

Green Politics and You—Together We *Can* Make a Difference! Special Issue on the March Primary Elections and Local Green Actions

*What can be done at this time to save the planet and its people?
How can we take part in the struggle for local and global justice?*

Our party—the Green Party—is a magnificent source of ideas, and of hope. This edition of the *Green Scene* suggests ways we can live up to our promise.

- ❖ **Did you know that simply registering to vote as a Green does not automatically make you a member of the Green Party?**
- ❖ **In this *Green Scene* you can find out how to take your commitment and passion for Green politics to the next level by becoming full, active members of our party.**
- ❖ **To become a member you have to formally sign up with your local organization by filling out the membership form on the special insert (membership dues are on a sliding scale).**

In this issue of the *Green Scene* we provide you—the registered Greens of Santa Barbara County and all who would make common cause with us—with information you won't get anywhere else about the issues at stake in the March California primary elections and the Green candidates who want to take them on. We also describe in this issue a variety of Green-initiated projects that are underway in our community—campaigns that *you* can become part of.



We ask that you send the form together with your views on our straw poll in the insert—a poll that asks what you think our presidential strategy for 2004 should be. **Please mail the form and the poll by February 15** in the envelope provided. The results will be forwarded to the Green Party of California.

We need everyone's talents, your wonderfully creative visions, and whatever funds you can spare in these hard times—in a word, we are seeking your *personal* commitment to save the planet for those alive today and those generations who will come after us.

**We cannot do this without your help—
we are appealing to you to join us in actions that will make a difference!**

What we are doing...	What you can do...
Presidential candidates' statements..... 2	Straw Poll: strategy for the '04 Pres. Elections Insert
County Council candidates' statements 4	Join the Green Party of Santa Barbara County Insert
Presidential Candidate David Cobb to speak in Santa Barbara on February 13 6	Reining in corporate power 6
	March 20 Day of Action 6
	Support the grocery workers 7
	Register to vote! 8

The Presidential Race and the Greens

The eyes of the country and the world will be on the November 2004 presidential election in the US. The razor-close nature of the 2000 elections, and the controversies over its legality as well as the role played by Green Party candidate Ralph Nader in determining the outcome, are on the minds of many as we enter this election. On December 22, 2003, Nader declared that he will not try to become the Green Party's candidate in 2004, leaving open the possibility that he may elect to run as an independent.

This section presents you with statements written specially for the *Green Scene* from each of the four Green Party candidates for President—Peter Miguel Camejo, David Cobb, Kent Mesplay, and Lorna Salzman—who will appear on the March 2 primary ballot in California. Other candidates, including Carol Miller of New Mexico (carolmiller@cybermesa.com and [biographical info at www.politics1.com/](http://www.politics1.com/biographical)

greens04.htm) and Paul Glover of New York (www.ithacanews.org/greenpresident.html), will appear on the ballots of other states. The March 2 vote will inform the positions of the 132 California Green Party delegates to the National Nominating Convention in Milwaukee on June 25–26 in Milwaukee. Santa Barbara County will be sending three delegates to this convention.

Much very useful information on the candidates and platform positions of the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) can be found at the website www.gp.org/convention, and candidates' bios can be found at www.politics1.com/greens04.htm.

The strategy adopted by the Green Party in the fall 2004 presidential decision is also under consideration at all levels of the party, and we urge you to make your views known by filling out the straw poll found on the insert, and returning it to us by February 15!

David Cobb

Greetings Green Sisters and Brothers,

I have served as the general counsel for the national Green Party since 1998. I helped to co-found the Green Party in Texas in 1999, and coordinated the Texas ballot access petition drive in 2000. (We collected 76,100 signatures in just 75 days!) I also managed Ralph Nader's 2000 presidential campaign in Texas. In 2002 I ran for attorney general, helping to create local Green Party chapters across the state.



David Cobb

I propose that the Green Party run a strong, aggressive, and strategically smart presidential campaign in 2004 that builds our party at the local, state, and national levels.

