



Green Focus

The Newspaper of the Green Party of California - Winter/Spring 2008

6 candidates fight for Green Party California presidential nomination

■ Diverse field of 2 women and 4 men are lined up for showdown in primary on February 5th

By Cres Vellucci

When California Green Party voters – as many as 138,000 of them – go to the polls Feb. 5 to choose their 2008 Presidential nominee, they will find something that voters in the Democratic and Republican parties are lacking – a real choice.

Because, not only does the Green Party provide a very real alternative for all voters to the generally corporate-controlled candidates of the Dems and GOP, it also offers a variety of candidates for Green Party voters to consider.

In fact, this Presidential Primary for Greens portends to be the most diverse, if not competitive ever, according to veteran Green Party members.

Those on the ballot in California include, in alphabetical order, Jared Ball, Jesse Johnson Jr., Cynthia McKinney, Kent Mesplay, Ralph Nader and Kat Swift.

Complete bios, statements and photos are on Pages 8-11 inside.

While all candidates, declared or not, are opposed to the war in Iraq and want U.S. troops home now, support universal single payer healthcare and fair and clean elections, and want to fight global warming immediately, there are differences in their styles and their backgrounds, including:

* There are two women (McKinney and Swift), one Black (McKinney), and four men, including one Black (Ball) and another with Native American heritage (Johnson). One candidate has never registered with a political party (Nader), and another is a former elected Democratic Congressperson, who just recently re-registered Green (McKinney).

* Candidates include hip-hop scholar, professor and radio host Ball, actor/producer/union organizer Johnson, politician McKinney, environmental engineer Mesplay, consumer advocate legend and former Green presidential candidate Nader, the oldest candidate at 73, and the youngest candidate (not 35 until later in 2008), Swift, a Texas organizer.

The Green Party will hold primaries in four states on February 5, including California. The Green Party has vowed to achieve 51 ballot lines in 2008 in all the states and the District of Columbia, and has committed party resources for this purpose. Greens currently have ballot access in 21 states (including DC) <http://www.gp.org/statelist.shtml>.

"This promises to be the most competitive presidential primary on record for the Green Party of California. And it comes at a time in our state and nation's history when vot-



Like the End of a Bad Dream: While Greens and others hold their breath, waiting for the end of George Bush's presidency, we all hope for a better choice 'next time.' The CA Green Party humbly suggests 6 fine people as potential successors to Dubya. See page 8.

and an opportunity to elect a President who will make a real difference in truly ending the war in Iraq now, protecting our planet now and providing universal, single-payer health care for all now," the GPCA said.

The nomination will be decided by about 800 delegates from state parties who will gather at the Green Party national convention in Chicago, Illinois, July 10-13.

Come Hear The Candidates Debate!

Sunday, January 13, 2008 2 PM
Herbst Theater - Veteran Memorial Bldg
401 Van Ness (opposite City Hall)
San Francisco

Hosted by Cindy Sheehan and Matt Gonzalez
\$15 - \$25 donation at the door

In This Issue

- IRV Form for Presidential Primary.....11*
- Presidential Primary Candidates.....1*
- LA Greens Call for Impeachment.....2*
- GPCA Endorses Amnesty for Resisters...3*
- Green 'Family Guy' In Writer's Strike.....4*
- Greens Featured at Latino Congreso.....4*
- Green Female Youth Speaks to NAACP...5*
- CA Greens United For Peace.....6*
- LA Green Guy Goes Organic.....7*
- 3 Strikes Reform Initiative Filed11*
- Brezenoff Campaign Success.....14*
- Thinking Points: Book Reviews.....15*
- Ten Key Values & Subscription Info.....16*

Green Party of California
P.O Box 2828
Sacramento, CA
95812

Place
Stamp
Here

Greens Call on Democrats: "Come Clean on CIA Torture"

By Green Focus Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO – The Green Party of California called on California Democratic Party state and federal lawmakers to urge House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) to respond about what she knew, and what she did – if anything – in 2002 when she was given a "virtual tour" of the CIA's torture program.

According to reports this past weekend, the CIA said there were no objections raised by members of Congress, including at least two democrats, who were briefed and given a virtual tour of the CIA's torture program, including the use of the illegal and controversial water-boarding technique.

"We are asking the Democratic state leadership, including elected state and federal lawmakers, to urge Rep. Pelosi to tell all of us what happened

of secrecy," said Cres Vellucci, a Vietnam veteran and member of the GPCA Veterans Caucus.

While the Democratic Party leadership, including Pelosi, have maintained they are opposed to the Iraq war, and torture, and blame the Republican Party and the Bush Administration, the Green Party has insisted both of the major parties are complicit in the continuing killing in Iraq.

"That Democratic Party lawmakers are being briefed about torture, and then tacitly agreeing with it is one more example that voters in California are being misled when they are being told the Democratic Party is the answer to ending this war.

"The complicity of Democrats in CIA torture is not necessarily a surprise to us. The Green Party of California has been opposed to the war before it even started, and our candidates for local, state and federal office have insisted they are the true anti-war alternative choice for voters, not the Democratic Party," added Vellucci.



In the Streets: Peter Thottam, (seen above,) speaks to a large crowd in Hollywood California, calling for an end to the war in Iraq and the impeachment of Bush/Cheney who falsified the alleged 'evidence' in justification of the current tragedy. See article below.

Green Focus

Editors:

Don Boring
Larry Cafiero

Editorial Staff and Board:

Linda Piera-Avilla
Serge Balkanin
Michael Borenstein
Ellen Maissen
Orval Osborne
Sharon Peterson
Wes Rolley
Lisa Taylor
Cres Vellucci

Design and Layout:

Don Boring

Website:

Pending

Subscriptions:

See Coupon, page 12

Distribution:

Hugh Moore

Contact:

Green Party of California
P.O. Box 2828
Sacramento, CA 95812

www.cagreens.org/greenfocus
greenfocus@cagreens.org

Send Submissions and all queries or Letters to the Editor to: greenfocus@cagreens.org or by sending regular mail to :

Green Focus
Editorial Board
P.O. Box 2828
Sacramento, CA
95812

No payment for articles. We look for maximum of 800 words on letters or articles. We reserve right to edit all articles for length and content or minor contextals.

LA Greens Lead Call For Impeachment of Bush/Cheney

By Cres Vellucci and Don Boring

Green Party 2006 Assembly candidate Peter Thottam, now executive director of the Los Angeles National Impeachment Center, praised the decision by the West Hollywood City Council to support the impeachment of President George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

In adopting the resolution proposed by the impeachment center that Thottam now directs, West Hollywood became the first Southern California city and 80th municipality nationwide to support impeachment, according to Thottam, who with other South State

helped open the Impeachment Center earlier this month.

The Green Party of the U.S. called for the impeachment of Bush and Cheney in 2003, and the state party officially followed in 2006. The GPCA cited the deception used by the Bush Administration to start the Iraq war,

the use of illegal chemical and biological weapons by the U.S., the targeting of civilians with military weapons, the torture of prisoners and violation of international treaties prohibiting those actions.

"Among a minimum of twelve high crimes and misdemeanors, Bush and Cheney have abused their powers of

to be false as a justification for the U.S. invasion of Iraq; condoning and authorizing the torture of prisoners of war and rendering detainees to torture; and authorizing warrantless wiretaps on U.S. citizens for over five years," said Thottam.

Thottam, a Los Angeles attorney, helped co-found the Los Angeles National Impeachment Center, which was sponsored in large part by Westside Greens and Los Angeles Greens, and progressive Democrats. The goal of the center is to influence cities and counties to approve impeachment resolutions, and pressure state and federal representatives to do the same.



Progressives Move Impeachment Forward – Again!

By *David Cobb*

Despite the best efforts of Democratic Party leaders in Congress, the citizen's movement demanding that the Bush regime be held accountable for their high crimes and misdemeanors against the people of the United States continues to grow.

Notwithstanding the conspicuous refusal of the corporate media to cover the growing movement for Impeachment, Congressman Dennis Kucinich introduced impeachment resolution HR 333 on to the House Floor. This resolution calls for the Impeachment of Dick Cheney. (It is worth observing that every single one on of the charges against

Dick Cheney can also be made against George Bush.)

The first Article of Impeachment accuses Cheney of "purposely manipulating the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and the Congress of the United States by fabricating a threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to justify the use of the United States armed forces against the nation of Iraq in a manner damaging to our national security."

To date, over 3,300 United States military personnel have been killed as a result of these lies, and over 650,000 Iraqi citizens have died. Of course, this does not count the millions horribly maimed and wounded. The war has already cost well over \$500 billion, greatly increasing our federal debt and made us much less secure as a country.

The second Article of Impeachment accuses Cheney of "actively and systematically deceiving the citizens and the Congress of the United States about an alleged threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction."

Prior to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, the CIA fully informed Dick Cheney that no legitimate evidence existed regarding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. In addition, Cheney intentionally lied about an alleged relationship between Iraq and al-Qaida that he knew did not exist. Cheney pressured the intelligence community to change their findings to deceive the people, Congress and the media.

The third Article of Impeachment accuses Cheney of "openly threatening aggression against the Republic of Iran, absent any real threat to the United States, and has done so with the United States' proven capability to carry out such threats, thus undermining the national security interests of the United States."

As a result of this courageous act (and the failure of Democratic Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi's attempt to kill it), the resolution will now go to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

The lies of George Bush and Dick Cheney about Iraqi ties to al-Qaida are on videotape and in writing. Indeed, they continue to insinuate the lie. Their claims about Iraqi weapons have been shown in every detail to have been, not mistakes, but lies. Their threats to Iran are on videotape.

And these are not the only videotaped Bush lies. Bush lied when he claimed he had not been warned about seriousness of Hurricane Katrina on videotape. Bush lied about illegal spying (and later confessed to it) on videotape.

The Supreme Court has ruled Bush and Cheney's system of detentions are unconstitutional, yet they continue to ignore these rulings. Bush, Cheney and their staffs openly advocate torture, and U.S. torture is documented by victims, witnesses and public photographs.

Bush and Cheney both defend themselves with claims of "executive privilege." Nixon tried that defense, too. It didn't work for him then, and it shouldn't work for the Bush regime now.

It is astounding that the Democrats in control of Congress do not understand that removing the threat of impeachment is what empowers the White House to ignore subpoenas. And that the threat of impeaching the White House for its stonewalling would break down that wall even before we reached impeachment.

Author: David Cobb was the Green Party candidate for President in 2004, and is a regular columnist with the Eureka Times-Standard.

California State Green Party Calls For Amnesty For All War Resisters.

Military personnel who have refused to fight in an "unjust" war in Iraq should be given an immediate grant of amnesty – because it would be right, and in keeping with spirit of the season, said the Green Party of California in a recent press release.

