politics needs to be about honestly representing the best interests of the people. We have seen nothing more than the selfish antics of the Republican and Democratic Parties holding California hostage. Each party promises that if we elect them, our lives will improve. How gullible can we continue to be in believing that? As a people, we need to retake our democracy and wrest it from the hands of the corporations. Everyone knows it is big business that runs this state and our country. Everyone should be mad as hell and shouldn't take it any longer," Hutchings states, borrowing the well-known phrase from the movie "Network."

To learn more about Hutchings and his campaign, please visit [www.votetom.org](http://www.votetom.org).

## Calendar of Green Events

### Wednesday, October 13

Bi-weekly meeting of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. 7-9 p.m. Westside Community Center. 423 W. Victoria Street, Santa Barbara. Info: 884-8259

### Sunday, October 17

David Cobb for President Fundraising House Party. See box at right.

### Friday, October 22

David Cobb for President Fundraising House Party at Friendship Manor, Isla Vista (see Art's Party Films article above for details on how to get there). Dinner will be served, and a video shown. Info: Art Schwartz at 968-1965 or [art.farm@cox.net](mailto:art.farm@cox.net)

### Wednesday, October 27

Bi-weekly meeting of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. 7-9 p.m. Westside Community Center. 423 W. Victoria Street, Santa Barbara. Info: 884-8259

### Wednesday, November 10

Bi-weekly meeting of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. 7-9 p.m. Westside Community Center. 423 W. Victoria Street, Santa Barbara. Info: 884-8259. Note: there is no meeting on November 24!

### Saturday, November 13

Highway Cleanup. See announcement on this page. Info: Bud Boothe at 688-7610

## GREEN SCENE

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*This issue on chlorine-free 30% kenaf paper.*

## Art's Party Films in October at Friendship Manor

October 17: "Outfoxed" (77 minutes)

October 24: "Bush's Brain" (80 minutes)

October 31: "Liberty Bound" (88 minutes)

These films are all described in the current issue of Hope Dance.

\$3 (or donation) each evening -- monies go to HopeDance Media ([www.hopedance.org](http://www.hopedance.org)), 544-9663. Call Art Schwartz for details at 968-1965.

## Green Clean: make a difference!

Several years ago the Santa Barbara Green Party committed itself to participate in the California "Adopt-a-Highway" program. In exchange for this good work, we have posted large signs for the Green Party at each end of our two-mile stretch of Highway 246 from the intersection of Highway 101 two miles towards Lompoc. We do this highway trash cleanup every two months, on the second Saturday of alternate months (January, March, May, July, September, November). Our next cleanup is on Saturday, November 13. In case of rain, we postpone for a week. We meet at 10 a.m. across from Pea Soup Anderson's restaurant on Avenue of the Flags in Buellton, near the intersection of 101 and 246. After the cleanup all participants are invited to Bud and Dottie Booth's for lunch.

*With six participants it takes less than an hour. However, in recent months we have had three or even two people out there doing this—so please consider joining us for this Green clean and social event.* For further information, call Bud Boothe at 688-7610.

org, 544-9663). Call Art Schwartz for details at 968-1965.

Arts Party and HopeDance Media: Changing the World, One Documentary at a Time present these films on Sundays at 8 p.m. at the Friendship Manor (on the corner of El Colegio and Los Carneros) in the Theatre up the stairs at the main El Colegio Entrance. Organic sandwiches, chips and cookies are often available at the film.

Parking is in the field at the Manor Corner Parking Lot (the entrance is on the southeast corner of the empty lot at Camino Pescadero and El Colegio, on the east side of Friendship Manor. The opening is nearly opposite the west end of Cervantes Road.) Do not park in the underground parking structure!

*David Cobb for President  
Fundraising House Party*

Nancy Broyles' House  
740 Flora Vista Drive in SB  
Sunday, October 17, 4 to 7 p.m.  
*Dinner to be served, plus videos of  
Cobb campaign*

Donation: \$10 or more  
Information: contact Nancy at 963-2687 or [nbroyles@igc.org](mailto:nbroyles@igc.org)

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## Green Scene wants you...

...to contribute your letters, ideas, opinions, complaints, photos, drawings...

If you want to write, please contact John Foran, [foran@soc.ucsb.edu](mailto:foran@soc.ucsb.edu), or call 884-8259.