My specific goals in 2004 are to increase Green Party registration, build and strengthen our internal infrastructure, help elect local candidates and win initiatives, create state and local chapters where they do not exist, and consistently articulate Instant Runoff Voting and Proportional Representation as the response to Greens as "spoilers." We are not going away. In fact, we are getting larger, stronger and better organized with every election. We will exercise our fundamental right to participate in elections.

I have consistently and publicly said that I will follow the national Green Party's strategy if the party develops one. I sincerely hope we are able to come to general consensus on a strategy. I believe any potential candidate owes it to the party membership to articulate their personal preferred strategy, and mine is described in detail at <http://www.gwu.edu/~action/2004/cobb.html>.

In a nutshell, I believe we can increase party membership, strengthen our infrastructure, form new state and local parties and help unelect Bush.

Email: cobbweb@greens.org

Web: www.votecobb.org

Peter Camejo

We were unable to get a statement in time for this newsletter from Peter Camejo's campaign. Instead, we print below an excerpt from "The Avocado Declaration" which he has initiated with a group of Greens. The full text can be found at www.gp.org/articles.

The Green Party is at a crossroads. The 2004 elections place before us a clear and unavoidable choice....

The difference is not over whether to "defeat Bush"—understanding that to mean the program of corporate globalization and the wars and trampling of the Constitution that come with it—but rather how to do it.... We believe it is precisely by openly and sharply confronting the two major parties that the policies of the corporate interests these parties represent can be set back and defeated....

Opposition is rising against Bush. The massive overwhelming majority of the world is against Bush's war policies. The resistance to the occupation in Iraq and



Peter Camejo

Afghanistan, and the inability of the US media and government to prevent the world from hearing the truth about these events, is weakening Bush's standing....

There is nothing more threatening to the rule of the corporations than the consolidation of a party of hundreds of thousands of citizens, especially young people, that fearlessly tell the truth to the American people. Only such a movement can in time become millions, then tens of millions and eventually win. But it is also the best strategy for the short term, to force a shift away from the direction being pursued today....

Those Greens who agree with the Ten Key Values but have disagreements with this Avocado Declaration need to be respected. We need to allow an open and honest debate as an essential part of our culture....

The present discussion around the 2004 elections is one that will not end but will be with us for a long time.

More candidates on next page

Kent P. Mesplay, Ph.D.

I uphold the following perspectives:

Recognition that intentional, conscious human behavior with concern for long term consequences is essential to solving our problems of justice, employment, health and relationship to natural environments. Awareness that, as consumers, we vote every day with our money. Personal choices matter, such as moving toward a meat-free diet and utilizing energy efficient transportation.

Optimism that there is yet room, even in this post-9/11 political climate of near-paranoia and excessive government intrusion, to organize and act politically for the advancement of humanity and the preservation of other earth inhabitants.

Insistence that the democratic process is not well served by institutionalized bribery and corruption. We need meaningful campaign finance reform and consistent access to debates.

Concern that security issues are not addressed by our naïve president: we are not more secure against the threat of terrorism. Terrorism is more than a military problem. Our centralized control of water, food and energy renders us susceptible to disasters, natural or man-made.

A belief that the corporate bottom line is not *the* bottom line: our planetary life support system is. Globalization that strips families and governments of autonomy, despoils natural resources and landscapes and exploits and indebts the disenfranchised, including indigenous people, is not a form of advancement.

We are running out of time to mitigate the effects of global climate change.

I will press for Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), health care reform, equitable payment for the Iraq War (by petroleum companies), bringing the troops home, recognition of global climate change as a serious problem, promoting national energy independence based upon renewable energy, regional security (energy, food, water, transportation),



Kent P. Mesplay

and indigenous rights.

Email: kentmesplay@yahoo.com
 Web: presidentkent.org
 phone: (858) 578-8506

Lorna Salzman

If nominated as the US Green Party presidential candidate, my campaign will focus on urgent global environmental issues, especially global warming. My top priority would be drastic reduction—at least sixty percent over the next decade—in oil consumption through carbon taxes, whereby fossil fuels are taxed proportionate to their carbon content. I would earmark these revenues for carbon-reducing projects such as public transportation, weatherization for low-income family homes, rehabilitation and subsidization of Amtrak to lower the cost of travel, and spurring of renewable energy technologies here and in poor foreign countries.



