



Green Focus

The Newspaper of the Green Party of California - January 2007

Nineteen Greens Elected to Local Office in '06 Elections

By Mike Feinstein, Member
LA County County Council

The November 2006 General Elections featured sixty-two Green candidates from nineteen counties, running for offices like Governor and U.S. Senate, down to local offices like fire, water and planning districts.

Twenty-three Greens ran in partisan state and federal races and thirty-nine in municipal, county and special districts. Led by Gayle McLaughlin in Richmond and Jane Kim in San Francisco, nineteen of these thirty-nine were elected (48.7%), including twelve of the fifteen incumbents that sought reelection. Eight other incumbents did not run, including one (Tim Fitzmaurice, Santa Cruz City Council), that was prevented from doing so by local term limits.

The combination of Green victories and retiring incumbents left at 50 the number of California Greens holding



Jane Kim, above, won first place in a race for 3 seats on the San Francisco School Board.

elected office after the November election.

Among them 17 are members of city councils, three of college board of trustees, nine of local school boards; five of rent boards; one of a transit board, five on water boards; seven on planning groups/ community/ neighborhood councils; and one fire board member, one hospital board member and one community services district.

Richmond

The highest office was won by Richmond City Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, who ascended to Mayor only two years after being elected to the City Council – and stunning the local Bay Area political establishment in the process by defeating a sitting

Democratic Party incumbent.

In terms of population (103,000) and significance, Richmond is one of Northern California's most important cities after San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento and Oakland. It is now also the largest U.S. city ever to have a Green Mayor (previously Santa Monica, pop. 90,000 was the largest).

McLaughlin's victory against incumbent mayor Irma Anderson - who brazenly accepted and spent \$110,000 from Chevron Oil, Pacific Gas and Electric and other corporate interests during her campaign - sent political shock waves across the Bay Area by highlighting the Green Party's organizational maturity and strong progressive values.

These values were a strong threat to the Chevron Corporation, which owns one of the largest refineries in the state in Richmond, and is also the city's largest local employer. However, only a very small percent of Chevron employ-



Gayle McLaughlin, seen above is the newly elected Green Mayor of Richmond, CA. She beat incumbent mayor Irma Anderson, who shamelessly accepted at least \$110,000 from Chevron Oil, Pacific Gas and Electric and other corporate interests in an attempt to silence the demands of the people of Richmond for accountability from its worst corporate polluters.

ees are Richmond residents, while the refinery is notorious for pollution, health & safety violations.

In the mayor's race, Chevron went far beyond simply funding the incumbent, also funding more than twenty 'hit pieces' on McLaughlin. Lacking any 'dirt' on her, they simply accused her of irresponsibility for wanting more taxes from Chevron. Indeed, McLaughlin supported local Measure T, which would have generated \$8 million a year in Chevron taxes for Richmond's many needs.

So Chevron wrapped Measure T around McLaughlin's campaign (although she was not the Measure's author) and attacked both her and Measure T with fury, three or four hit pieces a week. Chevron succeeded in defeating Measure T 58% to 42%, as it had no organized campaign, and Chevron exploited its weakness and a general confusion about it among the voters.

On the other hand Gayle McLaughlin won the election for Mayor, "in spite

of Chevron's assault, machinations, lies and scare tactics," said McLaughlin. "We've learned in Richmond that one good way to defeat the flood of hit pieces against a Green (or progressive) candidate, is to uphold our principles, and at the same time invest everything we have in time and people, developing a long grassroots campaign."

Indeed McLaughlin's campaign started walking precincts nine months before the election. By early March, volunteers were walking for "Gayle for Mayor" every week, non-stop, until November. It was exhausting but also very productive. At the same time, true to her Green principles, she refused corporate contributions, yet still raised \$28,000.

It was this hard work combined with McLaughlin's positive reputation in the community -- her great standing on the City Council, the respect of her colleagues, and the good policies advanced in her short time in office -- that enabled

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

Announcements.....	11
Election Results.....	1
Green Media Campaigns a Success...	3
Napa Greens Against GMO's.....	5
IRV Wins in California.....	5
Opinion Pages.....	6&7
LA Greens Go To Jail.....	8
Fur Trade Protests in SF.....	8
Parsing Pombo's Defeat.....	9
Petra Kelly Scholarship Awards.....	9
Riverside Greens In Life Struggle.....	10
Movie Review - The Good Shepherd.	11



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Nineteen Greens Elected in '06 Elections - Continued From Page 1

McLaughlin to withstand the attacks and win the election. She finished first with 37.5% in a three-way race, 242 votes ahead of the incumbent who had 36.3%, followed by a third-place finisher at 25.7%

Of all the challenges facing McLaughlin and the community of her supporters, "there is not one more pressing than stopping the endemic street violence of this city", she said.

The roots of this violence lay in part in the city's long-term economic down turn. Richmond is a classic working-class industrial city fallen upon hard times. During World War II, many African-Americans migrated to Richmond to work at building "Liberty Ships" at the large shipyard. Many of them were women, which is why this is the site for the "Rosie the Riveter" memorial today.

But that was sixty years ago. The shipyard has long since shut down, leaving Chevron as the largest employer, but with few locals hired, and with few opportunities overall for local jobs, violence and a torn community are a result. Even though other cities with more resources and longer political ex-

perience have not been able to find a way out of this kind of urban decline, McLaughlin argues that for Richmond, it is an imperative. "We must lead the city away from this nightmare that literally bleeds its residents and frightens investors," she said. "This violence is rooted in poverty, poor schools, unemployment, drugs, gangs and the habit of easy trigger retaliations."

Seeking to halve Richmond's street violence in half by 2010, McLaughlin proposed combining community policing, a Richmond Youth Corps, mentoring for parolees, support for high-school graduation and support for local small business, along with regional cooperation with neighboring cities to long-term recidivism around support groups, mental health counseling services, education opportunities and supportive housing.

A longtime activist from a Chicago union family, McLaughlin was first elected to the Richmond City Council on a shoestring budget campaign. At the time, it was considered by some to be a big upset. Now she's Mayor. And while her campaign helped build the local Green Party, McLaughlin has made it clear that she is there govern for the community, and that she'll bring a Green perspective appropriate for the community. "There are indeed many tones of Green," she said, "and the Green tone of the Richmond Mayor will need to reflect the realities of our geography and people"

San Francisco

Across the Bay in San Francisco, 29 year-old Jane Kim shocked the city's political establishment as she swept to first place among 15 candidates for three seats for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Board of Education.

A youth program director with the Chinatown Community Development Center, Kim's grassroots campaign featured numerous volunteers under 35 years old, many even under 22. Bringing together youth with progressive activists, parent advocates and immigrant communities (in particular the Chinese-American and Korean-American communities) and enabled Kim to win without key endorsements usually associated with a school board win, including that of the Democratic Party.

One endorsement she did receive was the San Francisco Bay Guardian, which said "Kim, who runs a nonprofit after-school youth leadership program, is on the top of almost every progressive's list for the board and for good reason: she's bright and articulate, has a vision for public education.... [She] not only understands the problems facing the district but has some real solutions."

Kim's main campaign issues were increasing general funding for SFUSD through increased advocacy work with the city and the state; improving resources and staffing for middle schools, and building stronger relationships between the SFUSD and community-based organizations serving students and families.

Kim was also endorsed by current Board of Education members Eric Mar, Norman Yee and the two Greens Sarah Lipson and Mark Sanchez, the latter a Green in his second term on the Board. With Kim's election together with another progressive Kim-Shree Maufa, the chances are now great the Sanchez will be selected as the Board's next president, a post he'll be seeking when the new Board convenes January 9th. If elected, this could be one of the most important positions an elected U.S. Green has ever held, given the number of students in the District and the size of its budget.



John Rizzo, above right, won a seat on the Community College Board in SF, replacing incumbent Johnnie Carter.

Kim replaces retiring Lipson on the Board, who was elected in 2002 but chose not to run a second time.

For Community College Board, Sierra Club activist John Rizzo defeated incumbent Johnnie Carter by 352 votes for third seat out of six candidates - the first Green to be elected to the College Board and the first College Board candidate since 1994 to defeat an incumbent.

Rizzo's victory wasn't confirmed for three weeks after the election, until the last absentee and provisional votes were counted - and at one point beforehand, Rizzo even fell behind by 100 votes.

Both Rizzo and Kim ran on a platform of fiscal transparency, a big issue in both education districts.

Rizzo, who was well-known with Sierra Club, added these issues: job-training programs to meet local job needs; special-needs programs for disadvantaged students; clean energy technology and training for green jobs; targeting under-served parts of the City;

Continued on Page 3

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Insurance Commissioner Campaign a Resounding Success

By Larry Cafiero

Nine months, more than 10,000 miles and nearly 270,000 votes later, the Green Party campaign for Insurance Commissioner can easily be deemed a success on many levels.

We raised the important issues in an Insurance Commissioner's race where the candidates for the two major parties -- a Democrat who talked more about his weight loss than about policy, and a Republican who spent \$11 million of his own money -- chose to trade barbs rather than discuss ideas.

Our campaign chose higher ground. We repeatedly talked about the need for universal health care, the urgency in fixing the bipartisan workers' comp "reform" of 2004 now (if not yesterday), the unequivocal necessity for consumer advocacy in the Department of Insurance, and the need for alternative therapies to be covered by a reluctant insurance industry more concerned with company profit than with the public's well-being. Our campaign brought innovation to the race by

proposing a pay-at-the-pump auto liability insurance program that would insure all drivers in California.

This campaign stood with chiropractic practitioners, massage therapists and acupuncturists in advocating that they should get a fair shake from an insurance industry that is too quick to "cut and drug" patients when non-invasive therapies would suffice.

While our campaign may have fallen short of what many would consider "the prize" -- leading the Department on Insurance -- our advocacy on behalf of injured workers, on behalf of universal health care, on behalf of insurance coverage for alternative therapies and on behalf of consumer advocacy in the Department of Insurance, resonated with people I had the privilege of addressing and meeting during the course of the campaign, and resonated with voters who heard our message through the cacophony of bipartisan mud-slinging. This campaign did not end on Election Day.



Larry Cafiero, pictured above is a father, husband, professional journalist and Co-editor of this newspaper.

