

Growing Green Power

by Dave Wass

The next step on our local Green Party's "Growing Green Power" program has been taken. The County Council has approved the following five local issues as the working planks of our Santa Barbara County political outreach campaign. The issues and the lead county councilor for each are as follows:

1. Wages—Dave Wass: 683-0705
2. Single Payer Health Plan—Nancy Broyles: 963-2687
3. Housing—John Foran: 687-5589
4. Public Transportation —Tim Harding: 965-9733
5. Water Supply Issues—Bud Boothe: 688-7610

Each committee can use extra hands ... and brains. Please phone the lead council member for the issue of your concern and join the effort. In the next three months each committee will study its designated issue, interview experts, read reports, attend hearings, and confer with other organizations to scout out possible coalition partners. Then each committee will submit to the county council, for its comments and approval, a report consisting of an analysis, recommended solutions, and a political strategy. The completed and approved document will become the basis for all our political efforts on each issue, from forums, TV programs, ads, and newspaper articles, to speeches, debates, and campaign literature. Sounds like a lot of work, and a lot of fun! We will keep you apprised of our progress. Let us know what you think of our (and your) efforts.

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The Greens – and the World – Move On

by John Foran

November 2 was a dismal day for progressive forces at the national level, with George W. Bush's narrow—but far from clean and therefore not altogether clearcut—victory over John Kerry. The Green Party, which sought the defeat of Bush with candidate David Cobb's "smart states" strategy, naturally saw the outcome as a defeat for all of us who seek peace, democracy, sustainable economic development, women's rights, and a more diverse and just nation and world.

Yet as the Democrats try to assess their responsibility for this historic defeat, we Greens continued to build our party in many ways, not all of them measurable by the numbers. As Brent McMullan, national political director for the Greens, put it, "It was a tough year.... But we survived the perfect storm and we managed to grow."

The results for the Greens:

Some 430 Green candidates ran for office in forty-one states across the United States, and sixty-three won, bringing the total of elected Greens to roughly 225 in twenty-seven states, an increase of nineteen as a result of these elections. At the presidential level, David Cobb and Patricia LaMarche got 104,087 votes nationwide. Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo got 391,330 nationwide. Looked at another way, George Bush got .16 votes for every dollar he spent, John Kerry got .17 votes per dollar, and David Cobb got .78 votes per dollar spent!

Both Green candidates have acted in a principled way to defend democracy after the elections, calling for recounts in Ohio (Cobb) and New Hampshire (Nader). Both have come together to call for unity in the Green Party and to fix the national nominating process for 2008 so that all can be happy with the outcome.

As Corey Cook, assistant professor of political science at San Francisco State put it: "The Greens didn't [spoil] the result of the presidential election and they could position themselves as an alternative for people who think the Democratic Party is headed too far to the right. They're saying 'We might not win a national election for a while, but we're

going to win a lot of local seats and build a national party'."

Eighty-seven Green candidates ran throughout the state of California. Sixteen of them won their races, including candidates for city council or board of supervisors in San Francisco, Moraga, Arcata (two candidates elected for a Green majority), Fort Bragg, Willits, Sebastopol (two elected to maintain an existing majority), Richmond, and Aliso Viejo. Locally, Christine Mulholland was reelected to the City Council of San Luis Obispo and Melody Demerritt was elected in Morro Bay. Orval Osborne came in fourth for city council in San Luis Obispo. Greens were elected to the school board in San Francisco and Berkeley, and to other local offices in Venice, Humboldt Bay, and Santa Monica. This brings to seventy-seven the number of currently seated elected Greens in California.



Of equal significance is the fact that San Francisco used instant runoff voting for the first time, without a hitch. This is a doable electoral reform (along with clean money—see Consuelo Delgado's article in this issue) that can elect more Greens even under the other undemocratic features of our electoral system.