Lorna Salzman

As part of my energy plan I favor full-cost pricing of goods and energy, wherein the environmental and social costs are reflected in the consumer price, and an end to all corporate subsidies (energy, timber, agriculture, fisheries, airlines, automotive sector, etc.) in order to achieve a true free market.

Additionally, I favor a universal single payer health plan funded through a graduated income tax surcharge. I oppose NAFTA and the WTO and would seek drastic reform of the World Bank and IMF. We must protect women's rights in religious states as well as here and should sign the biosafety and other international protocols as well as the Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and we must join the International Criminal Court.

My campaign is based on Ecology and Democracy, with vigorous protection of our Constitution and Bill of Rights and termination of the present Patriot Act.

Email: lsalzman@rcn.com
 Web: lornasalzman.com
 fax: (413) 410-1401
 phone: (718) 522-0253

Coming Threat: Westly Open Primary Initiative

by Joe Crompton, Green Party Los Angeles County County Council co-coordinator

State Controller Steve Westly is behind a proposed initiative that would radically hinder our ballot access status. Backed by the California Chamber of Commerce, the initiative would establish a Louisiana-style open primary. All candidates from all parties would appear on the primary ballot. The top two vote getters, regardless of party, would be the only names listed on the general election ballot.

What that means to all of our hard work in building the Green Party as an alternative to the two party duopoly, is that we would be almost entirely shut out of the electoral process and debate.

The proponents of the open primary initiative have hired a mercenary signature gathering firm. The deadline to file the signatures is March 4 to qualify for the November 2004 ballot. Preliminary polls have reported that uninformed voters just might go for it. We must act now to educate the voters that third parties are not the threat. We are the solution. Together, third parties polled eleven percent of the November 2002 gubernatorial votes. In some places, our candidates beat one or the other of the major parties' candidates.

The Greens believe that we all have a stake in ballot access and participatory democracy. This initiative runs directly counter to the Green Party's electoral reform plank. We support more names and more choices on the ballot. Let Californians vote for whom they believe in, without fear.

GREEN SCENE

WINTER 2004 ISSUE

Quarterly publication of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County
 P.O. Box 92141
 Santa Barbara CA 93190-2141
 (805) 884-8259

email: santabarbara@cagreens.org
<http://www.cagreens.org/santabarbara/>

Editor: John Foran
 foran@soc.ucsb.edu

Layout: Gary Shapiro
 gary@garydance.com

Elections for County Council

The March 2 California primary election will include the elections for the seven-person Council of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. There are eight candidates on the ballot, and we present them here.

You can hear the candidates speak in the near future on both local TV and radio. Channel 17's program, "The Next Step," will air two half hour forums featuring four of the candidates each time. The first will be shown on Saturday, February 7, at both 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and again on Monday, February 9 at 5 p.m. The second will be on the air at these same times on Saturday, February 14 and Monday, February 16.

KCSB-FM at 91.9 will do a similar program in which the candidates will be interviewed on "Grassroots," with Geoff Green. This program will be on the radio on Tuesday, February 17, at 8 a.m.

Elden 'Bud' Boothe: 'Green from the Beginning...'

My "green values" predate the Green Party. When the Santa Barbara Green Party was organized ca. 1990. I was one of the original members.

As is well known our local Green Party has grown to the point where the voting Santa Barbara citizens are aware of the Green Party and our Ten Key values.

My primary activity in the peace endeavor is protesting at Vandenberg Air Force base in opposition to the space-based war-making effort of our government.

I will continue to work for the Santa Barbara Green Party and participate in activities such as Earth Day, Adopt-a-Highway, other environmental endeavors, and, of course, working for Green Party political candidates at all levels of government.

Nancy Broyles: 'Being Green and the Green Party'

The Green Party began in Germany with Petra Kelly and company endeavoring to stop the production of nuclear weapons. I believe the Green Party came to the United States in the early 1980's. It started in Santa Barbara in my living room on June 8, 1988. It was about that time we were becoming aware that the environment we loved and cherished would not continue without some

special attention.