It continues to this day, and I invite all who work toward achieving universal health care, true workers' comp reform and true consumer advocacy to join the Green Party in helping us realize these necessary goals.

Nineteen Greens Elected in '06 Elections - Continued From Page 2

collaborating with neighborhoods before making decisions that affect them, low-cost housing for students and socially responsible investing of College funds.

Helping Kim, Rizzo and other local Green candidates, the SFGP mailed and distributed over 20,000 slate cards before the election. All Green Party candidates in San Francisco but one also benefited from the endorsement of the Bay Guardian. Two Progressive Democrats - Chris Daly for Supervisor and Kim-Shree Maufa for School Board, also benefited greatly from Greens support.

Sebastopol

The re-election of Larry Robinson to a third term means Greens in Sebastopol will now retain a majority on the City Council until at least 2008, rejoining fellow Greens Craig Litwin and Sam Pierce on the five-member Council, and making it eight straight years with a Green majority (Sam Spooner preceded Pierce from 2000-2004).

Thinking globally while running locally, Robinson's campaign web site began "In the coming years, auto use will be increasingly expensive, as will other forms of energy. We can begin preparing now for that future by encouraging city-centered development which is less resource intensive and provides the opportunity for people to work, shop and play close to where they live. I believe that together we can imagine and create a sustainable future." Apparently voters agree.

Over the six years of Green majority on the Council, Robinson already lists the following achievements:

- adoption of a mandatory green building program
- a living wage ordinance
- two city-driven affordable co-housing projects (one rental and one ownership)
- an affordable housing impact fee on all new developments
- a draft ordinance (which I expect will be adopted early in 2007) to require photovoltaic installations on all new construction
- the most fiscally responsible (sustainable) budget of all the cities in Sonoma County; and
- a commitment to reduce our municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 30% (from a base year of 2000 by 2008); it now appears that we will reach a 42% reduction and save \$25,000 a year in the process.

And with the state of California debating how it will meet its own more modest greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, how will Sebastopol reach its lofty goals? Robinson explains: "We will meet this goal through a combination of photovoltaic installations on as many city buildings as possible, conversion of our diesel fleet to bio-diesel and of our gas fleet to natural gas, an employee ride-sharing program and new energy efficient HVAC systems.

Berkeley

In Berkeley, Dona Spring was re-elected for the fifth time, since first being elected in 1992. At the completion of this new term, she will have

served for 18 years on the Berkeley City Council - the longest for a Green City Councilmember in the U.S. and second most for any Green officeholder (behind David Conley, Board of Supervisors, Douglas County, Wisconsin {1986-2008}).

In its endorsement of Spring, the Alameda County Green Party had this



Dona Spring, above, was re-elected for the fifth time as the City Councilor in Berkeley, CA and will have served continuously for 15 years at the end of her new term.

to say: "Dona has chalked up a solid environmental record, opposing hotel development on the waterfront and preserving it as protected wildlife habitat space. She has been a leader in Berkeley's actions to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions to be in accordance with the standards of the Kyoto accords. She worked to win accountability from UC Berkeley and the city in the use and reduction of toxins, and to decrease the flow of heavy metals into the storm drains. Ambient air emissions studies and tests in West Berkeley were initiated by Spring. When the City Council voted to clear cut nearly 250 downtown trees, Spring opposed the plan, insisting on a tree by tree survey that saved over a hundred trees.

This year, unlike others, Spring's challenger was well-funded by business interests who hoped to defeat her. Despite this concentrated effort, she was re-elected with 71.2% of the vote.

When Spring was first elected in November 1992, it was to the first of three, two-year terms. Then in 1998, the city of Berkeley switched from two-year to four-year City Council terms, and voters then re-elected Spring in 1998 and 2002.

Also in Berkeley, Green incumbents Howard Chong and Cris Kavanagh were joined by Lisa Stephens and Pam Webster on the nine-member Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board - the most Green elected officials ever on a legislative body in the state.

The four Greens form a diverse slate - Chong is the Board's incumbent Chairperson and a UC Berkeley graduate student; Kavanagh a middle school teacher, and long time Berkeley affordable housing/rent control activist. Stephens is a well known urban forest and garden specialist, community activist and president of her worksite's trade union local; while Webster serves on the East Bay Ecology Center's board of directors. Webster is also married to John Selawsky, who is serving his second term the Berkeley Unified School District's Board of Directors, the only

married elected Green couple in the United States.

Nearly 19,000 renter households are regulated under Berkeley's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (rent control) and Board. Several times over the past 25 years since its inception, Berkeley's rent control program has shielded tens of thousands of city renters from dramatic, unexpected rent increases, including, most recently, during the dotcom economic surge between 1998 and 2001, when rent levels across the Bay Area skyrocketed. Green Rent Board members intend to continue that protection.

Oakland

Just south of Berkeley, Aimee Allison came tantalizingly close to winning an Oakland City Council seat, receiving 46.6% of the vote in a spirited effort to topple incumbent Councilmember Pat Kernighan, an establishment politician backed by the Oakland Chamber of Commerce and corporate real estate developer interests.

Allison combined a focus on affordable housing together with a community-based economic development approach, that included better integrating Oakland's \$30 billion/year port into the local tax base. She also campaigned in favor of Measure O, which was passed by voters, that enacts Instant Run-Off Voting for Oakland municipal elections.

Hurt by a low turnout owing to a lackluster Democratic gubernatorial campaign and to the fact that Oakland's Mayor-elect Ron Dellums was already elected in June and therefore not on the ballot, Allison's strong progressive campaign nevertheless helped to transform Oakland's political landscape, injecting new progressive political energy.

Oakland resident Rebecca Kaplan was overwhelmingly re-elected to the



Rebecca Kaplan, above, was re-elected to the Alameda County Transit Bd. With more than 82% of the vote. This percentage was the highest percentage win of any Green in the US for 2006.

Alameda County Transit Board, with 82.8% and 198,099 votes - the most votes of any U.S. Green in 2006 winning their race.

Kaplan serves as part-time counsel for an East Bay civil rights law firm, in order to have time and flexible hours to devote to her work on the Transit Board, and for the last two years she has not driven a car. In her first term, Kaplan obtained Board approval to contract for solar power for AC Transit

buildings, a "green purchasing policy" and adding bio-diesel to the agenda for the upcoming Short Range Transportation plan.

In the field, she worked with numerous government agencies in adjoining jurisdictions to reduce the Rapid Bus route time by 1/3, over the 14 miles from Contra Costa College to Oakland, by coordinating signaling, signage and bus shelter plans. As AC Transit representative to the Contra Costa transportation sales tax re-authorization (Measure J) drafting committee, she successfully negotiated a significant improvement in funding for local transit, particularly in low-income and under-served communities.

In her second term Kaplan hopes to increase use of bio-diesel fuels, venues of sale of bulk AC Transit passes, (the Eco-Pass program), and expansion of "NextBus" energy-efficient LED displays at bus stops.

Yucaipa

Down south in Yucaipa in more conservative San Bernardino County, Alan Drusys was re-elected to his fourth, four-year City Council term. By 2010 he will have served for 16 years - the second longest for a Green City Councilmember after Spring.

Oxnard

This past November 2006 Oxnard City Elections, Francisco Romero, a registered Green, ran for Oxnard City Council alongside Jose Moreno for Oxnard School Board Trustee. This election campaign was launched under the slogan "All Power to the People-Organize and Participate!"

The All Power to the People was a successful model of how grassroots candidates can mobilize community into action by presenting an alternative progressive platform, one that called for living wage ordinance, clean environment and equity on a local level. Although the candidates did not win, several highlights should be noted regarding this effort.

In the two months that the All Power to the People campaign was organized, the candidates were able to successfully raise \$8,000, about \$4,000 a piece. These resources were utilized for 400 lawn signs, 5,000 flyers, 2,000 brochures, a 30,000 piece Penny Saver insert, and 8 large banners.

The All Power to the People campaign also coordinated eight weekend outreach campaign in which close to 40 different volunteers, the majority youth, came out to walk precincts in the most marginalized areas of the community. The All Power to the People campaign volunteers knocked on doors on over 4,000 homes and leafleted close to 10,000 literature pieces.

The results were impressive. Francisco Romero's Oxnard City Council bid ended with a third place spot and close to 7,000 votes (about 17%) spending about 55¢ per vote, in comparison to the two winning candidates which spent two to three times more per vote.

Green's Use TV, Radio - Internet in '06 Election

■ Green statewide, federal candidates run serious television, radio advertising campaigns; Strategy reaches many more voters than traditional campaigning

By Crescenzo Vellucci

Two years ago, when I first began working as a strategist and media relations advisor to Green Party political campaigns, I was told by a longtime Green – who was responding to my plan to crank up a free and paid media plan – that Greens would never "do" advertising campaigns.

"We're the Green Party. We do tabling," said this volunteer. My response was that tabling and flyering, as the primary mode of running statewide or federal campaigns (as compared to very small/local campaigns) became passé about a century or so ago when villages were rural and small. In other words, those flyer campaigns worked well for Thomas Paine in 1776 but would not in 2006. Greens, in short, have to change their methods.

Progressives may complain about media coverage – or lack of it – but part of the problem is that we don't often act like candidates or a political party. Of course we don't want to act too much like the corporate-controlled Democrats and Republicans, but we can use the mass media to get the word out about what we stand for, and who our candidates are during election season.

Beyond that, running real campaigns, which include paid media in television and radio mediums – where most voters get most of their news, according to polls – would give us instant credibility with the news media and the public.

That year, 2004, I managed to convince two Green congressional candidates to run radio spots. Both did extremely well in the campaigns.

This year, 2006, I worked with a number of Green Party state and federal candidates, who took it a step further, not only running radio campaigns but also television campaigns this election season. It was the first time, I've been told, California statewide candidates, and maybe congressional candidates, ran television campaigns.

While Green candidates did not spend the tens of millions of dollars Democratic and Republican party candidates poured into advertising, Greens did, through a combination of creative production and targeted placement, managed to get their message to voters more than before.