Our local Green candidates also ran well at the national level, with twelve running for Congress in California, and in San Luis Obispo County Tom Hutchings garnered 7,492 votes (6.37 percent) in the 33rd Congressional District (where only 1.16 percent of the voters are registered Green), while in Ventura, Stuart Bechman tallied 6,700 votes (3.4 percent) in the 24th. Each of these great candidates has contributed a report to you in this issue of the *Green Scene*.

Here on the Central Coast, we take pride in our candidates, our volunteers, our registered voters, and all our supporters, as we enter a new year, and gear up to present a much fuller slate of local candidates for the 2006 election cycle. Our hope is that you will stay in the Greens, with all our differences of opinion. It's going to be a long struggle, with many more ups and downs, but it will be exciting and rewarding to be part of it!

Letter from Tom Hutchings Green Party Congressional Candidate in SLO

Dear Everyone,
Thank you!

During many months of campaigning, it became very easy to speak impromptu on a specific issue in a forum or debate and keep remarks to two or three minutes. However, with a thoughtful process afforded me right now, it is difficult to express the words “I thank you all” in such a manner that truly conveys what is deep within my heart.

First, here are some numbers to demonstrate the hard work all of you did in helping me. The Green Party made an incredible showing in this past election.

The 33rd Assembly campaign increased Green votes by a factor of three. There are 2761 registered Greens in the district, and I received 7492 votes.

6.37% is great considering 1.16% of the registered voters are Green Party. The incredible hard work you all did not only assisted me in my candidacy but helped develop greater awareness of the Green Party. This is a great opportunity to continue growing the Green Party and letting people know about the 10 Key Values.

For all your hard work, contributions, support, and word-of-mouth, I am forever deeply grateful. Though I would wish to see all of you and personally express my gratitude and shake your hand, please accept this message as a token of what is moving within my heart for all of you.

On another note, I want to announce that other opportunities to help people have presented themselves to me. On November 29, I will be departing the US and accepting a temporary teaching position in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Many of you do not know that I have been very closely connected with the Vietnamese culture for the past three and a half decades. My two oldest children’s mother is Vietnamese and in 1975, I worked to help Vietnamese refugees relocate here in the US. Developing out of my last trip to Viet Nam in February 2004, family and friends in Viet Nam have been inviting me to return and help in some manner.

I have decided to accept their gracious invitations. Knowing the culture, customs, and the language is certainly an advantage. Thus, my plans are to return and teach English. I will also be volunteering in the Dieu Giac

Buddhist Orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City, where some of the one hundred children exhibit the painful legacy of Agent Orange, a claim that Dow Chemical refuses to face.

Report from Stuart Bechman Green Party Congressional Candidate in Ventura

Hey all, I’m pleased to report that in my first-ever political race, and the first one in a long time for Greens in this district, I got over three times the votes of the number of Greens in the district—some 6,700 votes, or about 3.4 percent of the vote. And we did it while raising about \$4,000 in my campaign. I think that’s perfectly respectable with having to build a third-party campaign from scratch with all of us being novices. And also notable that it’s the most votes any third-party candidate has gotten in my district in over ten years.

There were lots of highs and lows in my campaign. The high points were the forums, especially on the local college campuses, where I could talk about the issues. Although I never saw my Republican incumbent opponent, who doesn’t do live events, I did have great fun going up several times against my Democratic opponent and having him try to justify why he should have the progressive vote.

The downside was that we didn’t have the experience or the organization to have an effective outreach program. Volunteers were scarce; funding even more so. It was difficult to motivate the volunteers we did have to get very active prior to the end of summer, and by that time it was too late to compete with the blitz of slick mailers and TV ads that the better-financed candidates unleashed in September and October. I found that the psychological burden of campaigning was one of the more difficult aspects. There were times when the money and the volunteers didn’t come through, or I gaffed an interview; and those moments were very lonely. But it was balanced with other unexpected positive surprises that kept me going through the campaign.

I did get some cherished endorsements from regional progressive organizations and even from a couple Libertarian candidates,

At some point, I may be able to work with U.N. efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention and education, an area I work in presently.