The picture really became complete when I learned about the Ten Key values. From the beginning I felt they offered a complete guideline by which to live. And today I still find them the answer to an almost perfect world. To sum it all up, I've been hooked on the Greens and its values for a very long time. It would be impossible for me to think of a full life without the Green Party.

Over the last 12 years I have worked hard in many areas. I worked hard to get 100,000-plus registered voters for ballot status which we achieved in January 1992. From treasurer, data base, membership, facilitator, weekly tabling, social chair, a member of each county council since its inception; I've done it all. As the party has developed and succeeded other people have taken on and shared the many responsibilities. However, I enjoy the work and it has been a big part of my life and I would like to continue to be on the county council.

John Foran: 'Another World Is Possible!'

One of the most appealing aspects about the Green perspective is its broad, multi-issued approach to the critical problems we face and their possible solutions. Over the years, I have been involved in Central American solidarity work, the anti-apartheid movement, union organizing, the peace and anti-nuclear movements, the Rainbow Coalition, and Amnesty International locally. I teach on Third World development and social change at UCSB. For the past year I have been throwing myself into building the Green Party, locally and state-wide, because only the Greens embrace all of the above and more. I am currently an appointed member of the County Council, and alternate representative for the Central Coast region to the Coordinating Committee of the Green Party of California. My passion is the global justice movement, and I am active on issues of war and peace, US foreign policy, and social movements against corporate globalization. I am very concerned for our future and that of the world if we have four more years of the Bush administration.

Locally, my main focus is outreach—building our numbers, both to better represent the

diversity of our population and to do Green politics in a far more sustained manner than with our 120 paid members (out of 4,000 registered Greens). My second focus is to create many more ways for Greens to be active, in political campaigns, environmental work, global justice, reining in corporations, and others that you, the membership will determine with your wide-ranging interests and creativity!

Patricia Hiles

I first became an activist in 1965 upon joining the ACLU in Los Angeles where I participated in all levels of the ACLU, ending as a vice president of the affiliate when I moved to Santa Barbara in 1982. Since then I have participated in various degrees and for differing amounts of time in the following organizations: S. B. Women Lawyers, the Living Wage Coalition, the Pro-Choice Coalition (current), the Santa Barbara Chapter of the ACLU (current Vice-Chair), Conscientious Objectors and their Supporters (current), the Committee for Social Justice (current), and the Green Party of S. B. (current County Council member).

I worked on the Ralph Nader campaign for President in 2000; on the Wallace vs. Chamberlain election for County supervisor (for Wallace); and for the two recent Green City Council candidates.

While being on the County Council I have organized forums presented by the Green Party, represented the Green Party to other organizations, and supported Green candidates with money and phoning. Currently I am working to help grocery strikers—making signs, picketing, and donating and soliciting funds for them.

I wish to continue as a County Council member because I believe in the Ten Key values. I feel that it is important to educate the public, support and elect local candidates, and to function as third parties have historically done in this country—as a source of progressive ideas that are propagated to the populace and eventually adopted by the two major parties and the public in general.

*More County Council candidates
on next page*

Paul Kirsch

I seek your support to be a member of the County Council of the Green Party of Santa Barbara in the March elections.

Since I moved to Santa Barbara in April last year, I have been attending council meetings regularly as a non-council member. My salient accomplishments to date include the following: I identified and invited Bob Banner, editor of *Hopedance*, and David Adelson, former local advisory board chair of KPFK and co-creator of the LA Sound Posse to “Reining in Corporate Power II.” My letter to the editor in support of the striking supermarket workers and on behalf of the Santa Barbara Greens was published in the *Independent*.

The three most important issues I would work on if elected are 1) transportation, 2) housing, and 3) enhanced democracy. In regards to transportation, I am interested in working with the Ventura and SLO Greens to explore introducing a bill in Sacramento to purchase buses or introduce light rail for this corridor. In terms of housing, I want to make it clear to city hall via letters and local organizing that Greens stand for affordable housing and environmentally sensitive construction. In regards to enhancing democracy I am interested in setting up bi-lingual computer voting kiosks for citizen feedback on local issues and news.