In a resolution approved by the GPCA's General Assembly, the Greens noted that the war was "created from lies and deception. Our (troops) should not be punished for refusing to fight an unjust war and speaking the truth about the injustice inflicted on our soldiers, the citizens of the United States, and the citizens of Iraq."

The resolution goes on to state:

"Men and women across the United States are refusing to fight in this war...on strong moral grounds. They are making difficult decisions, risking their life, career and harm to their families. They should not bear the shame of a dishonorable discharge, prison and humiliation. We do not want our (troops) to be victims for the rest of their lives. This would be a great shame on the United States.

"Let us restore honor to our brave military men and women who stood up and refused to fight a war they determined to be morally corrupt and criminal... those who have refused to fight as well as those who have fought or are currently fighting, are deserving of compassion and support. Amnesty will allow our country some healing. Our leaders need to provide moral strength and courage and grant amnesty to (troops) who have refused to fight in the Iraq War.

"We call on the United States government to grant amnesty to military personnel who have refused to fight in the Iraq War, and to reinstate them to active duty status or discharge them with full veterans' benefits. We call on Congress to address this important issue."

Greens Denounce CA Democrats for Sacrificing Environment

By *Green Focus Staff Writer*

SACRAMENTO – The environment and the air that an increasing number of asthmatic children in California are being forced to breathe were the biggest losers when the state Senate approved the \$103 billion state budget, according to a Green Party of California statement issued.

"Democrats in the Senate again sacrificed the environment, and our children's health, to appease Republican lawmakers and the same big monied interests that fill the campaign coffers of politicians in both parties," said Shane Que Hee, GPCA Platform Co-Coordinator. "It is up to Gov. Schwarzenegger to allot the financial pain equitably in his line veto now that he does not have to be re-elected. We all live on the same planet, rich and poor."

To get the two votes necessary to approve the budget after a 52-day delay, Democrats claimed they had to agree to exempt public infrastructure construction from greenhouse gas emissions lawsuit, remove requirements that state buildings achieve "green" environmental status and provide up to \$250 million to already fat railroad corporations to meet air quality demands.

"The Democratic Party leaders claim they oppose the war in Iraq, but vote to fund it. Now they – like the governor – claim they are pro-environment but vote to continue to endanger the environment. Democrats have abandoned the environment when, in fact, they have the ability to overcome the Republican stranglehold on the budget. But Democratic Party politicians do not have the will to save our planet, and our children's future," Michael Feinstein, former mayor of Santa Monica.

The Green Party of California has consistently maintained that the U.S. – which emits about one-half of the world's car-caused greenhouse carbon dioxide emissions, and California about 10 percent of that – should, among other measures, end the Air Pollution Credit ("offset") System, which allows large corporations to distribute air pollution over many emission sites; Promote the use of alternative sources of energy relative to fossil fuel, but yet little was

Green Party Networks With National Latino Congreso

By Alfonso Garcia,
Jan Holle and Will Yeager

A group of Greens from the Los Angeles County Council staffed a table at the 2nd Annual National Latino Congreso from October 5 - 9, 2007, at the downtown Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel, sponsored by MAPA, the Mexican American Political Association, a Co-Convening Organization of the Congreso, whose president, Nativo Lopez is a member of the Green Party of Los Angeles County Council. The Congreso was convened by 8 major progressive Latino Organizations, including: MALDEF, LULAC, the Hispanic Federation and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. Though the Congreso participants were overwhelmingly progressive Democrats, their values coincided with Green Party values. The Congreso agenda was better than most Green Party Conferences, for example; the Sunday, October 7th agenda was: "Saving The Globe for Our Children and Grandchildren: Strategies on Climate Change, Energy Alternatives, Urban Greening, and Public Health." The evening ended with a Climate Change Dinner in the ballroom that had clips from Leonardo DiCaprio's movie "The 11th Hour" playing while "A" list Latino Democratic politicians spoke from the dais. The website for the National Latino Congreso 2007, with all its informative Workshops, Plenary Sessions and adopted Resolutions is located at the site: www.latinocongreso.org. Be sure to put the Congreso on your calendar for 2008!

Attendee's at the Congreso included those from all parts of the US, Africa, Europe, South America and the Caribbean Islands, with whom we all

had a chance to talk and exchange ideas. Some participants came as individuals while others represented groups. One notable group was building low income housing without accepting federal money. But the surprise was that this small core group of people have been building homes for over 20 years without public notice of their heroic efforts. This small group travels around the nation constructing homes, a wonderful act of kindness, mostly at their own expense.

On Saturday morning, the Minutemen, a mostly white anti-immigrant group, were in front of the Sheraton Hotel in a protest holding up signs stating that the Congreso's purpose was to promote illegal immigration; needless to say, they were holding up the American flag as a symbol of their misplaced patriotism. The Minutemen are gabachos blaming the Mexicans for their economic insecurity. Gabachos need to blame someone, first they blamed the American Indians, Blacks, Mexicans, Jews, Irish, Italians, Iraqis, and other Europeans, but now it's the Mexicans turn again. The Minutemen were not well received by members of the Congreso, but were met with non-violence, yet firm dismissal of their racist intents by the majority of latinos present.

It was wonderful to meet people running for public offices from governor to city council in other states. Most of these people had very little money, but felt that their part of the nation needed a new kind of leadership. Most of the people at the Conference knew very little or nothing of the Green Party. We did our best as Greens to change that. Once informed of the Green Party, they indicated that both the current parties have nothing to offer them. The Democrats and Republicans talk the talk but do nothing after they are elect-



Antonio Gonzalez, (right front) the President of Southwest Voter Project, was a featured speaker at the Congreso, seen here with Green Party activists who attended the weekend event.

ed. Another observation was the fact that the Congreso was not dominated by males, as many female were active planners, speakers and participants. The people attending the Congreso did not give us the impression they were there to become rich and famous. They were people who apparently, only wanted their lives to account for something. To make a difference. And in our private discussions during the conference, we Greens felt that each day they work towards the goal of improving the sustainable humane condition of their communities is a day that we stand in solidarity together. To the extent that we can continue to offer opportunities to lead with vision, and allow these progressive latin people to lead in their own way, we feel that we can add vitality to the party and help create a better world for all of us – unto the 7th generation and beyond.

The large tabling area had a wide variety of themes, from Cuba to Ku-

cinich, attracting hordes. Our Green Party table drew visitors by a collection of buttons with catchy sayings. We were kept busy dispensing Green Literature, chatting with people from many states, and signing them up on our outreach list. While most of the Congreso attendees had never heard of the Green Party before, they all did by the end of the Congreso, thanks to our tabling efforts and the Green Party bookmarks passed out at the escalators. Congreso participants were very favorable to the Green Party and many seeds were planted that will hopefully grow into members, locals, candidates and progressive cultural change. We lay down this challenge to you: spread the word of Green Party sustainability widely through all diverse interest groups, whether they are united by race, religion, commercial interest, or whatever venue or space you may find them.

Green Family Guy Walks the Writer's Strike Picket

By Patrick Meighan,
LA Green and Screen Writer

About a year ago I was sitting in a jail cell in downtown L.A. Like several other Los Angeles Greens, I'd come to jail voluntarily (with a few hundred of my closest friends), arrested, zip-cuffed, processed and held. All in support of L.A.'s hotel workers, who were demanding revolutionary things like health care, and a wage they can live on, and the right to unionize, and a pony (okay, I was the one demanding the pony). As I sat in that jail cell, and the hours dragged on, and my clothes slowly absorbed the smell of homeless guy pee, I looked around, and one thought came to my mind:

"What the hell am I doing?!"

Cut to: a year later. And once again, I'm an L.A. Green out there, fighting alongside L.A.'s workers against unchecked corporate greed. Only this time I'm one of the workers, and the union is mine: the WGA (Writer's Guild of America). And you know, walking the streets of L.A., day after day, toting a picket sign... well, it's kind of like being back in jail. Sure, the setting is

different. And the tactics are different. But the homeless guy pee? That's just the same.

What the hell am I doing?!

Personally, I blame the Green Party for the mess I'm in. More on that later. First, a brief primer on what this fight is about: the internet.

Okay, here's one a little less brief: traditionally, a writer's payment comes in two parts--X and Y. † X is the initial upfront money when he/she writes something, and Y is an additional, deferred payment when the studio/network re-broadcasts that show and makes extra money on it. In show-biz lingo, we call Y a "residual." That's how it's worked for years. But now (and increasingly in the future), studios are skipping that re-broadcast (i.e., withholding the writer's Y) and, instead, making money with their re-runs on the internet. And here's what they pay the writer when they re-run something on the internet: \$0.00.

No residuals. No Y. No fair.

So the writers decided to be silly and politely ask for a few cents more than the \$0.00 they're currently being paid out of the studios' internet

revenues. The studios responded by telling the writers to go pound sand.

So here we are. Fighting our fight.

But ultimately, of course, this fight is larger than the WGA. This fight effects all of Los Angeles's workers. 'Cause, see, if they can break my (middle class) union, they'll keep on going, right through every other union in the entertainment industry, and beyond. Heck, if they can, they'll go back in time and bust the Lollipop Guild. With the unions broken, and workers divided, we can say goodbye to L.A.'s already-shrinking middle class. We can even say goodbye to L.A.'s working class. We'll all be working poor. With substandard, non-union lollipops.

L.A.'s workers know that. That's why the WGA's gotten support from workers across the city: actors, teamsters, longshoremen, security guards, and, yes, hotel workers. That's right, a contingent from the ho-



Patrick Meighan is a WGA member, a writer on the Fox TV show, 'Family Guy,' and a proud Los Angeles Green.

tel workers union (HERE Local 11) came to the latest WGA march. When I thanked them for coming out, they looked me over and said, "Hey, you're the man who smelled like homeless guy pee!" Sigh.

Anyhow, like I said above, I kinda blame the Green Party for this mess I'm in. I mean, I'm just a pasty-skinned

California Green Party Hosts Green Candidate Training Forum

Organized by the GPCA Campaigns and Candidates Working Group, Green Party candidates and campaigns workers were schooled on innovative strategies – including the use of focused, cable-television advertising – to compete against corporate financed Republican and Democratic Party candidates at a Campaign School at UCLA in late August.

The school, also made available for anti-war, fair trade, immigrant rights and other social justice activists, included workshops on Paid (and unpaid) Campaign Advertising: How to Buy Effective TV and Radio Spots on a Small Budget, Fundraising, Campaign Strategy, Media Relations, IRV, Voter Registration, Election Procedures, Getting Elected and Governing as a Community College Board Trustee and Challenges and Opportunities of Special Elections.