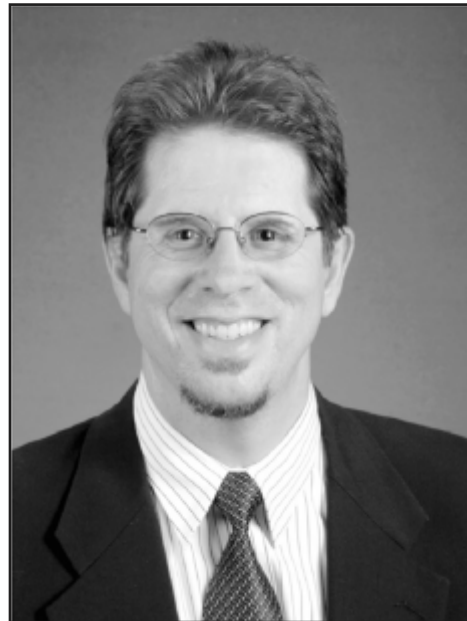
Peter Camejo, in his last bid for public office, spent a combined \$7,000 on paid television and radio spots throughout California in his run for governor. The advertisements ran on progressive radio stations, including Air America, and on select broadcast and cable stations in the San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento markets. Among the cable shows to run the spots were CNN, Headline News, MSNBC, Lifetime, HGTV and Black Entertainment Tonight.

The idea of Camejo, a grassroots-driven Green Party candidate, running paid television spots became, literally, news. While we were finishing production work, three different television crews – including one which fed the story to 50 stations statewide – rushed over to do interviews and film the pro-

duction of the spots.

The resulting free media netted the campaign much, much more coverage than the paid spots could do. But, the free coverage would not have happened if the paid spots hadn't been produced in the first place. The spots – a series of them – focused on everything from the war in Iraq, taxes, education, healthcare and gay rights to minimum wage, free elections, 3 strikes, death penalty and immigrants rights.

Even the design of the spots used by the Camejo campaign was unusual. Each spot was just 15 seconds (the usual campaign spot is 30-60 seconds). And the advertising plant was designed



Forrest Hill, seen above, ran very effective and 'smart' ads on TV in the Bay area in his campaign for Secretary of State in '06.

to give a sense of frequency that most campaigns can only achieve by spending much more money. Yet, 15 seconds is plenty enough time to express positive, not spin messages mind you – to the voters.

Among the points made by Camejo in his advertising campaign was that voters are "wasting their vote" if they voted for Democrat Phil Angelides for Governor other than Camejo because if they truly "wanted change" they would vote for Green Party candidates.

Camejo may have been the first Green Party state candidate for governor to run paid television spots, but he was not the first state candidate. Forrest Hill, who ran for Secretary of State, produced a series of radio and television spots early in the campaign, running them in several markets. His 30-second spot focused on how much a Green could accomplish and that people should vote for him. The ad showed Hill running from the Capitol, to the sea, to the valley – a somewhat humorous spot patterned after Paul Wellstone's free-wheeling ads.

At least one other Green Party state candidate ran radio spots – on Air America and progressive stations statewide. Larry Cafiero, candidate for Insurance Commissioner, pointed out in the ads that he was not "bought and paid for" by the insurance companies and would be a consumer Insurance Commissioner.

Still other statewide Green candidates did produce spots to be shown on their websites and the internet.

On the federal candidate side, Jeff Kravitz, a law professor and civil rights attorney running for Congress in the 5th District (Sacramento), also used the mass media to his advantage. His extremely hard-hitting radio spots ran dozens of times on progressive talk stations, and his television ads ran close to 80 times on broadcast and cable stations (including CNN, Headline News, CNBC).

Kravitz' television ad, again using the less expensive 15 second format to increase frequency, featured reverse type on black screen with the words: "Nearly 3,000 US Dead in Iraq." He then added: "Rep. Doris Matsui has their blood on her hands," in reference to the Democratic Party incumbent's record of voting to fund the war although she claims to oppose it.

The dramatic-looking spot drew criticism from hardline Democrats in the district who said it was "inflammatory." In other words it



Jeff Kravitz, above, a Constitutional Law Professor and Attorney of Sacramento used TV ads to effectively get in the face of pro-war Democrats. His ads were creative, confrontational and brought the message straight to the voters.

caught their attention. Kravitz's response was: "It damn well better be inflammatory. Those ads are expensive and a good friend of mine's son is in Iraq. I want him home now."

Bob Vizzard, who ran a campaign for State Senate, and Jerry Fritts, running for State Assembly, also put together radio advertising campaigns in their Northern California districts with virtually no budgets. There were undoubtedly other Greens who ran radio, and maybe even television, campaigns throughout the November campaign. Sometimes they produced spots but only featured them on their websites.

Byron DeLear and Donna Warren were among those that ran effective media campaigns from Southern California. A person was hard pressed to not notice the presence almost every week of another appearance in the media somewhere of the DeLear campaign for Congress. And Donna Warren put together an extremely professional, moving and impressive political advertisement that appeared on her website and in other locations across the Internet.

NEW STUDY SHOWS NUCLEAR WINTER LIKELY TO RESULT EVEN FROM LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR.



Napa Green's Foster Anti-GMO Nonprofit Organization

By Erica Martenson
Napa, California

As a consumer who is extremely concerned about genetically modified (GM) crops and wanted to something about it, I found an ally in the Napa County Green party. The Napa Green party came to play an essential role in the founding of a new, non-profit organization, P.I.N.A. (Preserving the Integrity of Napa's Agriculture), to educate the local community about the health, environmental, and economic risks of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and to push for a moratorium on the planting of GMOs in Napa County. The Napa Green Party has increased the exposure of P.I.N.A., and P.I.N.A. has done the same for the Napa Green Party. By working together, we not only support each other's goals but also heighten each other's presence in the community.

For the past year, what started out as a curiosity about genetically modified crops became, as I learned more about them, almost an obsession. When I discovered that already four GM crops (soy, corn, canola, and cotton) have been widely planted in the U.S. and have made their way into about 75% of our processed foods, and that these crops pose irreversible hazards to the environment, as well as a serious health risk, I felt angry and helpless. I wanted to turn these feelings into action. Overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem, I believed that I could at least act at the local level to inform others and to protect our local agriculture by working toward a moratorium on GM crops in Napa County, as they have already done in Mendocino, Marin, Trinity, and Santa Cruz counties. At that time, I hadn't thought of starting a new organization; I was actually hoping that an existing organization would tackle the issue.

After approaching the Napa Sierra Club and getting no support, I approached the Napa Green party, as a registered Green wanting the local chapter of my party to do something about this problem. One of the barriers to getting support on this particular issue is the fact that our mainstream media has been silent about it, and even people who are generally informed know almost nothing about it. Moreover, it's a complex issue-- one that can't be summarized in a few minutes and one that is difficult for people to immediately wrap their minds around. Therefore, it was a stroke of luck when I walked into that Green party meeting and met Bob Moore, a family physician who studied genetics and was informed on GMOs and their risks, and who agreed that this is a serious problem that the Napa Green Party should help address.

It was eventually decided that, although the Napa Green Party would play an integral role, a separate organization needed to be formed that would have GMOs as its sole focus. Consequently, Bob Moore (Napa Green Party Secretary) and I (Green Party member and now on the Central Committee of the Napa Green Party) formed P.I.N.A. The Napa Green Party was P.I.N.A.'s first endorsement and is now listed with a link to its website on the P.I.N.A. website. In addition, both chairs of the

Napa Green Party, Lowell Downey and Chris Malan, are P.I.N.A. members. This month, when I was presenting before the board of the Carolyn Parr Nature Center and before members of the local Unitarian Church to discuss GMOs and gain more community support for P.I.N.A. and its mission, I was asked both times how the organization got started. So, the Napa Green Party came up in both of these meetings. Likewise, recently, when the Napa Green Party hosted Peter Camejo during his gubernatorial campaign, Bob Moore mentioned all of the local organizations represented that evening, including P.I.N.A., and all of us were there distributing literature. These are examples of the synergy that exists between the two organizations, and I am certain there will many more opportunities to support each other in the future. P.I.N.A. is in line with several of the Green Party's Ten Key Values. It represents Grassroots Democracy, as local citizens have come together to address a problem at the local level. It also represents Decentralization. Because the state and federal governments have refused to stand up to the biotech corpo-



Erica Martenson, left, speaks with the board of directors of the Carolyn Parr Nature Center concerning a moratorium on the growth of Genetically Modified Organisms in Napa..

rations and regulate GMOs, P.I.N.A. is working to have them regulated at the local level to protect our local agriculture and economy. It represents Ecological Wisdom, because the GMOs that are currently being unleashed into the environment threaten our ecosystem, including native plants and native plant habitats, beneficial insects, birds and wildlife, earthworms, and soil biota. Lastly, it represents Sustainability, because GMOs are not sustainable and run contrary to the growing interest in organic and sustainable agriculture, due to the increased herbicide and pesticide use in which they result, the contamination of conventional and organic crops by GM pollen and volunteer seedlings, and so forth.

The Napa Green Party has been instrumental in the formation of P.I.N.A. and its effort to address the problem of GMOs at the local level. There are many more local organizations that are working toward the Green Party's Ten Key Values that our local Green party could work with and support, both to help each other advance these common goals and to publicize each other. Other Green parties can do the same.

IRV Wins in Oakland, Davis – Around US in Fall 2006

By Steven Hill, Director
New America Foundation

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), an idea advanced by the New America Foundation to give voters more influence and more choices in elections, continued to gain favor in California and elsewhere as four cities strongly approved November 7 ballot measures supporting the idea.

In California, where San Francisco became the state's first Instant Runoff Voting city in 2004, voters in the cities of Oakland and Davis approved the idea, which would allow voters to rank their first, second, and third choices for office. Oakland overwhelmingly supported the measure by 68% of the returns, meaning voters will use Instant Runoff Voting for all local offices in November 2008. The Davis measure was an advisory recommendation.

Elsewhere, voters in Minneapolis passed their ballot measure with 65% support. And in Pierce County, Washington, voters supported the move to IRV for their partisan county elections with 54% of the vote.

New America staff Lynne Serpe and Steven Hill played a key role as advisors to several of these campaigns. New America was joined by other organizations, including FairVote (www.fairvote.org), a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that is the national

clearinghouse on electoral systems like instant runoff voting.