In summary, based on my past accomplishments and my continued involvement in council activities, I hope to receive your vote.

Leo Raabe:

‘Power to the People!’

Last year all but one national party lost registered voters, while the Green Party was gaining them! In this election year, we want to continue to increase both party membership and activism among members. All the Council candidates share these goals.

Since there are eight candidates for seven positions, one of us won’t get elected, but I’m not asking for your vote. I know that win or lose, all eight of us will continue to be active in Green politics. This is a truly win-win race!

Sure, each individual can pursue their special concerns more effectively as a voting Council member, but nothing is more important to us as a community than our collective Green activism. Our party, the

Green Party, has never been more relevant than it is today.

And so, as we prepare to select a presidential candidate, we’re being called spoilers again. These are trying times indeed, but very important times for the Greens.

In the best of possible worlds, a Green presidential candidate would stand a chance. In the meantime, ubiquitous media distortion demands Green values for the nation more today than ever before. Fielding a candidate is a key part of the necessary task of building a national Green network.

Please remember to vote with your heart, and don’t forget, all are welcome at our county council meetings! See the back page of this issue for time, date, and place.



William Smithers

I am a member of the County Council of the Green Party of Santa Barbara County. For two years I’ve edited the *Green Scene*, its quarterly newsletter. I am Treasurer. I maintain records of our membership, each month mailing reminders of annual dues, succeeded by follow-up letters two months later to those who’ve not renewed.

Until recently I maintained the GP email list, sending out news and announcements issued or approved by the Council.

I came to the Green Party in the election year 2000 as part of my fervent support for Ralph Nader. For several months that year I tabled on State Street for him and the party.

I have special interest in the issues of global warming and Instant Runoff Voting. For the newsletter, I wrote an extensive editorial, “Fiddling While Earth Burns” on the former. The already-evident occurrences cited in that article have since accelerated at a speed greater than was anticipated at the time.

I’ve marched with my compatriots in the anti-war demonstrations here in Santa Barbara.

As Council member, I initiated efforts to “professionalize” our appearance at local events by GP purchase of an attractive

canopy displaying handsome signs announcing who we are and what we stand for.

As Editor I’ve tried to make the *Green Scene* professional in appearance and content. And I successfully urged the use of kenaf paper for it, thereby avoiding destruction of trees for pulp and the use of chlorine in production.

I ask your support for County Council membership.

Dave Wass:

‘Right Here, Right Now’

These are exciting times to be alive. World and national conditions are in flux. The pace of change is extraordinary. At the same time values that we took for granted are being subverted and stripped of their meaning and validity. How long will it take to reduce most of us to the status of serfs enslaved and ruled by monster corporate-government entities?

The Green Party has a special role to play, like the Populist and Progressive parties of the nineteenth century—to develop and supply the new solutions to the old problem of excessive wealth in the control of the top two percent of the population and the attendant breakdown in a struggling, smothered electoral process.

Right here, right now in Santa Barbara, your Green Party is helping to present educational programs, alerting the public to the dangers of rogue corporations and their threat to economic and electoral democracy.

This is a movement which will spread all over the United States and the world. It is a tool with which to begin making changes in many other areas of our political and economic lives.

The other right here-right now issue which we can impact is electoral reform. Santa Barbara and California are an ideal place to start Instant Runoff Voting, proportional representation, and government-financed elections. These measures will help bring the people back to the elections and weaken the grip of corporate control over our elections.

These two issues—corporate power and electoral reform—are the levers to meaningful reform—right here, right now.

This issue of the *Green Scene* is printed on 30% kenaf chlorine-free paper.

'Reining in Corporate Power': A local Green project

A group of six people, members of the Green Party and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, are working together, with financial support from the Green Party, to present forums and educate the public on the evils of corporate power and on what people can do to prevent, or at least minimize, the malignant effects of irresponsible, greedy corporations.