According to Warner Bloomberg, CCWG co-coordinator who coordinated the session, "Candidate training is one of the CCWG's missions. We were able to plan and present the workshops in Los Angeles because local Greens volunteered for host responsibilities. We hope to hold the next candidate training workshops and strategy meetings in March of 2008. It takes about four months to plan these programs, so we're looking for a host, and place to hold the meetings as soon as possible."

Those in attendance also agreed, added Bloomberg, that the CCWG should create a statewide voter registration database to assist GPCA candidates. The database provides candidates with vital contact information about available Greens in their election district, as well as basic information about the voter makeup in that voter area.

In his presentation to potential and current GPCA candidates in attendance, recent Congressional candidate Daniel Brezenoff (37th District/Long Beach) advised the workshop that although his campaign began from ground zero, "we eventually had people making phone calls for me from around the state, and even around the country. The volunteers, and I always could have used more, were great."

Brezenoff also suggested that the Greens should have "soft money," and possibly start a political action group to encourage those supporting progressive candidates. "We have a need to do this especially in districts where we have a chance to win, or to get media coverage," he said.

"Overall, a lot of things went right in my campaign, although it was a Special Election and we only had a few months," he said. "Overall, I discovered that when you run for office, people will stop and listen," he added.

Also presenting was Hilary Bradbury-Huang, a trustee of the Pasadena Community College Board, and one of 55 elected Greens in the state, who defeated an incumbent for the position. She noted how she built and edited her message on her website, which she also had translated into Chinese. "Money and time are non-negotiable,"

she said, noting that she had half of her financial support committed to up front and was able to reach each voter about five times with mailers, and email. Her formula was two mailers, one visit/drop off and three emails.

"Door to door campaign is very powerful," said Bradbury-Huang in her summary, who said her voter "universe" was 10,000 voters. She said she read books about campaigning, attended a Green-sponsored campaign school, consulted with experienced Greens and paid a strategist \$5,000. She also talked about being a Green Party officeholder, including being a "minority of one" on the school board. Her focus has been on money and taxes and linking it "cost to value," and applying it to areas like sustainable buildings.

"Board members have power and therefore have responsibility to be culture creators. I don't make the fact that I'm a Green a big deal but I don't hide from it either," said Bradbury-Huang. She said she's had to learn to use the parliamentary school to her advantage and to make sure, when introducing measures, "you have a second."

In another presentation, Cres Vellucci, the GPCA Press Secretary and progressive candidate campaign consultant, urged Greens to do more than just the traditional "flyering and tabling."

"We have to be better prepared to reach people not just one at a time, but 10,000 or 100,000 at a time," said Vellucci, a former newspaper editor and reporter at the State Capitol, noting that "we can't keep complaining about the 'right wing media.'"

"The 'bad guys' use paid television and some radio. They aren't using the strategy just because they have money to burn. In fact, most people get most of their news from television and radio. Not the newspapers. Not the internet. Television and radio. We need to get in the game," he said.

Vellucci noted that because of today's technology, production of good television spots is either free, or close to it, and that placing spots on television are not at all expensive if campaigns are creative. He added that it's easier to raise money for campaigns "if you ask for money specifically for advertising. Supporters are more likely to contribute."

He said that paid television is not that expensive, and suggested buying short 10-15 second spots, instead of the traditional 30 or 60 second ads for "frequency and reach." In many markets, if candidates buy by district or zone, they can pay as little as \$4-\$15 – 2-3 times that in the biggest state markets - for television spots during evening prime time, he said.

Vellucci explained that he has purchased, for statewide Green Party candidates as well as congressional hopefuls, 4-7 p.m. slots on CNN, HGTV, Lifetime Channel and Comedy Channel.

In yet another presentation, Bill Nuttle explored the use of creating a Precinct Operations presence. He creates walk lists, phone lists, GOTV lists, precinct maps and similar tools for only progressive candidates.

Green Screenwriter, continued

writer with soft college-boy hands, and the other side is a band of corporate megaliths with insane power and wealth, led by a union-busting negotiator who sits on a throne of human skulls. Any sane person in my situation would pack it in. But, dammit, I'm a Green. The Greens fight more corporate megaliths before 9am than most people do all day.

If I ever wanna show my face at the next plenary, I have no choice but to do what every other California Green does, every day of their Green lives: wake up, fight for what's right (no matter the obstacles or how powerful the opposition), go to sleep, repeat. Again and again, until the sun burns out.

So great, thanks, fellow Greens. On account of your stupid example of courage and tirelessness, I'm now forced to hit the picket line every morning at 5:30, wave a sign, and never back down until one of two things happen:

a) the corporate megaliths stop trying to roll-back the wages and benefits that L.A.'s workers have fought for & b) I finally get that pony

I've still got my fingers crossed for option b).

Young Green Speaks to NAACP Convention

By Lisa Taylor
Los Angeles Greens'
Volunteer Coordinator

Los Angeles Greens' member Raam Kaur represented the Green Party at the NAACP State Convention, Youth Forum, on Oct. 27, 2007 in Manhattan Beach, CA. The Republican youth was a no show, so Raam had the stage with a Democrat, speaking to over 100 youth from across the state.

She covered the key points of our Green Party platform: highlighting our freedom from corporate donations, the Green Party's worldwide presence, justice issues, fair trade, the consequences of our purchases and personal responsibility, global connectedness, sustainable agriculture, how the money that's going to the Iraq War could be better spent on education and health care, and how we need to consider the seventh generation in our deliberations.

The week before, Raam was on the popular hip-hop radio station Power106, on the program Knowledge



Raam Kaur represented the Green Party at the NAACP State Convention, Youth Forum, on Oct. 27, 2007 in Manhattan Beach, CA. The Republican youth was a no show, so Raam had the stage with a Democrat, speaking to over 100 youth from across the state.

is Power, discussing politics and youth involvement with reps from USC Republicans, CA Democratic Party, San Fernando Valley Young Democrats and the American Democracy Institute (ADI), who were promoting the Empower Change Summit upcoming at UCLA. Thanks Raam, for representing the Los Angeles Greens and the Green

Party! Thanks also to Linda Piera-Avila and Alex Walker for attending the NAACP Convention and passing out Green Focus newspapers, to Linda for photos, to SKCM Curry and Lisa Taylor for strategy and rehearsal, and to Denise Munro Robb for persevering to find a speaker for the radio program with very short notice!

Greens Around State United Against War

SACRAMENTO – California Greens continued to help anti-war activists pressure state Democratic Party congressional lawmakers to make good on a 2006 election year promises to bring state military personnel home by ending the Iraq War, but who so far continue to fund the war instead of stop it.

All across the state, those opposed to the war are visiting offices of Democrats, demanding they not vote to further war funding in September. Instead of a sympathetic year, people opposed to the war are being arrested.

"The death toll in Iraq, for U.S. and Iraqi civilians, continues to climb and all Democrats can do is claim to be opposed to the it, while funding it," said Daniel Brezenoff, Green Party in the 37th District Special Election. He added that the Green Party opposed the Iraq War since before it began, unlike the Democratic and Republican parties.

Greens were among those at a demonstration last week at the offices of Orange County Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Santa Ana) in Garden Grove. Six people were arrested at the protest after Sanchez refused to sign a pledge to not further fund the war. Sanchez – after saying she was opposed to the war – said she would still vote for more defense monies for the war because there was \$2.1 billion for California to build the C-17 Globemaster, a military aircraft.

Tuesday, Greens were among those who organized a People's Town Hall in Sacramento in front of the office of Rep. Doris Matsui (D), and other registered Greens were participating or supporting a hunger strike at the San Francisco home of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D).

Greens also arranged a visit to the office of Rep. Henry Waxman (D-L.A.), where the lawmaker said he did not believe there was enough "evidence" of fraud and deception about the war to warrant impeachment proceedings against Pres. George Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney.

And, in the San Francisco area, 2006 Green Party congressional candidate (14th CD) Carol Brouillet was arrested along with Daniel Ellsberg and others at Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab in a peace protest memorializing the 62nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

"The war on terror is a fraud. Our best hope is non-violent, widespread opposition to the threats to the constitution and our civil rights, and the world, and for Congress to begin impeachment proceedings to halt (the war) and reverse the policies of the past several years," said Brouillet.



From Orange County to Oakland, Sacramento and Hollywood Boulevard: Greens all over the state of California have been pushing for impeachment of President George w. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq complete with war reparations to the citizens and government of that country. In addition, as noted on other pages of this paper, Greens are standing up daily for the right of all people to live a sustainable life, complete with the freedoms we have taken for granted far too long. Please consider joining the party. See back page for details.



LA Green Gives Up Urban Living For Organic Farming

By Michael Carr,
Former LA Green

After an extensive amount of research into intentional communities and organic farming, I discovered WWOOF-USA (the USA chapter of World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) and, upon joining, received a directory of approximately 500 farms that provide room and board opportunities in exchange for work.

After looking into several in California, Utah, New Mexico and the northeastern United States region, I finally chose Upper Meadows Farm in Montague, New Jersey, about 70 miles northwest of Manhattan, near the Delaware River where New Jersey meets New York and Pennsylvania.

I arrived the day after Labor Day. Farmer Leonard Pollara greeted me after he finished tending to the cows, a somewhat bucolic task following the slaughter of his three pigs earlier in the afternoon.

Following a brief description of the farm operation and a tour of the office and "guest house," Leonard returned to his own house next door. I was left to assess my "quarters" and what had actually committed to for the next 2-1/2 months of my life. And, I wondered... what was he thinking about a 43-year old (most likely gay) man from Hollywood, California on his farm in New Jersey? (As I later discovered, I was preceded by a lesbian who hardly lasted a few weeks, with twice the experience yet half the effort that I invested.)

The next day arrived shortly thereafter... at 6:30 a.m. But I was awake and ready. He (politely) asked if I would rather work on getting the guest quarters ready for whatever he and/or I perceived as some middle ground for acceptance, and I (politely) declined, saying that I would rather get started on farm chores with everyone else and deal with the rest later.

Upper Meadows Farm is a CSA-oriented entity, certified organic since 1991. The CSA was established in 2001, with nine members, and has expanded to four different groups serving

approximately 140 individual and family members in the New York and northern New Jersey metropolitan area. It has grown from a kitchen garden on four acres to over 150 acres, offering over 100 varieties of vegetables, greens, herbs, and fruits. Excess produce supplemented with additional items from neighboring farms is sold to passersby at the weekly Saturday market in the Hells Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan.

Each day began with a 30 to 60 minute meeting to discuss what needed to be done for the day. As I arrived in the middle of harvest season, there was an inordinate amount of work, which ranged from daily animal husbandry chores to weeding, to preparing lettuce seed in flats for planting, to actual harvesting.

Leonard lost his tomato crop to invading deer for the first time ever, a devastating loss that was only slightly offset with a bumper potato crop that served as my first introduction to several boutique varieties. Digging potatoes in the extreme afternoon heat with thousands of hovering field bugs forced me to move my t-shirt from my torso to my head to keep the bugs out of my ears and face. Although the days were long, the meal times were incredible. I had never eaten such fresh food so consistently, and for such duration in my life.