The elections clearly affirm a growing trend toward Instant Runoff Voting as a response to public frustration with unresponsive and unaccountable government leaders. Instant Runoff Voting discourages negative campaigning and opens the process to candidates and ideas that may not be viable in a traditional winner-take-all election.

"Clearly there is strong interest among voters in political reforms that open up the political system and make voters feel like their vote counts," said Lynne Serpe, Deputy Director of New America's Political Reform Program. "What was interesting about the four victories for IRV was that they happened in four very different locations. Oakland is a very diverse and working-class city; Minneapolis is a liberal Midwestern city; Pierce County is mostly a rural county with large numbers of independent voters; and Davis is a smaller, university town. Yet in every place Instant Runoff Voting provided a unique solution to problems with representative government and democracy."

Instant Runoff Voting already is used in San Francisco, which on November 7 had its third election using Instant Runoff Voting for local offices. Burlington, Vermont elected its mayor using Instant Runoff Voting in March 2006.

For more information on the election and Instant Runoff Voting go to http://www.newamerica.net/programs/political_reform.

The New America Foundation is a nonprofit, post-partisan, public policy institute whose purpose is to bring exceptionally promising new voices and new ideas to the fore of our nation's public discourse. Relying on a venture capital approach, the Foundation in-

vests in outstanding individuals and policy solutions that transcend the conventional political spectrum. Headquartered in our nation's capital, New America also has offices in California and New York.

For more information about New America or the Political Reform Program, go to their website located at: www.newamerica.net/california



Laura Wells, seen above, was active in organizing the victory for IRV that was handily won in the City of Oakland in November, 2006. Photo by Natalia Rogovin who is incidentally Lara's daughter.

Opinion Pages

GPCA and the Green Revolution—Road To Nowhere?

By Wes Rolley
Morgan Hill, CA.

I often wish that I had the rhetorical skills of a Shakespearean character. Who would not want the talents of a Henry V at Agincourt whose words about a “band of brothers” are still in our vocabulary as are the memories of the victory that they called forth which marked the end of the era of mounted knights in armor.

Alas, I don't have that skill.

If I did, I would be calling for a Green Revolution to start here in California. We have wasted so much time and so much energy trying to figure out which Michael has it right that there is little time and energy left to do much else. To top it off, it isn't even Green Energy.

It really got to me when the only person responding to a post on my blog used the space to take yet one

more shot at David Cobb and call us cowards for not taking on the Democrats. To top it off, they did not even sign their name. Sheesh.

Some will analyze the minutiae of registration numbers and try to figure out why they are going down. I think it is really simple. No one is standing up and laying out a vision of what a Green California would be like. How would it be different? What might make it attractive? Why would anyone join this party?

Others are experts at defining the problems of the 'system' and pontificate like policy wonks. I tend to be that myself. I enjoy trying to define how to get from here to there and keep things running while we do. I can sit here and discuss global warming and its effect on sustainable agriculture all night. But as the Cheshire Cat told Alice. If you don't know where you are going, then “any road will do.” That vision thing again.

I don't think that this party

knows where we are going. As a result, we are spending a lot of time building roads to nowhere. We just went through an election cycle that produced fewer votes for every statewide office than we had in 2002, the most recent off-year election. Something must be wrong and it is not just the fact that the Bush / Cheney / Rove Republicans were so bad. It goes deeper than that.

Maybe it begins with the fact that we have abandoned our traditional Green Party values in an effort to position the party as the most progressive of progressives parties. There may be some areas of the state where it is possible to position the Greens to the left of the Democrats and have some success. Kristine Keefer managed to poll almost as well as the Republican Candidate in her race against Pelosi. But that still positions Pelosi in a very big middle of her district.

Yes, if I had the words of a Shakespeare, I would be calling for

a Green Revolution to begin in California. There are so many ways in which a Green California would be so much better than we have. Imagine what it would be like to drive down the San Joaquin Valley and not to have to deal with the daily air quality problems. Imagine what would happen to education funding if San Joaquin Valley schools did not lose 188,000 school days per year due to air quality caused illness. Imagine that we could lower health costs by improving air quality, because it causes 460 premature deaths of people over 30, 23,300 asthma attacks and 3200 cases of acute bronchitis in children every year.

There are so many, many things that this party could be doing were it not so bogged down with internal strife and political squabbles. Keep that image in your head. This “band of brothers” has a Revolution to start and we won't do that fighting each other.

IRV is a Green Movement To Be Reckoned With

By Orval Osborne,
San Luis Obispo

IRV is a movement! Who would have thought a numerical electoral process change could be so interesting, or so important? The Green Party needs Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) (also known as Ranked Choice Voting). Without it, we may be limited to votes of 1-5%. With IRV, Greens might get 25% of first-choice votes. Then we would really shift the debate!

The problem that IRV solves is this: whenever there are more than 2 candidates, voter intent can be betrayed by a plurality system. In other words, one candidate can win, but not represent the majority persuasion. IRV ensures the winning candidate represents the majority voter intent. The benefits of IRV include less negative campaigning and an end to “spoiling,” freeing voters to embrace 3rd Party candidates.

IRV and ranked choice voting initiatives won big on November 7th: 69% in Oakland, 56% in Davis, 53% in Pierce County (WA) and 65% in Minneapolis (MN). IRV averaged more than 62% in jurisdictions of more than a half million people. Since instant runoff voting's groundbreaking win in March 2002 in San Francisco, IRV has won all eight of its ballots in cities and counties. The wins in Davis and Minneapolis marked the first ballot measure wins for choice voting, the proportional voting version of IRV, in a half-century.

Please note: www.fairvote.org is the fantastically informative web

site of the Center for Voting and Democracy. You can learn all about IRV there. Flash animations show you how it works. There is the model bylaws motion to implement it in any organization. Links provide you with legal, educational and promotional resources on instant runoff voting. Steven Hill, who tells this story better than anybody else, has a new book out: “10 Steps to Repair Democracy – An Owner's Manual for Concerned Citizens.”

What can you do locally? At the SLO Greens monthly meeting, I made a presentation on IRV. The folks who attended all said they understood IRV much better and would be able to explain it to others.

For example, in the 2006 SLO City Mayor race, the winner of four candidates got 45%. In the 1992

SLO City Mayor race, a center-left candidate beat 2 center-right candidates. The point is that IRV is not for the left, or for the right; it is for majority voter intent. That is why the Motion Picture Academy uses IRV.

The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Greens are developing a campaign for the Mayoral race in the City of SLO to adopt IRV. We would work in a nonpartisan manner with all allies to achieve the goal.

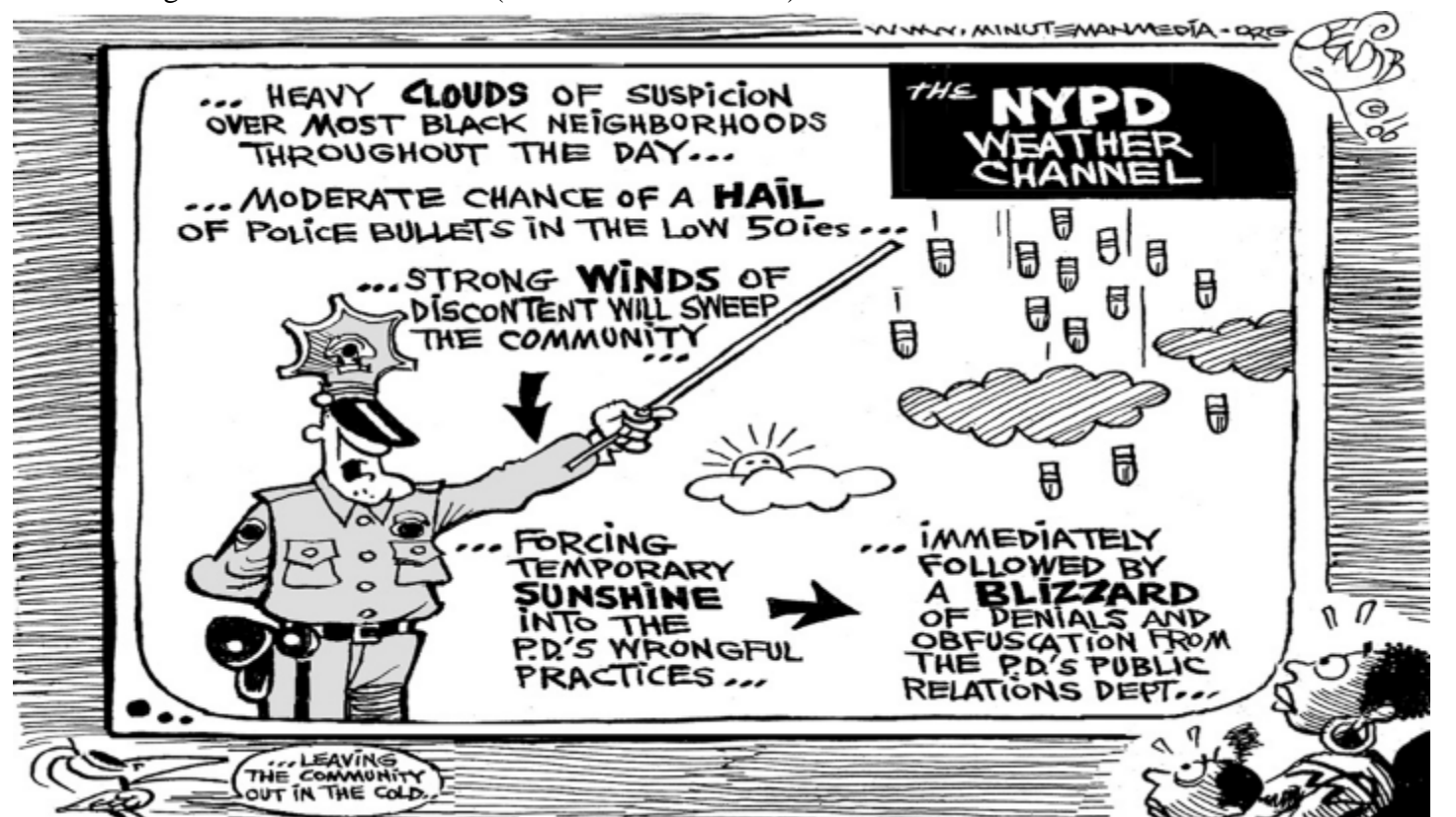
Step 1. Educate and recruit the support of registered Greens. (Jan 2007 to June 2007).