We use the word "rein," as in "reining" in a horse, as one would want to control and use the power of a horse for good and not let it run amok to harm those around it. So corporate power, as other forms of power, is neither good nor evil. It depends upon how it is used.

We object to the exploitation of workers and consumers, to the denigration of the environment and natural resources, and to greedy, grossly unequal distribution of wealth between workers and top management.

Part of our mission is to educate the public about the bad practices of corporations. The other part is to facilitate ways members of the public can take action to rein in corporate malfeasance.

So far we have had two public forums, the first one with about 100 attendees, the second with over 150 present. Part of each program is time for the audience to participate with questions and comments from the floor.

Beginning with the second one, we commit to have an action item as part of each program. The first action item was in support of the grocery strikers and workers who have been locked out by their companies. We solicited donations for hardship funds for those workers (who have now been out of their jobs for over 100 days), and asked everyone in the audience to sign a card to each of the three grocery chains involved, asking them to settle the strike fairly (with a note that we now know where we can obtain our groceries elsewhere.) The individual members of our group will now individually buy stamps and mail the 300 cards we obtained.

Though our efforts be may small on the national scale, we feel that if many small groups take action against corporations who are harming, not helping our society, we can cumulatively affect change.

Our next program will be March 16 at 7 p.m. at the Faulkner Gallery of the Santa Barbara Public Library on Anacapa Street at Anapamu. Subject: "The Flowering of Corporations—Angels and Rogues."

On behalf of "Reining in Corporate Power," we are in, alphabetical order: Nancy Broyles, Judith Evered, Patricia Hiles, Dorothy Holland, Sandy Stites, David Wass.

Green candidate for president David Cobb to speak in Santa Barbara

We are excited to announce that David Cobb, Green Party candidate for president, will speak about his campaign in Santa Barbara on Friday, February 13, at 7 p.m. at the Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center, 1232 De la Vina Street (at the corner of Victoria Street) in Santa Barbara. For information on this event, you may email Dave Wass at david.wass@cox.net

"The Green Party is the electoral arm of the movement for social justice in America. We the people are demanding control of our government. We are building a democratic movement that will take this country back from the corporate hooligans who have hijacked it from us." —David Cobb



March 20 International Day of Action

On March 20, 2004, the first anniversary of the US attack on Iraq, the global peace movement will take to the streets of major cities on all continents, as it did on February 15, 2003, when an estimated ten million people turned out to try to prevent that war.

The people of the world will show their solidarity with the Iraqi people on March 20 by calling for an end to the US occupation of their country. The Green Party of Cali-

Green Clean: Help Wanted!

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, March 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 Dotie Boothe's for lunch.

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

California has endorsed this "International Day of Action," as has the General Assembly of the Anti-War Movement that convened at the World Social Forum recently in Mumbai, India, and organizations all over the world, including United for Peace and Justice, "a coalition of more than 650 local and national groups throughout the US who have joined together to oppose our government's policy of permanent warfare and empire-building."

There will be major events in New York and in San Francisco for the west coast of the United States. But planning for an event here in Santa Barbara is also getting underway, and our local Green Party will be part of it, just as we were throughout 2002–3 in the weekly Santa Barbara Peace March. If you want to be involved in the planning, or wish to be informed of the details as they emerge, please send an email to John Foran (foran@soc.ucsb.edu), who will know more as the date approaches. For information on the world-wide activities for that day, go to the website www.unitedforpeace.org.

Greens Support the Grocery Strike!

Editor's preface: The Green Party of Santa Barbara County has endorsed the strike that has been ongoing across southern California since October 2003. We join the picket of the local workers who have been locked out at the Albertson's store on the Mesa in Santa Barbara at Carrillo Street and Cliff Drive every Sunday between noon and 4 p.m. We would like to expand our numbers, time, and forms of support at the store on Sundays, so if you would like to join us, you are more than welcome! An email to John Foran (foran@soc.ucsb.edu) indicating your interest would be the best way to get started with us. For information on the strike, visit the website of the United Food and Commercial Workers at www.ufcw.org.