The distribution period for memberships was 22 weeks, from June to November. Full family shares numbered about 11 items each week, with half and individual share options available. These consisted of varying items subject to weekly availability: potatoes, green beans, mustard and dandelion greens, kale, amaranth, beets, purslane, squash, lettuce, some type or combination of alliums, radishes, cilantro, sweet and hot peppers, and turnips. And then there was the parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme.

Thursday through Sunday were the harvest and distribution days: two were in New Jersey on Thursday, Friday entailed preparing for Saturday's Manhattan market, and there was one more on Sunday in West Orange New Jersey. I was assigned the Manhattan market (by



LA Green: Michael Carr became bored and disillusioned with urban life in Los Angeles and found WWOOF-USA, an organization dedicated to organic farming. And he went for it. Michael now lives and works on an organic farm in New Jersey.

myself) on the second Saturday of my experience, a frightening prospect until I had actually gotten through the day and back to New Jersey in once piece.

But there were drawbacks and this is where worlds collide. There is just as much personal drama on the farm in a single day as there is actually in the office (and/or for TV watchers, in a single episode of *The Office*): Economics on the Farm 101; Personal Relationships 102; Inter-farm Relationships 103; Marriage and Family 104; Coworkers 105... and so on. As the produce blossoms and fades, encourages and disappoints, so does all of the above. And therein is my education.

Independent farmers represent the last vestige of traditional American identity, beyond our current misplaced one of war and shopping. The struggles are the same as most Americans experience, but intensified by the demands of physical labor and the management of land, crops, animals, weather, et cetera... and family.

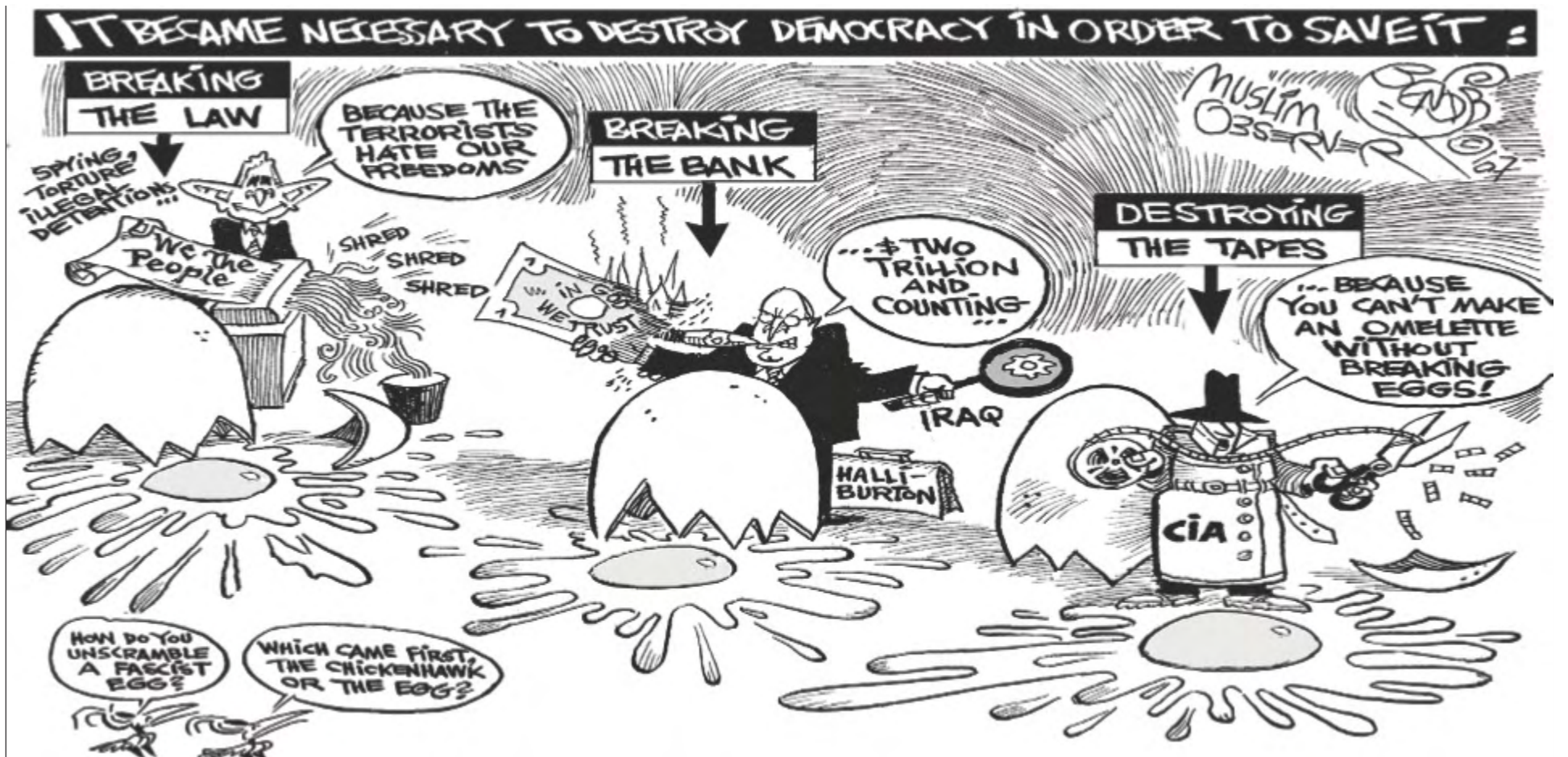
I've been asked to return, which I am planning to do after spending some time in Manhattan with friends for the holiday season. Despite the difficulties, I've concluded it is important to support this type of food production. Pro-

viding fresh, healthy produce to people, while educating them about what is involved in the process is so important in this day and age of petroleum dependent industrial food, and the resources required for its refrigeration and transport.

Whether or not you believe in the concept of peak oil and its potential implications, it is now more imperative than ever that people become engaged with local farmers and community supported agriculture in terms of knowing what their food is, and from whom and where it originates.

This type of food consumption is no longer limited to actual health benefits. We now must consider the environmental and economic imperatives. Our very lives depend on it, both now and well into the future.

For more information about these opportunities, visit www.woof-usa.org.



Presenting: The Six California Candidates

In Alphabetical Order

JARED BALL:

For more information:
www.jaredball.com

Biographical: Dr. Ball is a Member, DC Statehood/Green Party; assistant professor of communications studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.; an independent journalist; radio host with WPFW 89.3 FM in Pacifica Radio Washington, DC; Editor-at-Large of the Words, Beats and Life Global Journal of Hip-Hop Culture and founder of FreeMix Radio: The Original Mixtape Radio Show – a freely distributed monthly hip-hop mixtape dedicated to the practice of emancipatory journalism; Navy veteran who served during Desert Shield/Desert Storm; graduate of Frostburg State University with a degree in history, graduate of the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University with a masters degree in Africana Studies and a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, with doctorate in journalism and media studies. He has been a bartender, pizza delivery man and a high-school teacher in DC's public school system before settling in at Morgan State University.

Positions/Statement (provided by candidate/edited for length): My name is Jared Ball and I am currently running for the Green Party's presidential nomination. I have accepted an invitation to do this for several reasons. First among

unacceptable conditions of a majority of the people of this nation and world. To best address those conditions a new party is needed, a new style of politics is needed and we are developing just that kind of campaign. While looking to bring something new we are also looking to do so on the basis of some old and forgotten (or suppressed) politics. First among them are those of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose genuine goals have long been forcibly hidden beneath the frozen and isolated description of a dream. But 2008 being the 40th anniversary of his assassination demands that we run such a campaign on the basis of King's truly revolutionary positions of calling for radical political organization around an end to systems which reproduce white supremacy, militarism and gross inequalities in wealth and access to society's benefits. That campaign is here.

I am not running to further bolster the mythology of the vote as panacea. I am not running for simple symbolism. I am running because the true majority of women, the poor, Black, Latino and Indigenous people need organization, need a place to cohere and the Green Party is the structure with the expressed platform that can provide just that kind of liberated space and I am the candidate that can properly articulate such a need. The party's freedom from corporate dominance, its commitment to social justice and redistribution of society's wealth and service and its call for diversity are far more substantive than those false claims of such made with varying degrees by other parties. It

is time to build a genuine populist party, one built on the proper politics of those who, like Kwame Ture once made clear, are no longer willing to accept the lesser of evil because, "we will not vote for evil, period."

...we are developing a campaign which seeks to break convention by centering attention and focus on culture, those most oppressed and those who have long since given up on the vote and are looking for a new politics and new organizations. We are working with "the mayor of DC hip-hop" Head-Roc and others to provide a hip-hop and progressive artist tour which will reach out to the Indigenous, Black, Latino and poor communities who will help us develop new bases of support for the Green Party. This style of campaign will be brash and powerful representing the necessarily unorthodox politics we need and which are represented best by the Green Party. We are not targeting Democrats, Republicans or others to "steal" votes. We are not engaged in an effort to upset one or another major party candidacy as we do not see either as being able to legitimately represent the needs of the true majority and, therefore, see no reason to assist in the sabotage or ascendance of one or the other. And while we are not expecting to "win" the presidency we are expecting to help build a party to build community, society and a new world.

We are looking to build the original and genuine Rainbow Coalition of Fred Hampton, a coalition that breaks racial barriers and fosters unity along real material needs as opposed to the empty



Jared Ball: Dr. Ball has a Ph.d. In Journalism and Media studies from the University of Maryland. He is also an active radio personality on Pacifica radio in Washington, D.C.

rhetoric of hate and division. Success in this case will be additional membership for the Green Party from the tens of millions of eligible but dormant voters. Success will be in demonstrating the difference of the party through the radical difference in our presentation and campaign approach. Voting or not voting are actions which by themselves, while equally political, are also equally insufficient for change. Real change can only come from organization on the basis of a truly radical platform such as offered by the Green Party. This is why I am running.

ELAINE BROWN:

Please Be Advised that shortly before this paper went to press that Elaine Brown declared she was no longer a candidate for President on the Green Party ticket. See her website if you require further details.

Elaine Brown's website can be viewed at <http://www.elainebrown.org/>

Biographical: Former leader of the Black Panther Party, Green Party candidate for mayor of Brunswick, Georgia (2005), an author and college lecturer, a community organizer—as co-founder of Mothers Advocating Juvenile Justice and the National Alliance for Radical Prison Reform, and a local leader of the "No on One" campaign

Positions/Statement (provided by candidate/edited for length): I believe a ballot cast for a Green Party candidate or issue represents the most significant instrument for change available for the Marginalized Millions—black people, brown people, other people of color, poor working people, those languishing in prison, those without decent housing or health care and all the other oppressed people trying to survive at the bottom of life in the most powerful nation in the world. That is, change will not be e-mailed, rapped in a CD or YouTubed. To paraphrase Malcolm X, for the masses of disenfranchised and disaffected millions in America, the ballot is the bullet!