Step 2. Recruit allies among academia, especially Cal Poly professors of Political Science, then other departments. Also Cuesta College. (Jan 2007 to June 2007).

Step 3. Educate the politically active local groups such as League of Women Voters, Residents for Quality Neighborhoods, local Republican and Democratic clubs, Sierra Club, Rotary, Kiwanis, student groups and clubs, etc. The Tribune, the major County newspaper, is perhaps the most important entity to persuade. (July 2007 to March 2008 and continuing).

Step 4. Ask the SLO City Council to put an IRV for Mayor initiative on the ballot of November 2008. If they refuse, consider if we should circulate citizen petitions to get it on the ballot. (Spring 2008.)

Further strategies: Would the Cal Poly student body government be interested in electing by IRV?



Opinion Pages

Impeachment: Post Election Issue Number One

By Mike Wyman, Green Candidate for Attorney General State of CA - 2006

With the elections now over, the question of the impeachment of George Bush and Dick Cheney now moves to center stage.

Though Nancy Pelosi, the recently elected Speaker of the House is on record declaring that impeachment is "off the table," polls by Gallup and Newsweek showed that 51% of the American people think impeachment should be part of the national agenda.

John Conyers (D-MI), the newly elected chair of the House Judiciary Committee, has introduced legislation calling for impeachment hearings by a select Congressional Committee (HR-635). It has 38 Co-Sponsors, including eleven from California.

A parallel resolution for impeachment (Assembly Joint Resolution 39 - AJR39) has been introduced in the California Assembly by Assemblyperson John Koretz (D-Los Angeles). It is co-authored by Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), and has six additional co-sponsors.

Voters here in California passed ballot measures calling for impeachment -- Measure J in San Francisco and Measure H in Berkeley -- passed by margins of 3-2 and more than 2-1, respectively. (Both Cindy Sheehan and Daniel Ellsberg appeared in Berkeley to speak in favor of Prop H when it was first being considered for the ballot.)

City Councils in many cities in California, including Fairfax, Oakland and Sebastopol, have passed resolutions calling for impeachment.

Inspired by voter support for numerous impeachment resolutions on the

November 7 ballot, the impeachment movement has resolved to make impeachment the main issue for progressive America in 2007. Indeed, there seems to be a rush to see who will fill the vacuum of leadership on the issue left by leaders of the Democratic Party.

To date, however, no formidable coalition of groups has formed to provide solid, independent leadership nationwide to respond to the cry for impeachment.

"We have lots of grassroots activity, but no national coalition on impeachment," explained Krissy Keefer, the Green Party candidate who ran for Congress against Nancy Pelosi in the 8th district in San Francisco.

"The passage of Prop J shows that a huge majority want impeachment," Keefer noted. "We need to tie this together. We need a national organization, but with a Focus on Pelosi, with sit-ins in her office, and the like."

"We need to get over the glamour of her being the power person in Congress," Keefer concluded.

Across the bay, newly re-elected Green Party City Councilor Dona Spring (Berkeley- District Four) explained why Prop H passed so overwhelmingly in her city. "When you have an enlightened and educated group of voters, they will do the obvious thing that needs to be done to correct the disastrous direction that this country has headed in," she said. "The course that Bush is taking is a disaster for the country and the world." "It is such an evil precedent that a leader can lie and start a war on the basis of these lies, and attack a country that was not attacking us. There is no self-defense here. This sets a precedent that no country has to have legitimate reasons for



While Bill Clinton sold out American worker's to NAFTA and the WTO and bombed Europe and the Middle East - starving hundreds of thousands of Iraqi kids; George Bush has waged illegal wars, invaded citizen privacy, rolled back environmental protections and repeatedly trashed the principles of the US Constitution, all the while laughing in the face of his critics.

going to war. They can just make up reasons.

"Bush is now detested by people around the world," Spring added. "And the American people are disliked for having voted for him."

"This government is so bad, Bush has lied so much, he has violated our civil rights, gone against some of the most cherished principles that our country was founded on," she said. "He has to go to jail; he's a mass murderer extraordinaire."

To build the pro-impeachment movement, said Dona, "More communities need to do what Berkeley did," and pass similar proposals. "There has to be a grassroots swell to get rid of this guy, to prevent this from happening in the future."

Carol Brouillet, the Green Party candidate for Congress in the 14th District (Santa Clara County) agreed that there was a strong pro-impeachment desire in the country, but warned that

the elites of the country are already moving to quell it. "Moveon.org is now trying to set this issue aside. They want cosmetic changes," she explained.

"The recent resignation of Donald Rumsfeld and the less publicized resignation from the State Department of Philip Zelikow (the executive director of the 9/11 commission) is about getting rid of the bad apples so that the movement for change can be fooled into thinking that change is in the wind."

"Changing Congress creates the illusion of substantial change without the profound policy changes we need," Brouillet warned. "Only a groundswell from the public will get anything from this Congress," she emphasized.

Only the Greens Have Officially Called For Impeachment!

Nancy Pelosi Has Betrayed Her Constituents!

By Crescenzo Vellucci

SAN FRANCISCO (December 8, 2006) The failure of soon-to-be House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) to call for the impeachment of President George W. Bush and members of his administration should be considered a "betrayal" of her oath of office, said two former Green Party congressional candidates today.

Pelosi, who has stated that impeachment is off the table, should "call George Bush before the U.S. Congress to be fully investigated for high crimes and misdemeanors, including crimes against humanity from Baghdad to Biloxi," said Krissy Keefer, who opposed Pelosi in November as the Green Party candidate in the 8th CD.

Not only did Keefer receive 7.5 percent of the vote running an anti-war campaign with virtually no budget against an incumbent, San Francisco voters also approved Measure J, which asks their representatives to impeach Bush and vice president Dick Cheney.

And, on Sunday, December 10th, San Franciscans held a giant "impeachment rally" at UN Plaza.

"The war in Iraq, the botched response to Hurricane Katrina and the erosion of the Constitution cannot be

overlooked. We have the moral responsibility to impeach. Failing to impeach will increase the likelihood that we may get someone capable of such crimes again," Keefer said.

And, Carol Brouillet, the Green Party candidate for Congress in the nearby 14th CD (Palo Alto), said she believes Pelosi has a "duty and obligation to impeach the Bush Regime. Silence in the face of an avalanche of

evidence of criminality would be a betrayal of their oath of office, the people of this country, and our hopes for the future.

"The Bush Administration has flagrantly violated our Constitution, trashed the Bill of Rights, launched illegal, immoral wars, lied about matters of utmost importance to the American people. These people are, truly,

terrorists on an unprecedented scale. It is up to us, the people, to force our elected representatives to recognize and adhere to their duty and hold top officials accountable for their heinous crimes, that means impeachment," Brouillet added.

NancyPelosi's San Francisco Office can be reached at: 415-556-4862



Greens Choose Jail in Civil Disobedience at Hotel Strike

By **Linda Pierra Avila**,
LA Greens

In one of the largest civil disobedience actions ever recorded in Los Angeles history, thousands looked on in support as over three hundred individuals were arrested, including five Green Party members representing the Los Angeles Greens and the Arroyo Seco Greens. The protest, which took place on Sept. 28, 2006, was to bring attention to the untenable working conditions of workers at luxury hotels on Century Blvd., just east of the Los Angeles International Airport. The hotel workers are mostly immigrants and earn 20% less than hotel workers in Los Angeles County as a whole. Many of them live in the surrounding communities of Lennox, Hawthorne, and Inglewood, where one in four residents lives below the poverty line and 40% of children come from poor households.

Motivated by the need to address this social injustice, participants were recruited from various community organizations, college campuses and religious groups. After coordination and planning with Los Angeles Green Patrick Meighan, Marx Gutierrez from the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) made a presentation at a meeting of the Los Angeles Greens. Marx explained the upcoming plan and encouraged us to participate. Those who agreed attended non-violent civil disobedience training sessions prior to the event, one of which was led by the inspirational civil rights veteran Rev. Jim Lawson.

The rally and subsequent action, organized by UNITE/HERE and LAANE, kicked off at 5:00 PM with Tom Morello and Ben Harper lending

their musical support to inspire the crowd. Labor leader Maria Elena Durazo gave an impassioned speech describing working conditions and what is at stake for the hotel workers. (Mr. Morello and Ms. Durazo were later arrested along with the hundreds of other participants, including clergy members from Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, and elected leaders like Judy Chu, Paul Koretz and Richard Alarcon.) After a blessing from a clergy member, we were off, chanting our upbeat slogans and determinedly marching arm in arm. Around 6:00 PM two pre-assigned groups of protesters peacefully sat down in the middle of Century Blvd. In front of two of the hotels.

Wearing signs proclaiming "I am a human being" in both English and Spanish, Eric Einem and Tera Little (from the Arroyo Seco Greens) and I were assigned to the group that sat down in front of the LAX Hilton, while Patrick Meighan and Derek Iversen (from the Los Angeles Greens) were sent to the LAX Westin where they sat and did not move. As we all awaited our impending arrests, Green supporters in the crowd like Denise Munro Robb, Julie "Wave" Melen and Chris "Guido" Devcich, really bolstered our spirits and that of others facing arrest.

Clergy members ceremoniously blessed and broke bread and shared it with those of us about to be arrested. The police took their positions; a unit of mounted police strode past; then the sobering moment came and the arrests began. One by one, individuals were told they were in violation of Penal Code 409, failure to disperse, placed in "flex" plastic handcuffs, and escorted to



Linda Pierra Avila, left, of the LA Greens, Eric Einem and Terra Little of the Arroyo Seco Greens are seen here before the start of a protest that lead to their incarceration.

a makeshift booking station. There, we were photographed and "labeled" with our names on chest-sized stickers. We were then placed on buses and waited hours for the police to decide where they were going to take which arrestees.