A Statement from the Unions via John Pace, local organizer

Dear Customer,

We want to clarify why we are still on strike instead of serving you in our stores.

Our Vons members went on strike because their CEO is the main force behind the attempt to slash our health coverage, pensions, and the wages of all new employees.

We wanted to minimize the inconvenience to you, our customers, by limiting the strike to Vons/Pavilions; but Albertsons and Ralphs *locked out* their employees in a show of corporate solidarity. That means that their employees are not being allowed to work.

The companies are publicizing our wages. They want you to believe that we are making \$17.99 to \$19.18 per hour, as though we all make that rate of pay.

The truth is, only one or two people in each store make the \$19.18 Meat Cutter rate. The rest of the Meat department make only \$7.61 to \$12.17 per hour, and they are mostly part-time employees.

Food Clerks (including Checkers) who do make \$17.90 per hour do so only after years as lower-paid apprentices. Food Clerks (both experienced and apprentice) make up only about 40 percent of the workforce. Only 25 percent of Food Clerks are full-time employees. The other 75 are part-time and are guaranteed only 24 hours per week.

The other 60 percent of the store employees are not Food Clerks. They earn between \$6.75 (minimum wage) and \$12.17 an hour.

Along the bottom of envelopes on my outgoing mail I print the following: "Protest 'Star Wars'! It prolongs the arms race, is illegal, won't work and is extremely expensive!"

Star Wars is a generic term for all space-based weapons systems, whether they are offensive or supposedly defensive in nature. Two articles in a recent *Defense Monitor*, the publication of the Center for Defense Information, bear the headlines "Missile Defense: A Losing Game" and "Arms Race in Space—US Air Force Quietly Focuses on Space Control."

It behooves all of us to take these two admonitions seriously. The articles in this publication are scary and should be taken seriously. The intent of our government is to dominate the world economically and to use our immense industrial-military complex to achieve this domination.

What can we do to tell our government that we believe this proposed world domi-

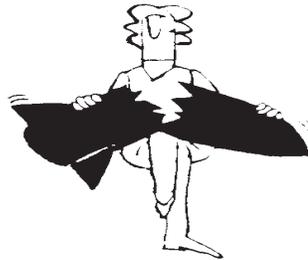
nation is wrong? Since we in this area are so close to Vandenberg it is incumbent on us to protest the war-making that is going on there. The Vandenberg Action Coalition holds two major protests a year. The first is on a Saturday in May to coincide with the Armed Forces Day military P.R. at Vandenberg. The second is in October to coincide with a world-wide protest

organized by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. In addition, a small group of Vandenberg Action Coalition members stage a protest at the Vandenberg base's main entrance on Route 1 on the first Tuesday of every month from 4 to 5 p.m.

These protests are a way to let the general public know that some of the peace activists in our area disapprove of the part Vandenberg plays in our government's plans for world domination. May we see you there.

—In peace, Bud.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US!?



BY BUD BOOTHE

Of this 60 percent, less than 10 percent are full-time, and more than 90 percent are part-time.

The high ratio of part-timers is by the companies' design, not ours. Many of us have second jobs to make ends meet. The only reason that many of the jobs in our stores provide a decent living is the health coverage we're fighting to keep.

And we do earn that coverage. It is part of our pay for the work we do. Instead of buying our health insurance separately as many of you do, part of our compensation is put into a group health plan. There is no free lunch. What goes into the health plan doesn't go into our paychecks.

If it were only a question of paying \$5 or \$15 per week, and making higher co-payments for office visits or prescriptions, we would not have a dispute. The problem is that the companies are trying to slash our

coverage *and that of our retirees* in half and to put new hires into a separate plan that covers even less.

They are also proposing pension cuts so severe that we would not earn any additional pension credits.

As if that weren't enough, the companies are also trying to establish a "two-tier" wage system, creating a new "second class" of employees whose wages and health care would be far less than their co-workers. These companies would then have an extremely strong incentive to selectively "attrite" their loyal longtime employees.