It is my intention to use my presidential campaign to galvanize the non-voting Marginalized Millions to seize the ballot of the Green Party toward their self-empowerment. The Green Party, too, must seize this moment of national malaise and disillusion to come out of the morass of being a repository for disgruntled Democrats and open the Party's doors to the non-voting millions so as to actively and powerfully challenge the status quo and become an effective force in the national political arena. I believe I am a catalyst the Green Party can use for this necessary transition.

Beyond a call for the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of U.S. troops and war machinery from Iraq and Afghanistan, my platform focuses on the repeal of the "three-strikes" crime laws across the nation. No other domestic issue is more urgent for black people, brown people, poor people. This Clinton-promulgated law (1994) and its progeny caused the doubling of America's prison population in the ten years since passage. The result is, over two million people are presently incarcerated in America, with five million more on parole or probation, with families representing millions more affected by their incarceration, and millions of formerly incarcerated people. In general, this mass incarceration—distinguishing the U.S. as the country with the highest incarceration rate in the world!—has devastated black, brown and poor communities, further impoverishing them and de-

stroying familial foundations. In addition, the "three-strikes" crime laws overturned the 100-year-old juvenile justice system, allowing for the inhumane housing of children in adult prisons, in violation of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Finally, it has generated a nefarious economic scheme of financial gain for private prison profiteers.—For blacks, this has been particularly oppressive, given that 50% of prisoners are black, as compared to 13% of the population, reflecting the ongoing, institutionalization of racism in America.—This criminalization and mass incarceration of the poor, when compared to the glorification of mass murder in Iraq and elsewhere, demonstrates that in the United States, crime is a political question. This law, as it exists around the nation, particularly in California where prison overcrowding has rendered the state facilities gulags, must be repealed!

My platform is... Full and free health care for everyone... Complete and free primary, secondary and higher education for everyone... Complete opening of the borders of the United States accompanied by the institution of a guaranteed minimum living wage of \$25/hour for all workers... Creation of a base of free or low-cost, decent housing, so as to eliminate homelessness and provide every human being the fundamental right to a decent place to live... Repeal of all laws that discriminate against or dehumanize people on account of ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality, religion, age, or disability,



Elaine Brown: Instructor, Scholar and Activist, and Community Organizer. Former Leader of the Black Panther Party.

and the creation of laws that guarantee non-discrimination and human rights to all... Institution of laws and policies that promote purification and cleansing of the air, water and land and that outlaw polluting, contaminating or adulterating them. The payment of reparations by the United State government to native peoples for the theft of land and to Gullah/Geechee and other African slave descendants for slave labor... Total dismantling of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction by the United States, and recognition of and adherence to all international agreements as to war, crime and human rights...Imposition of wealth taxes and reduction of taxes for poor and working people, toward a complete and fair redistribution of the wealth of the nation.

For The Green Party Presidential Primary

JESSE C. JOHNSON, JR.

www.jesse08.us

And Look To YouTube.com for more information at the following location::

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMxgYnmdHfg>

Biographical: Born 1959, West Virginia. Attended North Carolina School for the Arts, Marshall University and several other universities. Has worked on a seismographic ship, as an actor, a stage producer, a stand-up comic and country line dance instructor. He helped form the United Electrical Workers Union in West Virginia in 2006. He was the first gubernatorial candidate in the history of West Virginia to secure his place on the general election ballot before the primary election in 2002. Ran for US Senate in 2006,

Positions/Statement (provided by candidate/edited for length): I have not committed Treason, or High Crimes and Misdemeanors. I ran one of the most successful third party campaigns for Governor in 2004. I ran taking no contributions and spending no monies receiving about 2% against U.S. Sen. Robt. C Byrd in 2006. I was elected as State Party Chair later that year in 2006. I serve as the first Mt Party delegate to the 2007 GPUS convention and cast our

that the US Constitution, is the ultimate law of the land. I am a life long environmentalist and conservationist. I stand for people who have no voice.

My top three issues are : #1 Demilitarize the economy (this includes withdrawal from Iraq)); #2 Make the Environment, an Educational and Health priority; #3 Restore Constitutional checks and balances and civil rights for all Citizens.

As state chair of the Mt Party of WV, he presently is fighting to secure the ballot line in WV's general election for the GPUS nominees as promised in Reading at the plenary: "I may not declare as of yet therefore I choose to address these three issues first including voter integrity. This is our foundation. It has however been breached and that breach must be addressed before we can possibly move forward as a nation and a nation such as ours must be moving forward."

Jesse adopted "Unifying Through Communication" as a personal mission statement long ago. A tenth generation West Virginian, he embarked on a career as freelance artist/ - filmmaker - writer - instructor and practitioner which has taken him as student and lecturer to a number of universities both state side and abroad. Owner of West Virginia Film Investment LLC since 2001, he recently completed work as filmmaker and grant fellow for "Project

Talk Back" with the USDE, NEA, VSA of WV, and Kanawha Co. Schools, studying the effect of violence in the media on children K through 5th grade. As expedition director he received special recognition by United Nation's Year of the Indigenous People for his documentation of the Cabacar tribe. 2004 lead him to winning the nomination for Governor of WV as the Mountain Party candidate, a party where he was elected Chairman and was their 2006 nominee for the U.S. Senate. While busy serving on several state and national boards, he is developing a new 501c3 "Million Dollar T-Shirt" to empower charitable organizations everywhere. Otherwise he can be found on his beloved farm, stewarding nature, hardwood trees, and his family grave plot. Protecting it from the encroaching Mountain Top Removal mining process.

Jesse is one of the leading voices against mountaintop removal in West Virginia - his struggles to save the beauty and environment of his beloved state have taken him from the well of the state Capitol to the local prison, jailed for resistance in the cause of justice.

In 2007, as Chair of the Mountain Party, he worked with Green Party co-Chair Steve Kramer to bring the Mountain Party into the world community of Green Parties, where they be-



Jesse C. Johnson: Farmer, Activist, Entertainer, Filmmaker and politician, Jesse lives in West Virginia

long, as an affiliate of the GPUS. He continues to work toward that union, pursuing litigation in his state to allow the GPUS to use the Mountain Party's ballot line, even as he runs for the Presidential nomination himself.

CYNTHIA MC KINNEY:

For more information: <http://www.runcynthiarun.org/>

Biographical: A six-term member of the House of Representative from Georgia, Cynthia McKinney made history when she became the first African American woman to represent Georgia in the United States House of Representatives in 1992. She was born in Atlanta, Fulton County, Ga., March 17, 1955; graduated St. Joseph High School; B.A., University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., 1978; attended Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Mass.; diplomatic fellow, Spellman College, Atlanta, Ga., 1984; faculty member, Clark Atlanta University and Agnes Scott College. Cynthia was a member of the Georgia state house of representatives, 1988-1992, and elected as a Democrat to Congress in 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2004. She was forced out by a re-districting battle forced her out in 2004, in a case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, she won again in 2004. She re-registered in the Green Party in 2007.

Positions/Statement (provided by campaign/edited for length): While in Congress, from 1993 - 2003, Cynthia became known as the voice for the voiceless. She provided a seat at the table for people long left out of Georgia's political and economic mainstream. She supported candidates representing the people who had been politically marginalized. The result was more hope and more representation at the local level for black people and people of low wealth throughout the rural black belt of Georgia.. Her pioneering work on behalf of black farm-

ers led to the United States Department of Agriculture admitting that it had, indeed, discriminated against black farmers for decades.

Cynthia McKinney proved herself a courageous voice for the voiceless, unafraid to speak truth to power. Cynthia's Power to the People Committee is working to put Cynthia on fifty-one ballot lines. Her positions included: Consistently opposed funding for bloated military and secret intelligence budgets; Introduced Articles of Impeachment for George Bush, Dick Cheney, and Condoleezza Rice; Introduced, championed, and passed in the U.S. House the Arms Trade Code of Conduct, prohibiting the sale of armsto known human rights abusers; Authored legislation to end the use of depleted uranium weapons; Passed legislation to extend health benefits for Vietnam War veterans still suffering the health effects from exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange;

Challenged Pentagon Secretary Rumsfeld and Chairman Myers of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the \$2.3 trillion missing Pentagon money and on U.S.-sponsored war games taking place on September 11, 2001; Currently serves on (a) International Tribunal on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, (b) Brussels Tribunal on Iraq, (c) is participating in War Crimes prosecutions in Spain, and (d) is working with the Malaysian Peace Organization to criminalize war; Introduced legislation to eliminate federal subsidies for corporations taking jobs overseas.

Cynthia was never afraid to introduce legislation that showed her moral compass and where she felt our country ought to be. In that regard, after the tragedy of September 11th, 2001, Cyn-



Despised by Republicans and Democrats alike: Cynthia McKinney, former Democratic Congresswoman from Georgia, was voted out in a primary election, but not before introducing a bill in Congress to impeach George Bush and Dick Cheney for 'high crimes.'

allow the survivors of the tragedy's victims to sue those responsible for the attacks as well as participate in the Victims Compensation Fund. She introduced legislation to establish a national living wage and she also introduced legislation to repeal the Military Tribunals Act. Her signature environmental piece of legislation was the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act which would have provided much-needed jobs and revenues for the restoration and protection of America's national forests. McKinney successfully authorized the USDA disparity study that demonstrated USDA discrimination against minority farmers. McKinney, like so many Americans, has long held Green values. McKinney is now proudly a Green. At the end of the 2006 legislative session, however; McKin-

ney introduced articles of impeachment against President Bush as (H Res 1106), which makes three charges against Bush: manipulating intelligence and lying to justify the war in Iraq, failing to uphold accountability and violating privacy laws with his domestic spying program.

The second article also makes charges against Vice President Cheney for helping to "fix" the intelligence in order to justify the Iraq War, and against Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for making false statements concerning Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction program.

Because McKinney waited until the final day of voting before her term ended to introduce the resolution, the resolution was largely symbolic.

CA Green Presidential Candidates, continued

KENT MESPLAY:

For more information:
<http://www.mesplay.org/>

Biographical: Born and raised in Papua New Guinea to Lutheran Missionary parents. Studied Western and non-Western medicine, earning a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Northwestern University. Informally studied Feldenkrais and Reiki and other energy methods of healing. Undergrad degree in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA., taught math in the Grossmont Union High School District, and currently an Air Quality Inspector. California delegate to the Green National Committee (G.N.C.); Member, and former treasurer, co-chair Communications Committee of County Council of the Green Party, San Diego County; Green Party U.S. presidential candidate, 2004 primaries. Former president of Turtle Island Institute.