Later came the personal searches and more long hours waiting in various stark cold holding cells. At 2:00 PM those of us taken to the Van Nuys station were each given a wool blanket and assigned to a bunk cell. Every fifteen minutes or so a guard came to call the next arrestee, emphatically slamming the barred steel doors in the process, jolting us from any slumber that may have been anticipated. With uncertainty about when we would be released, and only Fox News to watch on TV (can we claim this as cruel and unusual punishment?), many of us used the opportunity to share and bond in sisterhood. After about 18 hours in LAPD custody, the last of us to be released were very happy to see friendly faces,

sunlight and trees, to have agency over our own actions, soap to wash our hands and privacy when using the toilet! Miguel Aguilar and others from the union were there to greet us, as were my friends from the South Central Farm, some of whom were also arrested in solidarity with the workers.

A few weeks later the Los Angeles City Council passed an ordinance, subsequently signed by Mayor Villaraigosa, mandating the hotels along Century Blvd. to pay their workers a living wage of \$10.64 an hour! I believe our collective action gave the elected leaders the courage to do the right thing. The inconvenience of being arrested was worth it! Justice is served when the poor are lifted out of poverty and the wealthy are called to accountability. We are grateful to Patrick Meighan for creating the working relationship with LAANE to make this happen. We can all be proud that the Green Party has taken a stand for such human rights!

Greens Urge End to Holiday Fur Sales, Charge Cruelty to Animals

By **Crescenzo Vellucci**

SAN FRANCISCO (December 5, 2006) Banning the sale of all animal fur is a social justice issue that would save the lives of animals, reduce pollution and end exploitation of workers many of them children, according to Green Party activists here in Northern California who are asking holiday shoppers to shun the product during the holiday season.

The Green Party of California is the only state political party that has a platform plank specifically calling for an end to animal fur sales. And, fur traders are increasingly raising their fur in Third World Countries and hiring children to slaughter fur-bearing animals, including rabbits, dogs and cats, according to the Animal Advocacy Working Group of the San Francisco Green Party.

"We deplore the factory-farm conditions under which animals are raised and then killed, and we deplore the experience of these exploited children, who are told that the only way to make a living is by inflicting terrible pain and violence against other living beings," said Chin Chi of the Greens' animal advocacy group.

Animals, said Chi, are gassed, have their necks broken and electrocuted so their fur can be used on coats, lingerie and even fake eyelashes for actresses.

Fur coats are rare, but fur trim has found its way into many products purchased by unsuspecting consumers.

Although many major retailers have, after decades of battles with anti-fur activists, reduced or even stopped selling fur, many prominent retailers including Bloomingdale's, Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue continue to promote fur.

"Our hope is that other stores will stop their sale of furs and follow the lead of the fashion retailers of conscience and courage, including J. Crew, Nordstrom, Ralph Lauren, and Ann Taylor. The continued success of their businesses will show the world that human beings can ensure and improve their own material life without hurting other living beings," added Chi.

The San Francisco Green Party was the first organization to endorse a proposal to ban the sale of fur in San Francisco in 2001. About 2,000 postcards supporting this ban poured into the offices of San Francisco's supervisors about the time that former SF Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, who supported and promoted the ban, ran, and narrowly lost, for SF Mayor.



Animals such as this skinned rabbit, above, are gassed, poisoned or have their neck's broken in order to bear fur for commercial human use. The Animal Advocacy Working Group of the San Francisco Greens have taken strong action against such practices.

Parsing Congressman Richard Pombo's Defeat

*By Wes Rolley, Green Blogger
Morgan Hill, California*

No one expected that Richard Pombo would be the sole California Representative to lose their seat. He was a 7-term Congressman, a rancher in a district with a strong rural constituency, a Republican with a 6 point Republican advantage, the Chairman of the House Committee on Resources.

Yet, when it was over, he had been soundly trounced by Jerry Mc'Nerney, a liberal Democrat from the suburban edge of the district, a wind energy consultant who struggled to build a business, a political novice, a man about whom Bay Area Democrats said "he can't win." Pombo was confronted with a perfect storm of opposition: changing demographics, activist Greens, a growing Latino involvement, environmental groups with money to spend on media and a grassroots movement that Pombo never really understood. I will describe what happened from my personal viewpoint of a dedicated blogger (PomboWatch) and try to determine if it has meaning for the GPCA at this point in time.

My first hint of a growing Republican opposition to Pombo came in December, 2005 when picked up; the phone and Pete McCloskey introduced himself. His first objective was to find another Republican to run against Pombo. When his favored Republican declined to run, McCloskey did as he always had done, thrust himself into the fray, established a residence in Lodi and announced that he would run against Pombo.

Early in 2006, the Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife decided that Pombo, environmental enemy #1, was vulnerable. They made him a target and started to build an organizational plan to defeat him. They spent over \$1.5 Million on the cam-

paign, most of it on media buys and mailers.

My PomboWatch blog was not the first to take on Pombo. In 2003, Scott Restivo started a site called "VotePomboOut.com". Eventually, we had three other blogs devoted to the 11th CD. The most active was SayNoToPombo PomboWatch focused on what he actually did, or did not do. SayNoToPombo gave a day by day running commentary on the campaign, especially the Democratic Primary which was a battle between a netroots candidate and the DCCC.

SayNoToPombo became the news center for regarding meetings, anti-Pombo demonstrations, canvassing schedules, fund raising dinners, etc. They even managed to capture a Pombo volunteer event on a cell-phone camera, embarrassing when no one showed up.

Organizations like the Defenders of Wildlife could not coordinate with the Mc'Nerney campaign but everyone could feed information to the blogs and the blog owners could, and did, coordinate their activities, deciding who would take on which issues. We also found that it was very effective to help mainstream reporters develop a story and then to use the blogs to amplify it as soon as it came out. Had the blogs broken these stories first, the major papers would not have touched it, but this way, it worked well for all. Greens need to learn how to exploit this.

The last piece was the growing involvement of Hispanic voters. Even before the immigration rallies last spring, the Hispanics of the district were disillusioned with Pombo and his vote for HR 4437. When Pete McCloskey marched at the head of the March 2, they started to register voters as DTS so that they could vote for Pete in the Primary. That fact never changed. When McCloskey's Revolt of the Elders Committee fed \$50,000 to the Clean Water Action Project to register vot-



Environmental naysayer, obstructionist and Bushco stooge, Richard Pombo, above was soundly defeated in his bid for reelection by a liberal Democrat strong on environmental concerns.

ers in San Joaquin County, they ended up with over 10,000 new voters of which nearly 6,000 were Latinos. Most of them continued to register DTS. A significant portion Mc'Nerney's 10,000 vote margin, came from this effort.

Ultimately, Pombo lost for reasons that lay in his own character. Late in the The Washington Post labeled Pombo's campaign as one of the 10 worst run of any incumbent. Samuel Anderson, Manteca City Council Candidate, wrote in a Stockton Record blog that "he sort of got the idea that he was above the challenger and lost due to the 'Club Rub' mentality and good'ole boys clicks (sic) over here."

There are a number of things that Greens can learn from this. The environmental issues were a major part of this campaign. The Republican media machine is still trying to downplay that fact. When environmental issues become the cam-

paign's focus, Greens should not take the back seat to anyone.

There is no area of the State where environmental issues are more important than the San Joaquin Valley. It has some of the worst air pollution in the nation. It has significant problems with water usage and a Delta with failing levees. It also has a growing, Latino voter base that is deliberately staying away from the major parties. Recent work by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that Latinos feel more strongly about the environment than the average California voter. Greens need to take advantage of the convergence of these two trends and devote serious energy to organizing in the San Joaquin Valley. From Stockton to Fresno to Bakersfield, this valley is ready for a Green Revolution.

Los Angeles Greens Launch Petra Kelly Scholarships

*By Erin Schmidt & Lisa Taylor,
Los Angeles Greens*

The Los Angeles Greens launched the Green Party Petra Kelly Scholarship thanks to a generous donation from one of our members. Honoring the inspirational German Green Party cofounder Petra Kelly, international peace and environmental leader, and cultivating a new generation of young activists, the scholarship awards \$500 each to two students graduating from the Los Angeles Unified School District, to offset college expenses for the coming year. To highlight the fact that the Green Party strives for gender balance, the recipients are one male and one female.

The scholarship's inaugural winners were Rumeisha Bowyer and Carlos Hernandez. Bowyer graduated from the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies and is currently attending Cal Poly Pomona. An avid basketball player, she served as a coach and mentor to younger players, as well as breaking the gender barrier in her community's basketball league.

At King/Drew Magnet High School, Carlos Hernandez sought to allay the racial and cultural conflict in his community by serving as Director of Assemblies and peer mediator. He hopes to continue building dialogue among Los Angeles' many diverse groups while attending the University of Southern California.

Both Hernandez and Bowyer attended Los Angeles Greens' events over the summer, sharing their stories with local Greens while learning more about the Greens and what we stand for.

In addition to providing these outstanding students with extra funds to help with the costs of tuition, computers, and books, the Petra Kelly Scholarship allows the Los Angeles Greens to share with the young people of Los Angeles the Ten Key Values. "As a former Los Angeles City Council candidate, I hope the Petra Kelly Scholarship will inspire young people, especially women, to consider running for office some day," said Denise Munro Robb, the Los Angeles Greens'

treasurer.

The group plans to throw an annual party to continue funding the scholarship each year. The late Petra Kelly stated, "Greens are neither left nor right--we are in front" -- by helping the next generation of leaders attain their goals, the Los Angeles Greens are living up to her words.

More info at losangelesgreens.org

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Riverside County Couple Stand Firm Against Corporate Power

These two dedicated Jojoba farmers are in the fight for the long term against a giant refuse dump in the desert that is LA County's wet dream solution to the crass values of consumerism, over consumption, and the evil mentality of a use and dispose society run amok.

By Don Boring

Donna and Larry Charpied are about as Green as Green gets. Not only that - they are walking their talk. Moving from Santa Barbara to Eagle Mountain in 1982, the Charpieds' original intention was to grow Jojoba beans in the harsh environment and raise a cash crop while honoring the earth and living in the joy of a pristine desert wilderness. But soon, plans by corporate America and local, regional and federal agencies served to radicalize the couple and propel them on an unexpected life course as environmental activists.