We have been forced into a fight for decent, livable wages, health care, and pensions.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this dispute has caused, and we thank you for the tremendous support we have received.

—The Employees of Albertsons, Ralphs, and Vons/Pavilions

Our thanks to *Green*

Scene Editor Bill Smithers!

For two years, Bill Smithers has edited the *Green Scene* with great passion, skill, and punctuality. Along with our wonderful layout artist Gary Shapiro, he has brought the appearance of the newsletter to a new level of professionalism with a rich content of ideas, reports, graphics, and good humor. The Council thanks Bill for his excellent work on this important means of building the Green Party in Santa Barbara County—his touch will be sorely missed as we try to learn the ropes of producing the newsletter together. We rely on his example, his input, and his detailed instructions for us!

Register to vote (Green!) by Tuesday, February 17

To vote in the California primary elections on Tuesday, March 2, you must be registered to vote in the party of your choice by February 17, 2004. You can get forms at public libraries, or at the registries of voters at three places in SB County: 1101 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 ; 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Suite 134, Santa Maria, CA 93454; and 401 East Cypress Avenue, Lompoc, CA 93436.

Registered Green voters in Santa Barbara County were 3,758 on April 21, 2003, 3,480 on January 1, 2004, and 3,499 on February 2, 2004. We believe that some of this decline is by Greens who wish to have an impact on the Democratic primary and hope that those who have registered Democrat for March 2 will re-register as Greens right away!

We need to have as many registered Greens in the county as possible: for the obvious reason that this is a sign of our strength and relevance, and also for some practical reasons such as the number of delegates we get to the Green State Plenaries of the General Assembly held four times a year (currently this is two delegates out of 100 in all state-wide). The next two plenaries will take place in San Francisco on March 27–28 and in Sacramento on June 5–6; the General Assembly makes all policy decisions for the Green Party of California. The number of delegates we get to the Presidential Nominating Convention (currently three delegates out of 132) is based on the calculation that our peak of 3,918 represents 2.4 percent of the 162,935 registered Greens in the state

ART'S PARTY!

February films in Isla Vista at Friendship Manor

Deconstructing Supper: Is Your Food Safe? • Feb. 15 • 8 p.m. • \$5

Ripe tomato salad. Creamy chicken soup. Grilled West Coast salmon. Dinner is served!
But what's in our food, and how is it grown?

Renowned chef John Bishop leads viewers on an eye-opening and engaging journey into the billion-dollar battle to control global food production.

"This illuminating film reminds us of the importance of knowing where our food comes from, and it shows us how the choices we make everyday about the food we eat are some of the most important decisions we make."

—Alice Waters, Owner, Chez Panisse Restaurant

Doing Justice: The Life and Trials of Arthur Kinoy • Feb. 29 • 8 p.m. • \$5

The late Arthur Kinoy, prominent civil rights lawyer, was involved in some of the country's most celebrated cases: the 1950s espionage trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; the Chicago 8 Trial; he took on President Richard Nixon in 1972, arguing before the US Supreme Court that the use of the wiretaps was a violation of constitutional protections against unreasonable searches; he defended the White Panther Party....

In these dire times of our government hacking away at our civil liberties, we need to see a film of such power and inspiration!

Films are shown at Friendship Manor on the corner of El Colegio and Los Carneros, in the Theatre upstairs. You MUST buy your ticket at the Isla Vista Food Coop (6575 Seville Road.) No money accepted at the door. Only 66 tickets will be sold.

Park in the Manor Corner Parking Lot (SE corner of the empty lot at Camino Pescadero and El Colegio). Do not park in the underground parking structure!

Proceeds to HopeDance Media (www.hopedance.org). Call Art for details at 968-1965.

of California.

California has almost half of all the registered Greens in the US and will have between a quarter and a third of the delegates in Milwaukee. Your vote counts and your voices will be heard!



We meet on 2nd & 4th
Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the
Westside Community Center
423 W. Victoria Street
Santa Barbara

Green Party of Santa Barbara County
P.O. Box 92141
Santa Barbara, CA 93190-2141

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SANTA BARBARA, CA
PERMIT NO. 302