You will be assured that no matter where I am or whatever I do, I will fondly remember the hard work all of you did in helping propagate a progressive message. For that, I am eternally grateful.

one of whom was an incumbent. I was surprised at the cold reception I got from local Democrats (and a few Greens!) who attacked me for being a “spoiler” in my race (not that I was; the Republican incumbent has never gotten less than 55 percent of the vote in the past twenty years, and after the 2000 redistricting, this year he got over 60 percent). But we also had a joint event with the local Libertarians, sharing the stage with their CA Senatorial candidate, Judge Jim Gray. A small but enthusiastic crowd, we got out the message that there’s reason for third parties to support each other until we break through the freezeout of the small parties from government. And I was pleased to be able to participate in the GPUS ad in *The Nation* in the week before the election.

Yet overall, and despite the week-to-week disappointments, I feel that we did a good job in our first local campaign in establishing a benchmark for future Green Party campaigns in our county. I believe that my campaign raised the visibility of the Green Party in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to a level that had not been seen in the past several years of elections, and helped keep our voter registration levels stable in a time when the “Anyone But Bush” syndrome threatened to suck everyone back to the Democratic Party. It was a powerful experience, and I recommend to everyone dedicated to Green democracy to go through the experience, even just for the “spiritual” experience. It is, as they say, like the cup in the kiln, where all your impurities burn away, leaving an essence of who you really are.

Thank all of you who supported and believed in my campaign. I am truly and deeply grateful for the chance to have carried the Green banner in our district!

Behind Clean Money

by *Consuelo Delgado*

What is the implication of “Clean Money,” running it through the wash cycle and hanging it out to dry?

This fall I had the opportunity to find out just what the idea behind clean money was when a friend and I drove down to Northridge, California to attend a meeting on clean money organized by the Alliance for Democracy.

Here is what we learned:

Clean Money sets up a system for cleanly financed state elections that will remove



the “For sale” sign from California politics. It is patterned after the successful Clean Money systems now working in Arizona and Maine.

Clean Money candidates receive sufficient funding to run competitive primary and general elections campaigns, leveling the playing field for those of us who don’t have access to personal fortunes or big money cronies.

Clean Money candidates receive matching funds—as much as three times more than the base-funding amount—to help counter attacks by independent expenditures, special interest money, and excess spending by privately funded candidates.

So ordinary folks can actually be elected—what a refreshing idea! Clean Money means more substantive debate, more meaningful contact between voters and candidates where the candidates actually listen to the voters, more competitive races, and more women and minorities entering politics.

In other words clean money and instant runoff voting will revitalize our democracy. Under Instant Runoff Voting, another Green demand for electoral reform, a person can

vote for the candidates of their choice in their order of preference. If your first choice doesn’t finish in the top two, your second choice counts until one candidate has a majority.

Clean Money is an innovative concept that is really making a difference in Arizona and

Maine. In Maine, the number of contested primaries increased by forty percent. In Arizona, the number of minority candidates tripled. Voter turnout and confidence in government increased in both states.

In Berkeley, Measure H was put on the bal-
continued on back page

The problem with global warming (and its solution)

by *Nancy Broyles*

The reality is the earth’s atmosphere is heating at a rate faster than any time in history, a phenomenon we all (except George Bush) know as global warming. Glaciers at the North Pole are melting. Sea levels are rising. Storms are intensifying. Heat waves, like the one that swept through Europe, are longer and more deadly. Florida has never seen such devastating hurricanes before in history. *Right now* we are in the middle of an unfolding climate change.

The abrupt climate in the film “Day After Tomorrow” is over the top. Such a full-blown ice age could not happen. But global warming could bring dangerously cold temperatures in some areas, while others suffer severe storms, extreme heat, floods, droughts, and water shortages.

There are, of course, those who deny that warming is taking place or who maintain that it can be explained by natural causes. But few of them are climatologists.

Here in the US, cars, trucks and coal-fired power plants spew over half of all the pollution that causes global warming. But that’s not inevitable. Together we can turn it around.