These people have lead the battle, at their own personal great expense, spending money they don't really have and going into debt in a 29 year battle to save Johusa Tree National park and the desert communities from the ruin of a proposed dump that would receive upwards of 20,000 tons of trash from Los Angeles County everyday for the next 100 years. The devastation that the dump would bring to this relatively pristine place is foremost on Donna and Larry's minds.

According to Donna, one of the biggest threats to the environment would be toxic leachate (or garbage juice) created from decomposing trash, dump operations using massive quantities of water, and rain water escaping containment and polluting the precious under ground aquifer. The dump would pump 5,000 tons of air pollution in the region that currently boasts of clear blue skies. Over 100,000 tons of air pollutants would have been generated today if the dump's opposition hadn't stepped in. The increase in the predatory bird population which would increase the likely hood that the prehistoric Desert Tortoise would become extinct. "These are among reasons to preserve and protect the natural environment of one of the crown jewels in the National Park System that Larry and I have spent the last 20 years fighting this damned dump," says Donna.

Donna and Larry are troopers. They have stood firm against the County of Los Angeles, Riverside County, the IRS, the Bureau of Land Management, PR hacks who have spread lies and dis-information about them in their own community and even Federal Drug Agents who have investigated their Jojoba farm when rumors were circulated that they might be growing marijuana to support their legal fight against the gambits of the corporate/governmental alliance that is hell bound and determined to solve LA County's trash problem with a dump at Eagle Mountain.

Chuck Reutter, an activist organizer and former candidate for the State Assembly in Riverside County suggests that Donna and Larry deserve the full support of the Green and Environmental community not only in California, but from across the country as well. "These two folks have done what few if any people do in America today," says Reutter. "They have stood up single handedly against the Feds, Corporate America, their pack of PR and Legal hounds, educated themselves as lay persons on how to file suits in court and

have continued a legal battle against these fascist forces for at the last 29 years. They (Donna and Larry) deserve our full financial support," Reutter said.

These two determined Green warriors are in this thing for the long haul. While the Charpieds are still in debt over \$20,000 and living a subsistence lifestyle in the desert, the media has taken notice of their plight to a certain extent. In a recent (December 9, 2006) AP article by Noaki Schwartz which was picked up by the Washington Post and many other local newspapers across the country, Donna shared that, "If that dump comes to fruition, civil disobedience will kick in... and people will be laying on railroad tracks."

Donna is the Executive Director of the local group Citizens for the Chuckwalla Valley (CCV) that she and Larry co-founded. CCV is now part of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ), a Riverside based non-profit organization, and Donna has recently become is the Director for CCA EJ's Desert Protection Campaign. Tax deductible donations could and should be sent to this CCA EJ.

Donna & Larry Charpied moved to the Eagle Mountain/Desert Center community in 1982 to research and develop jojoba. A renewable resource indigenous to the area, jojoba produces an oil that is nearly identical to Sperm Whale oil. This is one case where the Endangered Species Act helped to create an industry. Importation and slaughter of the Sperm Whale was banned, the Sperm Whale was placed on the endangered species list, and jojoba is a direct replacement. In the early 1980's, at the behest of Congressman Al McCandless (Rep from Palm Springs, CA) Congress included jojoba on the nation's List of Strategic Agricultural Materials. Congress has establish this list to encourage the research and development of critical materials that the United States currently depends upon from foreign sources. Jojoba could be used as bio-diesel for the oil recovery from the seed is superior to any other oil crop. The Charpied's CCOF certified organic farm has been recognized world-wide in the industry.



Larry and Donna Charpied seen at right are the two unlikely yet determined heroes of this story who are now in need of financial support from others. If you can help in a small or large way, please send donations for their legal defense fund to: **Desert Communities Protection Campaign** at the address listed below.

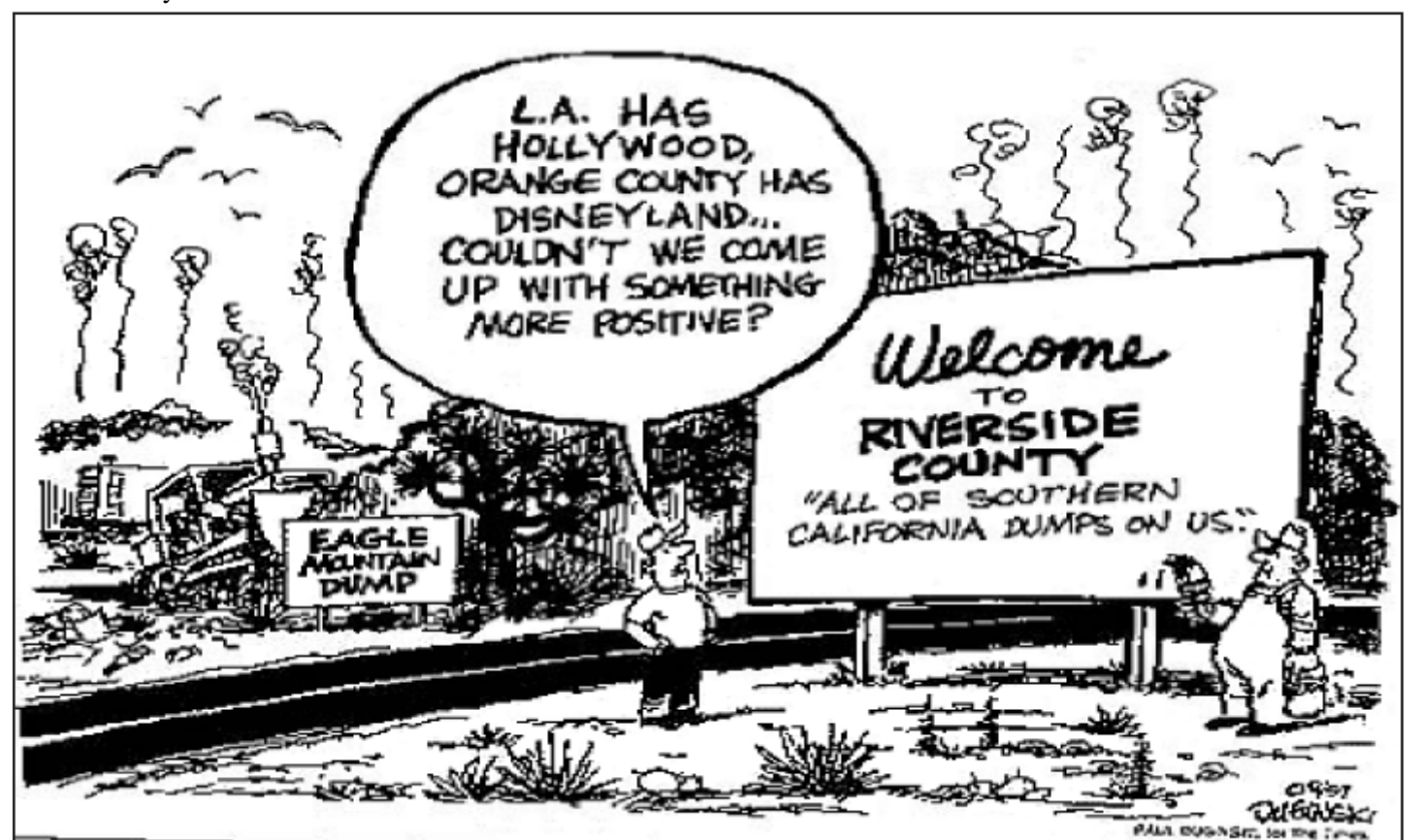
For two decades, the Charpieds have devoted untold time, personal finances and energy to the preservation of the California desert. They have fostered partnerships and created a stronger public awareness of the issues. Larry and Donna have raised funds with events such as Rockin' for Joshua Tree Concert which featured the legendary Eric Burdon; Donna ran for County Supervisor in 1998 to bring light to the Eagle Mountain issue; they are challenging the Metropolitan Water District plan for an Upper Chuckwalla Valley "Water Storage" Project that would pump the Pinto Basin's underground water supply into the Colorado River Aqueduct, are members of the Coalition to Save Shavers Valley, and much more.

Donna and Larry Charpied have been named the recipients of the 2005 Minerva Hoyt California Desert Conservation Award. This prestigious award is presented in recognition of the leadership and perseverance of this talented couple in leading the campaign to stop the Eagle Mountain dump, a proposed massive garbage dump that is proposed to be built in the arms of Joshua Tree National Park. The presentation ceremony was held at the home

of PBS host of California Gold, Huell Howser in Twentynine Palms.

These two crusaders for environmental justice deserve the support of the Green rank and file. If you can contribute even \$20 to their campaign it would be greatly appreciated. Larger sums of money however; to offset their outstanding debt of over \$20,000 in legal fees would be an ideal way for a Green Angel to **STEP UP** and create joy and value, while spearheading a new round of legal appeals to slay the corporate giant once and for all.

Please send relief to: Donna Charpied, Director **CCA EJ - Desert Communities Protection Campaign**, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, PO Box 397, Desert Center CA 92239. **Please write "Eagle Mountain Dump Lawsuit" or similar language in the memo portion of the check.** You can talk with Donna or Larry at: (760) 574-1887 and see them on the web for more information at: www.ccaej.org If you can assist financially in a meaningful way to this effort, please feel free to call and speak with Donna or Larry personally about what needs to be done most at this moment in time. All serious efforts to help are appreciated.



Announcements

News: Campaigns and Candidates Working

Editors Note: We are offering the announcement section of our paper in this and future issues in order to make known upcoming events, programs and deadlines of importance for the GPCA. Send your txt files in emails to the Editor at following: don.boring@ispwest.com Less than 350 words. We cannot guarantee that your announcement will be printed but will make every effort to do so.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the 2006 Green Party elections campaigns!

It is already time to begin working on the 2008 elections. Please read and distribute the following announcements:

March 2007 Deadline For Partisan Office Party Affiliation

The California Elections Code bars persons registered with one political party within one year of the primary election filing date from appearing as a

listed candidate in another political party's primary for partisan state office. The candidate filing date is 90 days before the primary election. That means if you have identified someone who is currently registered in another political party and who is inclined to join the Green Party, you should encourage them to do so before March 1, 2007 (or at least re-register Decline to State if they are still undecided).