Positions/Statement (provided by candidate /edited for space): As an Air Quality Inspector in San Diego County, Dr. Kent Mesplay is concerned about the negative effects of global climate change. "The issue isn't whether global warming is real or that it is influenced by human behavior," Mesplay says, "but that the solutions, when enacted,

threaten the quick, easy profits of our centralized, commercialized, subsidized political and energy power systems." The main plank in Mesplay's presidential platform is that sustainability is a security issue and that it is best enacted at a community level. In this view, governments, communities and citizens must rapidly learn to build sustainably and efficiently for better independence and basic security of water, food and energy, to strengthen our core infrastructure. Renewable energy, local organic produce and improved health care delivery are Green issues.

Kent is a repeat presidential candidate. He acknowledges learning as he debated David Cobb and others during the last primary season, taking notes during each and every debate. One repeated theme that became evident to him on the campaign trail is that our democratic institutions aren't so democratic. Mesplay's second main plank is that electoral reform is critical to inspire confidence in voting. Kent says he works "to improve the manner in which we reach decisions as a government and how we select, elect and retain candidates to public office." He supports public funding of campaigns, with automatic inclusion into debates for those ballot qualified candidates who,

through ballot access, have at least a statistical chance of winning. "Better yet," Kent says, "we 'alts' need fair, equal access to the public airwaves without having to run to raise expensive advertising money." The current political system does not emphasize deep debate and the solutions that such open discussion brings. Dr. Mesplay encourages preferential voting, Instant Runoff Voting (I.R.V.) and other improvements to politics.

Peace is another important topic in Kent's campaign. Trained in prosthetic research and design, with a doctorate in biomedical engineering from Northwestern, Dr. Mesplay is convinced that his political advocacy for sensible solutions to human conflict will result in far fewer war-time amputations than he could treat in a lifetime. "It's not important to just end the war in Iraq but to grapple with the issue of our national addiction to war," Kent says, adding that he looks forward to returning to Chicago for the nominating convention, not far from where he once received V.A. funding. Kent is one of four Green presidential candidates to be on the ballot in Illinois. Optimistic, Kent believes our nation will take a leadership role in creating the conditions that will lead to diplomatic solutions to



A True Environmentalist: Kent Mesplay has a medical degree, has been a teacher, an activist, and is currently an Air Quality Inspector in San Diego County, California.

conflict. He also says "through improved communication and verification techniques the younger generations of today can help put an end to war, if their hearts are in it, so get out there and register Green!" His website is www.mesplay.org

RALPH NADER

www.draftnader.org

Biographical: For five decades, Ralph Nader has saved lives, opened minds, implemented solutions, and inspired citizens to help build a better, more democratic world. He founded more than 100 civic organizations, authored countless publications, and -- perhaps more than any other person -- defined our modern understanding of the ideals of democracy, civic duty, and participation for the public good, rather than dominance by the corporate powers. Known for his ethics, integrity and independence, Ralph is recognized world-wide for putting democracy to work.

Ralph's mammoth legacy includes the effective national network of citizen reform groups that labor to preserve the safety and quality of life of all Americans, impacting civic skills, tax reform, pensions, aviation, regulation of atomic power, renewable energy, clean air and water, clean elections, food, medicine and auto safety, safety in the workplace, access to health care, civil rights, civil justice, Congressional ethics, campaign finance, discriminatory lending, the tobacco industry, corporate crime and reform, investor protection, corporate globalization, agribusiness and small farms, intellectual property, medicine prices abroad, freedom of information, and government procurement.

Ralph's name recognition, media presence, organizational capacity, qualifications, and accomplishments make him a strong Green Party Presidential candidate, capable of taking on the corporate duopoly and maximizing the voting power of the Green anti-war mandate.

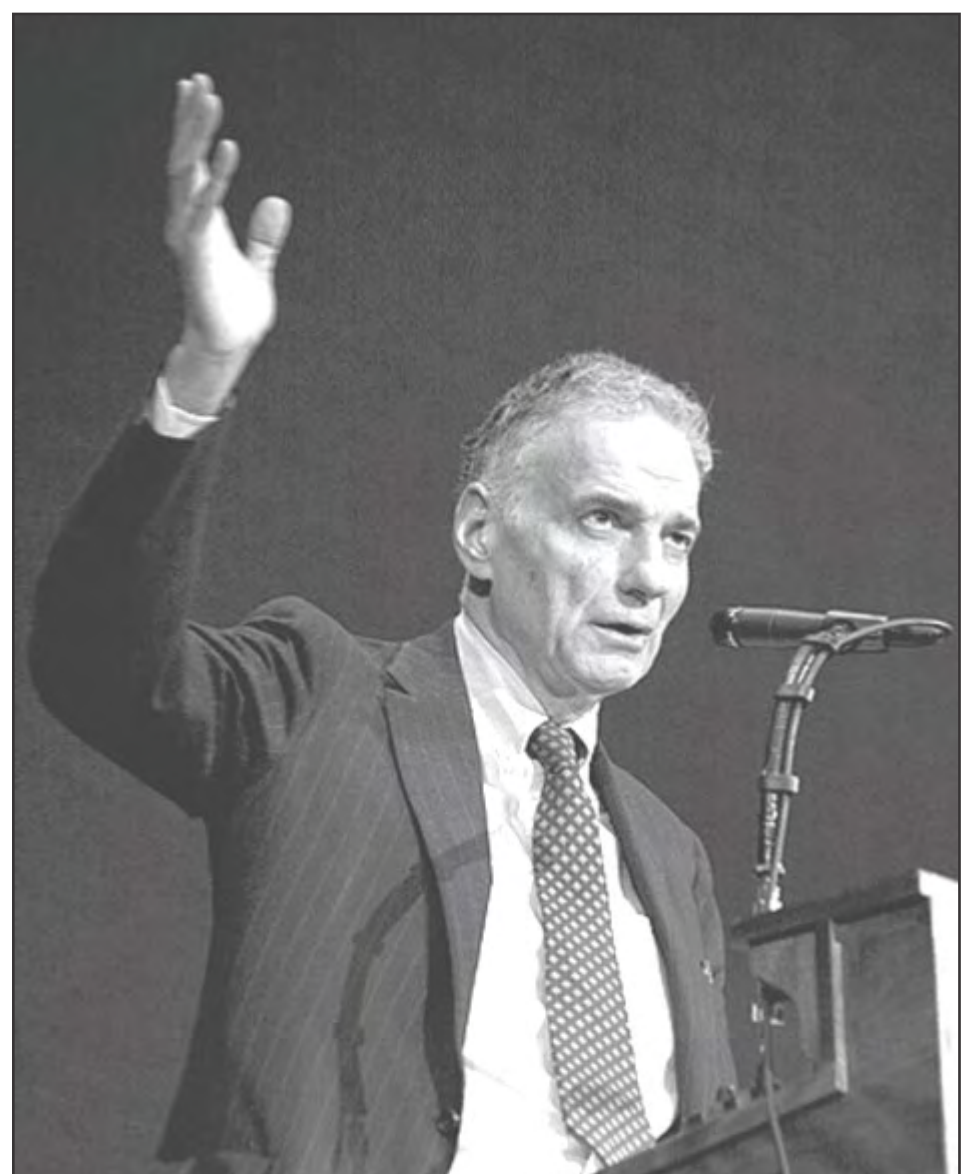
Positions/Statement (provided by draftNader//edited for length): Ralph Nader signs his autographs "For Justice," as he has dedicated his life to the quest for justice, including:

Opposition to War for Corporate Profit – Ralph continues to call for immediate withdrawal from Iraq; Just Access to Insurance and Health Care – Ralph helped pass Proposition 103 that has saved Californians hundreds of millions of dollars in car insurance costs. He continues to promote single-payer national health insurance; Racial Justice – In inner cities, Ralph pushed legislation for remediation and abatement, asthma reduction, getting lead out of paint, exposing redlining in inner cities, and protecting consumers against predatory lenders; Economic Justice – Ralph promotes a multi-year, multi-trillion dollar public works program to put the unemployed to work at living wages rebuilding our country's cities and infrastructure, particularly a clean, renewable energy system to combat global warming; Consumer Justice – Ralph helped found Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights that protects consumers all over California (<http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/about/>);

Just Access to the Democratic Process. The Democrats' 2004 campaign to keep Ralph off the ballot was the most massive anti-democratic campaign to disenfranchise voters since the Democrats overthrew Reconstruction governments in the South by force of arms and terror in the 1870s. Ralph sued the Democratic National Committee, the Kerry campaign and others, charging them with illegally conspiring to keep him off the ballot through tactics of harassment, intimidation, and sabotage against peti-

tioners (see details at <http://www.draftnader.org/ballot-access.php>). Ralph's current ballot access lawsuits are considered by many to be the opening salvo of another Presidential run in 2008. See <http://www.draftnader.org/> and "An Unreasonable Man," a documentary film tracing Nader's career from

at efforts to reform the system from within, during the 1960s and early 70s, through his direct electoral challenge to the corporate-sponsored parties with his Presidential campaigns which is currently being shown on PBS.



Ralph Nader Runs a Fourth Time: After 1996, 2000, 2004, Mr. Nader is at it again. His 50 years of media exposure as a 'muckraker' extraordinaire for the common man has made him a quadrennial favorite with some. Photo used from Claremont Courier on fair use.

CA Green Presidential Candidates, continued

KAT SWIFT:

For more information:
<http://www.bexargreens.org/katforprez/>

Biographical: Born June 6, 1973 in Shreveport, LA. Kat was the first green party member to run for city council in San Antonio 2007 and received 30 percent of the vote against a well-known, well-connected and well-funded wife of an ex-city mayor & ex-HUD director under President Clinton. She has held jobs from dishwasher to substitute teacher and tech support. Kat has facilitated consensus based meetings of various Green Parties(GP) - state of Texas(TX) Conventions, National Campus Greens Convention in Austin, local Bexar County Green Party(BCGP) and precinct & county conventions. She co-designed and -facilitated GPTX Statewide Green Leadership Retreat in 2005. Kat has been elected Communications Chair and Media Liaison for BCGP 2000-2007, GPTX State Executive committee(SEC) at-large member 2004-5, GPTX SEC Co-Chair 2005-7, Co-Spokesperson for National GP Women's Caucus - 2005-7, Alternate Delegate to the NC for GPTX 2006-7 & for NWC at ANM 2006, Presidential

Positions/Statement (provided by candidate/edited for length): Complaining about the system wasn't changing the system so I have been working for over eight years as a Green Party activist to bring alternatives to the ballot line and have run for local office. There is great potential to engage the non-voters, youth and women of this country to use the power they hold in their votes to change the course of society. It requires Greens to work together, know the system better than it knows itself, and provide the infrastructure for candidates so they can do their job of engaging the public instead of figuring out the rules of the game.