One man stands in the way of real progress toward stopping global warming: President George W. Bush. At every turn, President Bush has sided with his friends and big contributors in the oil, coal, and automobile industries.

We have the expertise to make cars run on cleaner burning fuels, and the resources to develop new technologies that will dramatically cut pollution and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs right here in America.

It is very unfortunate that with all the world-wide publicity on global warming that George W. Bush is in denial and completely ignores the tragedy that is unfolding. In order for President Bush to work toward the control of global warming, he would have to vote against his friends and big contributors

in the oil, coal, and automobile industries.

Bush now claims that action on C02 would cost Americas more for electricity. He is wrong. Reduction of C02 would primarily be accomplished by using less coal and more natural gas. In spite of a hike in natural gas prices over the winter, the cost of getting electricity from natural gas has been lower over the previous two decades than has been for electricity from coal.

In the absence of any meaningful action on climate change by the Bush administration, more than half of US states are stepping up to address the problem through legislation, programs launched by governors, or lawsuits. In the last three years state legislatures have approved at least 29 bills that deal with some aspect of global warming or carbon dioxide missions, often with bi-partisan support.

In spite of the lack of support from the president many states and city are trying to make an impact. At least 15 states, including Nevada and Texas, are requiring utilities to add renewable sources like wind and solar to their energy mix. “We hope to see the problems addressed at the federal level, but we’re not waiting around,” said David Danner, energy adviser to Washington Governor Gary Locke (D). As states and cities create a patchwork of varying laws and rules across the country, pressure is likely to grow on the US government to address climate change on a federal level and set nationwide standards.

We have the expertise to make cars run on cleaner burning fuel, and the resources to develop new technologies that will dramatically cut pollution and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs right here in America.

Go to www.climatecrisis.org and tell President Bush to get serious about global warming. Tell him to support the international Kyoto treaty and support Senator John McCain’s new bill in the US Senate to reduce global warming.

Clean elections *from page 5*

lot after the hard work of the Berkeley Fair Elections Coalition and support from California Clean Money Campaign members in the Bay Area convinced the Berkeley City Council to do so. It would have made Berkeley the first city in the nation to provide full public financing for city election campaigns (the measure was defeated on November 2 with 41 percent in favor).

Local campaigns provide an opportunity to showcase the proven results of Clean Money: increased diversity of candidates, greater government responsiveness to constituent needs, a sharp reduction in the power of special interests dollars, and a level playing field. When cities adopt such measures, it will be an important step towards enacting Clean Money for Fair Elections at the state and eventually national level.

If you are fed up with politics as usual and would like to learn more about the Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, visit the California Clean Money Campaign website at www.caclean.org or e-mail the organization at info@caclean.org. You may also write to the California Clean Money Campaign, 8800 Venice Blvd., Suite 321, Los Angeles, CA 90034 (phone (310) 837-8748, (800) 566-3780).

GREEN SCENE

WINTER 2004-5 ISSUE

Quarterly publication of the Green Party
of Santa Barbara County

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This issue on chlorine-free 30% kenaf paper.

Campus Art Films in Isla Vista at Friendship Manor

December 19: "Fahrenheit 9/11" (122 minutes)

December 26: "Zapatista" (54 minutes)

January 2: "Life and Debt" (86 minutes)

January 9: "This is What Democracy Looks Like" (69 minutes)

January 16: "Zapatista" (54 minutes)

January 23: "Life and Debt" (86 minutes)

\$3 (or donation) each evening— monies go to UCSB Campus Greens). Call Art Schwartz for details and specifics at 968-1965.

Art's Party and the newly founded UCSB Campus Greens 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 sometimes 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 Friend-

ship Manor. The opening is nearly opposite the west end of Cervantes Road.) Do not park in the underground parking structure! Better yet, walk, bike, car-pool or ride the bus!

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, January 8. 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.

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Civilization:
Beta version—too buggy!
How to uninstall?

—Gary Shapiro

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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, or call 884-8259.