Candidate Training Program Videos Available

DVDs of the Candidate Basics training program held in Petaluma March 19, 2006 are available for distribution to County GPE28099s to use to recruit candidates and as a program resource. The program was designed for prospective GPCA candidates and campaign helpers who have no or little previous campaign experience. Topics include: Deciding to be a candidate; Initial filing requirements; Media basics; and Campaign finance issues. Program sessions

are about an hour and can be shown in order or separately. For more information, contact Warner Bloomberg CCWG Coordinator at (408) 295-9353 or wsb3attyca@aol.com

Host Sought For Spring 2007 Candidate Training Program

The CCWG currently is seeking a host for a one-day candidate training program in March or April 2007. Local Green Party members will need to identify a weekend date and location for the program and provide volunteers for helping with the program. The CCWG will provide speakers and materials. The program will build on the March 2007 Candidates Basics program by focusing in greater detail on selected topics. For more information, contact Warner Bloomberg CCWG Coordinator at the following number: (408) 295-9353 or wsb3attyca@aol.com

CCWG County Contacts Needed

The CCWG currently is seeking Green Party members to serve as county contacts. CCWG County Contacts have the responsibility to inform their local County Councils, locals, caucuses and general membership about CCWG programs and issues and to report back to the CCWG via the email list, monthly teleconference and at plenary meetings. More than one person can serve as the CCWG contacts for their County GP. To volunteer for these positions, contact Warner Bloomberg CCWG Coordinator at (408) 295-9353 or wsb3attyca@aol.com

CCWG Challenges YOU to become a GREEN candidate for local, state or national office... START TODAY for '08

Movie Review: The Good Shepherd - Soon To Be Available on DVD

The Good Shepherd (2006)
Directed by Robert De Niro
Starring Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, Alec Baldwin, Tammy Blanchard, Billy Crudup Robert De Niro, Keir Dullea, William Hurt, Timothy Hutton, Joe Pesci and others.

Writing credits (WGA)
Eric Roth (written by)

Alleged plot: A historical (fiction?) look at the birth of the CIA in 1939, through the Bay of Pigs incident in 1961. With fictional characterizations of members of the Skull and Bones Society of Yale University.

Review By Don Boring

This movie is largely DISINFORMATION. It suggests that the CIA and by implication the BUSH family was NOT TIGHT with the NAZI's prior to and during WWII which by many historical standards is a lie.

In addition, the IMPLICATION of this movie is that the CIA was NOT complicit in letting NAZI's into the US after the war when again, as a matter of historical record - many low level NAZI's were brought into the US after the war. How do I know? For one... again... The historical record bears this out the CIA ran several front groups through the administration of Richard Nixon (actually some still exist today) that encouraged and 'arranged' for even war criminals to enter the US after the war, during the 50's and yes... even til 9/11, 2001.

How do you think the German airplane pilot trainers from the Florida Flight schools and Mohammad Atta got into the country to pull off 'the act so nefarious we can not ask any meaningful questions about it.'

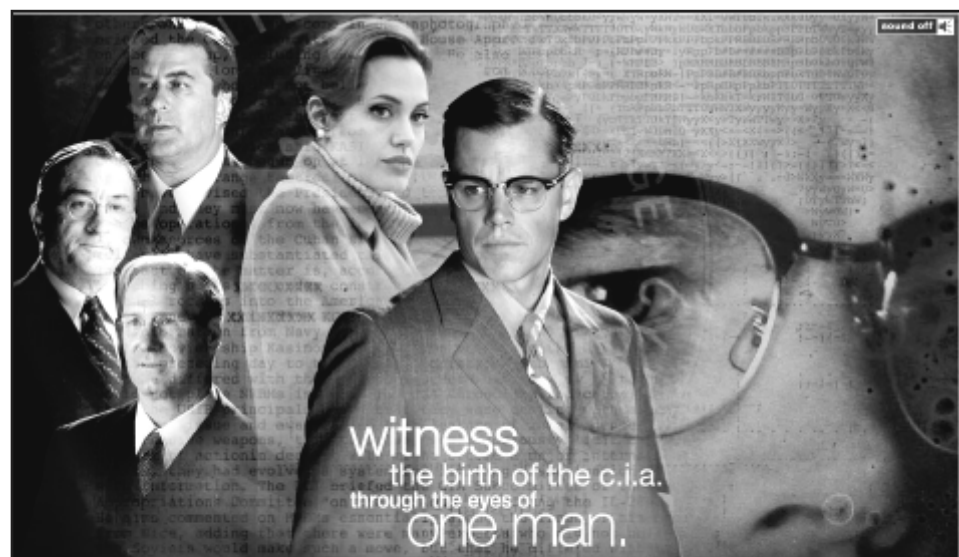
These German Culture associations are still extant today and like I said...

can YOU say 911? Thanks to Dave Emory from 'For The Record' for the background material on how the flight school operators got into the US. See Dave Emory's blog on the Internet at: <http://ftrsummary.blogspot.com/>

Further, I pity the minds of the poor young saps that watch this movie and think that the Bay of Pigs invasion was caused by a COWARD and TRAITOR or LOOSE LIPS in the CIA. Again,... my understanding of history and if you check, your research will bear this out too - The Bay of Pigs went bad because Kennedy wouldn't order AIR SUPPORT for the invasion force because he felt it would leave too much of a US finger print on the event.

All the DRAMA and the double dealing, complicity to murder, political assassinations and all that is pretty much well characterized but as I left the theater I kept asking myself what the REAL MESSAGES were in this movie. It GLOSSED OVER the role of the CIA in overthrowing popularly elected left-wing governments (of which there were so many instances we would be hard pressed to list them here)while centering the whole thing as a power trip parade around the issues of what it would be like to be a major player at CIA in its days of inception. As a thrill ride and adrenalin rush for the geezer crowd or a cerebral look at how cool it would be to be a 'real' James Bond for the young set IT MIGHT BE ENJOYABLE. Anyone, however, with a social conscience from the boomer generation will probably leave the theater feeling that they were 'slimed.'

I actually laughed out loud at one point during the movie. Matt Damon's character has turned an alleged Russian Spy and low and behold they bring in the 'real' person whose identity this fellow had assumed and they beat him senseless and then with Matt Damon's permission they dose him with LSD. At which point the guy starts entering a rapture state either reaching out to his



The Good Shepherd: Starring Matt Damon and Angelina Jolie, playing in theaters near you and available soon on DVD.

physical blood father or an imagined image of the god of his understanding and all the while is experiencing bliss. Then in a moment of reflection and then soberness he looks at the intelligence officer and tells him the plain truth.

"The USSR is nothing but fresh paint on a rusty infrastructure and will rot from the inside."

And in an homage to the MK-Ultra program (in reality run by the CIA in the 50s - dosing unsuspected citizens with LSD) the guy jumps out the window 6 floors to his death.

Frankly folks... After the first 12 minutes I think I pegged the movie correctly! Smoke - Bullshit and Mirrors. Total Disinformation! And *unfortunately* - ripe material with which to do a cerebral blow job on the rube minds of America.

And while I am not accusing him of being an agent of the CIA nor complicit in writing a script to dis-inform the rubes of America on the true history and roots of the CIA, I don't think Robert De Niro could have done a better job of doing just that - even if he was on their payroll.

Angelina Jolie by the way was panned generally in the media as unbelievable in her role as the wife who

lived a lonely existence in fear, dread and resentment for 25 years as her husband went for to save the world for democracy, but I thought she was very credible. I had never seen her in any movie before, but I thought she did a great job. Great acting all the way around and even though the movie was too long, I was so rapped up in it I didn't bail midway through for a pee break. Which is unusual considering how much of that ill elixer Diet Coke I drink.

For intrigue and a look at duplicity run rampant, as a general hose job on Skull and Bones Society at Yale and for the acting I give the movie 5 stars.

Personally, I would nominate the poor sap who was dosed with the LSD for some sort of Academy accolade myself. Check it yourself, it was a defining moment for the movie in so many ways.

As for historical accuracy I give in 1 Star. For a rewrite of history I take my hat off to the insidious bastards that wrote the script.

Your mileage may vary. If this review has intrigued you... Go see it. As I said It does a great hose job on the Skull and Bones Society. As the movie bombed. in theaters... It will be on DVD soon!

The Ten Key Values of the Green Party in English and Spanish

Grassroots Democracy -

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

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

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

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

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

Community-Based Economics

- Redesign work to encourage employee ownership and workplace democracy, and establish basic security for all and a fair distribution of wealth and income.

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

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

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

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



Sabiduría Ecológica -

Debemos actuar en la sociedad humana con el entendimiento de que somos parte de la naturaleza, y aprender a vivir dentro de los límites económicos y de los recursos del planeta.

Democracia de Bases - Elaboración de sistemas participatorios que nos alienten a controlar las decisiones que nos afectan la vida.

Justicia Social - Creación de un sistema que promueva la igualdad y la dignidad de todas las personas.

No Violencia - Encontrar alternativas para erradicar los patrones actuales de violencia a todo nivel, y al mismo tiempo eliminar la injusticia y sentido de impotencia que conducen a la misma.

Descentralización - Transferir el poder y la responsabilidad de instituciones grandes y lejanas a los individuos y comunidades, siendo la meta eventual una sociedad democrática y descentralizada.

Economía Basada en la Comunidad - Rediseño de las estructuras de trabajo para fomentar la propiedad para los empleados y la democracia en el trabajo, al mismo tiempo que se establece una seguridad básica para todos y una distribución justa de la riqueza y los ingresos.

Feminismo - Sustituir la ética de dominación y control por la de relaciones de cooperación.

Respeto por la Diversidad -Respeto a la diversidad cultural, étnica, racial, sexual, religiosa y espiritual, volviendo a los ideales compartidos de nuestro país: la dignidad de cada persona, la participación democrática, y libertad y justicia para todos.

Responsabilidad Personal y Global - Debemos aprender de los grupos de base del resto del mundo y ser de verdadera ayuda para ellos.

Sostenibilidad - Pensar en términos del futuro colectivo del planeta entero, no en los estrechos intereses de corto plazo de un país o grupo de personas.

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

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