If you are reading this then you likely already know that when voters begin voting for what we want, instead of the lesser of two evils, we see a positive shift in candidates elected. As Greens we want results that will get us: Socialized Medical Care; Net Neutrality; a Balanced Budget every year; a drastic Reduction in Violence Against Women and children; Proportional Representation of electors to the electoral college; Federal Judges who will justly interpret the laws without personal bias regarding race, economic status, or religious beliefs; an End to Colonialism once and for all and re-creation of the public commons that communities are built

upon; Redress the effects Globalization has created in relation to degrading workers' rights, environmental stewardship, immigration, and destruction of community livelihoods; End Corporate Control of government and information; etc.

OGOV: It is impossible to implement an equitable and fair "One Green One Vote" given the inherent inequities of state laws. Once elected, a statesperson represents the entire district, not just those who voted for her/him, i.e. if elected President, a Green would represent all US residents, not just Greens. A more effective use of our volunteer time is to expose the inequities inherent in the systems of ballot access and voter registration and work to change the laws than to fight internally about how to figure out which state represents more "Greens."

Famous Candidates: Much time has been wasted in this Presidential election cycle because Greens were/are holding out for a famous candidate. Groundwork has still yet to be done that would help any candidate, i.e. having deadlines and petition requirements for all primary, caucus and convention ballot lines together by last summer, etc. It helps to have ordinary citizens running for office to show that anyone really can run for office, that you don't have



Kat Swift: Experienced party organizer in Texas, communications liaison, former dishwasher and school teacher, she is politically savvy and sticks to the 10 key values.

to be extraordinary or famous; and we need contested elections to engage the voters. Candidates must be Greens and contribute to the development of the Party. **Divisive Tactics:** In order to uphold the 10 key values of the party we must cease perpetuating old tactics of divide and conquer - defamation of character, slander, racism, ageism, classism, sexism, etc. Instead, as leaders, we need to set a better example by modeling new behaviors. Justice is also necessary within the Party.

FACTS Files the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2008

By Christopher Calhoun and Geri Silva

A few years ago, the voters of California almost amended California's draconian Three Strikes Law to apply to violent felonies. If not for the lies of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and other politicians seeking to exploit the issue and the \$10 million they poured into a last-minute blitz against Prop. 66, the law would have been amended in November 2004... and Santos, who has spent the last 10 years behind bars for taking the DMV test for his cousin, would be free and wouldn't miss any more of his two sons' lives.

...Thomas M, who is serving 25-years-to-life for petty theft, would be able to visit his mother's grave (she died recently while he was in prison). ...Kelly, who is serving 25-years-to-life for forging checks, would have been able to come home.

...and California would already be on its way to saving hundreds of millions of dollars wasted every year on senseless, unjust incarcerations.

We know the Green Party and other like-minded progressives haven't given up the belief that justice is possible for Santos, Thomas, and Kelly: FACTS hasn't. We know justice is possible.

That's why Families to Amend California's Three Strikes (FACTS) filed another initiative to amend California's Three Strikes Law on October 20, 2007!

This new initiative, The Three

"strikes" to serious and/or violent felonies only. No longer will minor offenses be counted as strikes. All persons whose third strike was a non-serious, nonviolent offense would be able to apply for re-sentencing unless one or more of their priors include murder, rape or child molestation, or their third strike was a major drug trafficking offense, a felony sex offense or a weapons use offense. To read the measure, go to the FACTS website www.FACTS1.com.

FACTS commissioned a recent poll among California's likely general election voters. This poll shows that support for reform is as high as it has ever been - and that, since we have crafted a more strategic and thoughtful initiative, we can even withstand the vicious, deceptive attacks we know will come.

Here are some highlights from that poll:

- * 68% of Californians would support this reform - even after hearing the toughest arguments against it, arguments based on the same things we heard in 2004.

- * Fully 80% of voters say our new thinking - that, unlike the initiative in 2004, this one restricts resentencing to those who have never been convicted of murder, child molestation, or rape - is a very persuasive reason to vote for the measure.

- * 68% of voters favor resentencing those whose Third Strike is non-violent or nonserious. We almost made it last time with the help of



Overcrowding at Chino Prison: Overcrowding is just one of the problems associated with the 3 Strikes Law. Wasted, futile lives are the worst part, as well as torn family life.

progressives everywhere; this time, we have a much stronger, more strategically crafted initiative but we need the support of the Green Party and progressives again if we're going to make this happen!

Please consider becoming a petition coordinator for your block, your community or your county.

We need over 700,000 signatures to ensure we get the 434,000 valid signatures that we must have to qualify our measure for the ballot. We should have the petitions in hand and ready to go by mid to late December. They must be turned into the state by April 21st. In areas where we have chapters, the work will be coordinated through the chapter. Where we have no chapters, the work will be coordinated through FACTS' state office.

We are also seeking to raise \$1.5 million to hire professional signature

gatherers. We will need this money between now and the end of March. Please get involved with a local FACTS chapter, or set one up. To see where we have chapters, go to: www.facts1.com. Click on "about us" to find a chapter or find out how to start a chapter.

In 2003/2004, you contributed generously to the Proposition 66 campaign. We need you to contribute generously again. Join us in our faith that we can bring justice home to California - and bring non-violent Strikers like Santos, Thomas, and Kelly home to their loved ones, where they should be. Be as generous as you can this holiday season, as we remember our loved ones who are buried alive inside prison walls and struggle to bring them home for the holiday season in 2008.

Wanna Vote IRV for The California Green Primary ?

■ While the only official Green Vote can be held this year via the ballot box in your local precinct, you can vote IRV here and mail your ballot to the Electoral Reform Working Group to aid in this Experimental Project. Please be part of this historical first. Vote Today and Send Us Your Ballot!

Vote IRV and We All Win

Part of the responsibilities of the Electoral Reform Working Group (ERWG) is to educate Party members about ranked ballot voting (sometimes called instant run-off voting). In single office or decision situations, the GPCA uses IRV with a single transferable vote (STV). That means if a person's choice does not get elected or approved, their next preference is counted, instead. Or their their third choice; or fourth choice. Until a candidate or proposal gets enough votes to meet the minimum for election or approval (e.g., 50% plus one for a majority to elect a candidate to office or a 2/3rds minimum for a GPCA administrative decision).

Below is a ballot listing the names of the candidates appearing on the February 5, 2008 GPCA presidential primary ballot. The GPCA is not allowed under current elections law to have a ranked choice ballot in its elections (it is trying to get that, eventually, through efforts to obtain Elections Code sections for the GPCA). The ERWG invites Green Party members to participate in a ranked ballot voting exercise to help us all understand how it works. We will report the results in the next Green Focus.

The results of this exercise will NOT have any effect on the selection of California delegates to the GPUS presidential nominating convention scheduled to be held in Chicago, Illinois July 10-13, 2008, and it will have no effect on how those delegates vote at that convention. Your participation in this exercise is ONLY for educational purposes (and fun)!

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the ballot below listing the order of you preferences of presidential candidates. List your first choice "1"; list your second choice "2"; etc. You can mark choices for all candidates, but you do not have to do so. Your last choice should be NOC for "No Other Candidate". If you do not rank all candidates, NOC will be considered your last vote after the candidates you did rank. If you vote NOTA for "None of the Above", that is your first and only ranking because you are saying that you do not approve or support or even reluctantly vote for any of the listed candidates. You can write in unlisted candidates; but, if you do so, you cannot use the NOTA option.

After you have completed your ballot, mail it to: ERWG IRV Project, c/o 867 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112-5021. To be counted, your ballot must be postmarked no later than February 5, 2008. Or, you can vote via the ballot page that can be found by going to the GPCA webpage set aside for this purpose at: <http://cagreens.org/erwg/irvdemo/pres08.html> In either case, you may vote only once!!!

GPCA Ranked Choice Presidential Primary Demonstration Ballot

Vote the order of your preferences among the candidates (first choice "1"; second choice "2"; etc.)

Candidates Listed in Alphabetical Order of Last Name.

Jared Ball _____

Jesse Johnson _____

Cynthia McKinney _____

Kent Mesplay _____

Ralph Nader _____

Kat Swift _____

Write in: _____

Write in: _____

Write in: _____

No Other Choice _____

None of the Above _____

NOTE: Persons who have announced that they are a candidate for the nomination of another national political party are not eligible to participate in the GPCA presidential preference primary election. Write in votes for any such candidate will not be counted – even for NOTA purposes. This follows rules adopted at the May 2007 San Francisco Plenary.

Your Name: _____

Residence County: _____

You must be eligible to vote in the GPCA primary election or approved by your County GP as a local member in accordance with local special eligibility rules.

While "voting", how about making a donation to the GPCA. We need financial help to support our candidates, help finance delegates to the national party convention, and helping all of our GPCA projects (including money for Green Focus). Write whatever amount you can and make your check payable to "Green Party of California". Or use the electronic donation button that can be found at cagreens.org. And remember to cast your official ballot in the primary election on February 5th!

Complete and Cut Out this Ballot and Mail to:

**Green IRV Project c/o
867 North Fifth Street,
San Jose, CA 95112-5021.**

Do Greens Need a "People of Color" Caucus?

Opinion

By Alex Walker,
Los Angeles Area Green

Let's have an "Urban Policy Caucus" on urban sustainability, the "Drug War," large school systems, immigration, etc. But please, no caucuses based on skin color. That's a throwback to the 1960s when "Leaders" pleaded for entry into segregated "smoke filled rooms" of Democratic Party bosses and the Republican "Party of Lincoln" became the "White Man's Party" of die-hard segregationists.

Americans revolted in the name of liberty and sanctioned slavery. The French killed King Louis and crowned Emperor Napoleon. The Russians killed Czar Nicholas in the name of socialism and consolidated his empire under a corporate state. I have great personal respect for Greens organizing this caucus, but I do not want Greens imitating race-obsessed Democrats and Republicans.

Black Power -- 1967

At the height of the civil rights struggle, Stokely Carmichael, a Howard University student, was regional director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He helped register voters and organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). Lyndon Johnson, with typical "liberal" cowardice, refused to support the MFDP against the all-white, racist Mississippi delegation at the 1964 Democratic Convention. After two more

years of "conservative" terror, Carmichael gave his first "Black Power" speech in Mississippi, urging black pride and independence.

MEChA -- 1969

The heroic struggle of César Chávez and the United Farm Workers similarly roused California's "sleeping giant." In 1969, students founded Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) - rejecting namby-pamby liberal "assimilation and accommodationist melting pot ideology." A MEChA leader at UCLA leader was a firebrand called Tony Villar. When Villar married the lovely Corina Raigosa he took the name Antonio Villaraigosa.

One lecture by Stokely Carmichael changed my life. For this young, naive, kid in "conservative" Virginia, Black Power was liberating in 1967.

"Hack Power" -- 2007

Today, I'm grieved to report that in Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, and Oakland, those liberating slogans of my youth, co-opted by Democratic Party Machines, are used to rationalize evil by reactionary preachers, nutty professors, playboys, incompetents like Los Angeles Unified School District bureaucrats, and outright gangsters like those promoting a Black-Latino race war and killers from "Your Black Muslim Bakery" who assassinated Oakland Post editor Chauncey Bailey in broad daylight.

Here's the group dynamic. First, "differences" between "Us" and "Them" are wildly exaggerated. Next, "difference" worship is declared a revolutionary end in itself. Symbolic projects like naming lousy segregated institutions after Martin Luther King and César Chávez; expressing conspicuous outrage over "offensive" words and symbols; and pretending Kwanzaa is a real "tradition" equivalent to Christmas creates an illusion of "action." Failure generates calls for greater "unity" -- more separatism, conformity, and devotion to "Leaders." The only mainstream criticism comes from the Far Right, which, of course, lends credibility to bad "Leaders." This idiocy let's Clinton boast about his cabinet of Yale corporate lawyers who "look like America." Even Bush is lauded for the "First Black" mass murderer as secretary of state and "First Latino" war criminal as attorney general. Scoundrels like San Francisco's Willie Brown and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa win applause parroting 1960s clichés even after betraying every decent public and private commitment.

Political refugees come into our party with emotional baggage. People of color fear Greens using "white privilege" to abuse us. We don't trust our Euro-American brothers not to be forming a lynch mob around the next corner. Isn't that what white Clinton Democrats do when the going gets tough? So, we defend using the only tools we know:

imitation Democratic Party caucuses for "difference" worship.

Time to reject this organizing model. Let's organize around ideas like the "Green for All" campaign (greenforall.org) to train kids in green trades and around issues like clean air, water, health care, and schools. Focus on winning elections with candidates like Green Party Mayor Gayle McLaughlin in the tough city of Richmond. Attack racist conservatives in Republican suburbs and sleazy liberals in Democratic cities. Banish fear and build trust by working and winning together.

Here's my last point. Twentieth century socialism and nationalism have failed. The only global visions left are corporate capitalism and radical Islam.

God forbid humanity having to choose!

Our Green key values are what the world needs now even if we don't have sense enough to know it. All my life somebody has tried to tell me where to go, what to do, what to like, who to love, how to dance, vote, and worship because of the group I was born into 58 years ago. I hate this! I'll bet a couple other billion people on this planet hate it, too. Every woman is my sister. Every man is my brother. Let's be the change we want to see.

Major Reform Necessary in US Farm Bill

By Wes Rolley, Co Chair:
Eco Action Committee,
Green Party; and
Jill Bussiere, Wisconsin Delegate,
Intl. Committee, Green Party

Congress needs to pass a Farm Bill that reforms the current system of subsidy payments to corporate agriculture. The current bill that passed the House of Representatives, the Farm Bill Extension Act 2007 (HR 2410) fails to even come close to that goal.

America needs a comprehensive policy that takes into consideration current realities: climate change, the increasing prices of petroleum fertilizers, the scarcity of water, vanishing bees, national obesity, and world hunger. The guiding principle, according to the Green Party, must be food security for our people and for all the peoples of the world. The primary goal of US farm policy should be to feed healthy food to our nation's people, grown using sustainable methods, while ensuring that all those involved receive living wages and safe working conditions. Unfortunately, Congress has other priorities.

To reach a comprehensive, long lasting solution will take more than just this bill. Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) tried to do more in the previous congress. His 2006 effort never got out of an Agriculture Committee controlled by the most conservative of Republicans. Even with bipartisan support, his amendment to this year's bill was blocked by Speaker Nancy Pelosi for

purely partisan considerations.

Although the current legislation expired in September, the Farm Bill is stuck in the Senate and is not expected to move forward soon. The current impasse finds Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) so far apart that they can't even agree on which amendments will be considered on the floor. Even if they do find some area where they can agree to disagree, it is very probable that President Bush will veto the measure if it contains any provision for the continuation of our current cotton subsidies.

Congress must deal with the question of subsidies this session because the US faces severe penalties from the World Trade Organization (WTO) if we do not. In 2003, Brazil went to the WTO with the complaint that US subsidies to cotton farmers artificially drove down world prices and harmed Brazilian [f]armers. When the WTO ruled in Brazil's favor recently, it opened the door for other countries to file \$billions of claims against the US.

Subsidies are no longer just a way to ensure that farmers can earn a living. They do not go to those who need them the most. Under the current structure, 10% of farmers receive 62% of all payments. The ramifications go far beyond this.

In a similar manner, cotton farmers in sub-Saharan Africa have been forced off their farms and into cities where there is no work. Such dislocation is responsible for increased immigration

at best and results in a new breeding ground for terrorism at worst.

Closer to home, when US subsidized corn is exported to Mexico under NAFTA, Mexican farmers are affected. Those farmers, with no longer a viable livelihood, look elsewhere for ways to feed their families. The end result is illegal immigration to the US.

It is clear that we need a major re-thinking of agriculture and trade policies. California's so-called reformers in Congress have not the courage to do that. When asked about capping payments, as Dorgan-Grassley amendment would do, Sen. Barbara Boxer was non-committal and said that "We have our rice people and we have our cotton people." Understanding that such changes would not happen in the House, San Joaquin Valley's Dennis Cardoza (D-CA18) opted instead to seek subsidies for California's specialty crop growers.

Do those Republicans who spend so much effort raising the specter of immigration and terrorism not understand the degree to which our own policies contribute to those very problems? Are Democrats -- who now have some degree of control in Congress -- so beholden to corporate dollars that they can not use their newly gained power to make fundamental changes to agriculture policy?

The very minimum that we should get out of this new bill is the inclusion of the Dorgan-Grassley amendments limiting total payments to any one enterprise. This action would free up fed-

eral funds for investment in other areas: rural sustainable small-business development, value-added and organic agriculture, conservation. Anything less than that will surely not satisfy the WTO and will surely result in a veto.

Maybe this Congress will muddle through with a barely acceptable bill, one with Dorgan-Grassley. But it will still favor everything that is big: farms, agri-business, transportation costs, energy use.

There is a natural affinity between the ecological and grassroots democratic goals of the Green Party and the needs of small farmers and rural communities.

Fundamental change will happen when farmers and Greens align their efforts for a food policy that prioritizes a sustainable economy and benefits the health of our citizens, our land, and our farmers.

The Green Party is First In Advocating

Out of Iraq Now Impeachment Sustainability

Green Brezenoff Gets 9 Times Voter Registration in Congress Race

By Cres Vellucci

LONG BEACH – Green Party congressional candidate Daniel Abraham Brezenoff – who polled an astounding nine times the percentage of registered Greens in an August 37 District Special Election – said he will "keep a close eye" on winner Laura Richardson between now and the 2008 elections to see if she keeps her promises to voters.

Brezenoff finished third in the race, garnering 5.41 percent (1,138 votes) of the vote. Only .61 percent of the voters in the District are registered Green, even fewer than the Libertarian Party. Brezenoff's final tally, though, put him into third, far ahead of the Libertarian candidate, Herb Peters, who had just 2.3 percent of the vote.

"I am disappointed with the low turnout, and I am disappointed I will not be represented by a more progressive leader," said Brezenoff, a clinical social worker, of Richardson, the Democratic Party candidate.

"She has pledged to oppose any and all new war funding, and we in the Green Party and the peace movement will hold her to that. I will help (by keeping) a close eye on her," he added.

Brezenoff also criticized Richardson for not being a "strong" critic of the Bush Administration.

"We...will push her to continue speaking out against failed Republican policies. We will also push her to speak against failed Democratic policies, and we certainly hope she will not lose her

ability to speak truth to power if and when a Democrat enters the White House. We will pressure the Congresswoman to take up impeachment articles against the President and Vice President, do more to protect our environment and to call for repealing the Patriot Act. We do not expect (her) to follow the party line, but instead...remember that she must answer to her constituents at the polls in just 14 months," said Brezenoff.

While Brezenoff said that the 8.4 percent district voter turnout reflected "apathy," he noted that voters "do not feel they have good choices...even those who support third parties stay home because they believe candidates like me have little chance of winning in our current system." He called upon Richardson to make her "first goal" increased participation of her district in "American political life," and support instant run-off voting to help accomplish that.

Brezenoff was sincere about his run, although the congressional race was a condensed one.

"I accept the election results with some disappointment and, yet, much gratitude. I am grateful for the support shown for Green ideas and grassroots democracy. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak the truth to my fellow citizens, and I am grateful for all the new friends, all the learning, all the service that took place. I am grateful to live in a democracy.

"I want to thank my supporters and



Brezenoff: In the best CA. Green election showing of 2008, Daniel Brezenoff won an astounding six times as many votes as there are registered Greens in his Congress area.

staff. We ran a good race. We pushed important issues, built the Green Party and peace movement in this district and surrounding areas and we inspired many people to get more involved in political and community activities," he said.

And, he stated again that he will continue to monitor the Democratic Party winner.

"I offer to her office my support and service. If there is any way I can help her to serve this district, I am ready and willing. One way I will help is to keep a close eye on her and to hold her feet to the proverbial fire on key issues, including the Iraq War. She has pledged to oppose any and all new war funding, and we in the Green Party and the peace movement will hold her to that. She has also pledged office hours in which constituents can visit with her without an

appointment. I will be attending soon, and often.

"We will need help from this constituency. Eleven of twelve voters stayed home in this election and we ought to feel very concerned and disappointed about our level of commitment to and participation in our fragile democracy. Ms Richardson goes to Congress having the votes of approximately one of twenty constituents.

"Given the chance to voice the call for change, for justice, for real representation, voters instead expressed apathy and cynicism about our political system. There is no excuse for such low turnout at this critical time in history. People have asked me throughout the campaign: 'What will you do for this district?' Now I ask my fellow constituents: 'What will you do?'" Brezenoff said.

Greens Score Success at Los Angeles Youth City Environmental Conference

By Lisa Taylor, LA Greens Volunteer Coordinator

The turnout at the LA City Environmental Youth Conference on Climate Change: How it Impacts Us & How We Can Make a Difference was incredible! Mayor Villaraigosa announced at 9am on December 8th, that there were already 3500 youth there! They came in busloads (some got extra credit) and many I talked to came on their own.

Attendees were screaming like it was a rock concert for Tyrese, the hip hop/R&B star who did not mince words--he told them "we are all gonna die unless we do something fast so you better get texting and talking to all your friends, etc." There were child stars there too, from the Disney channel.

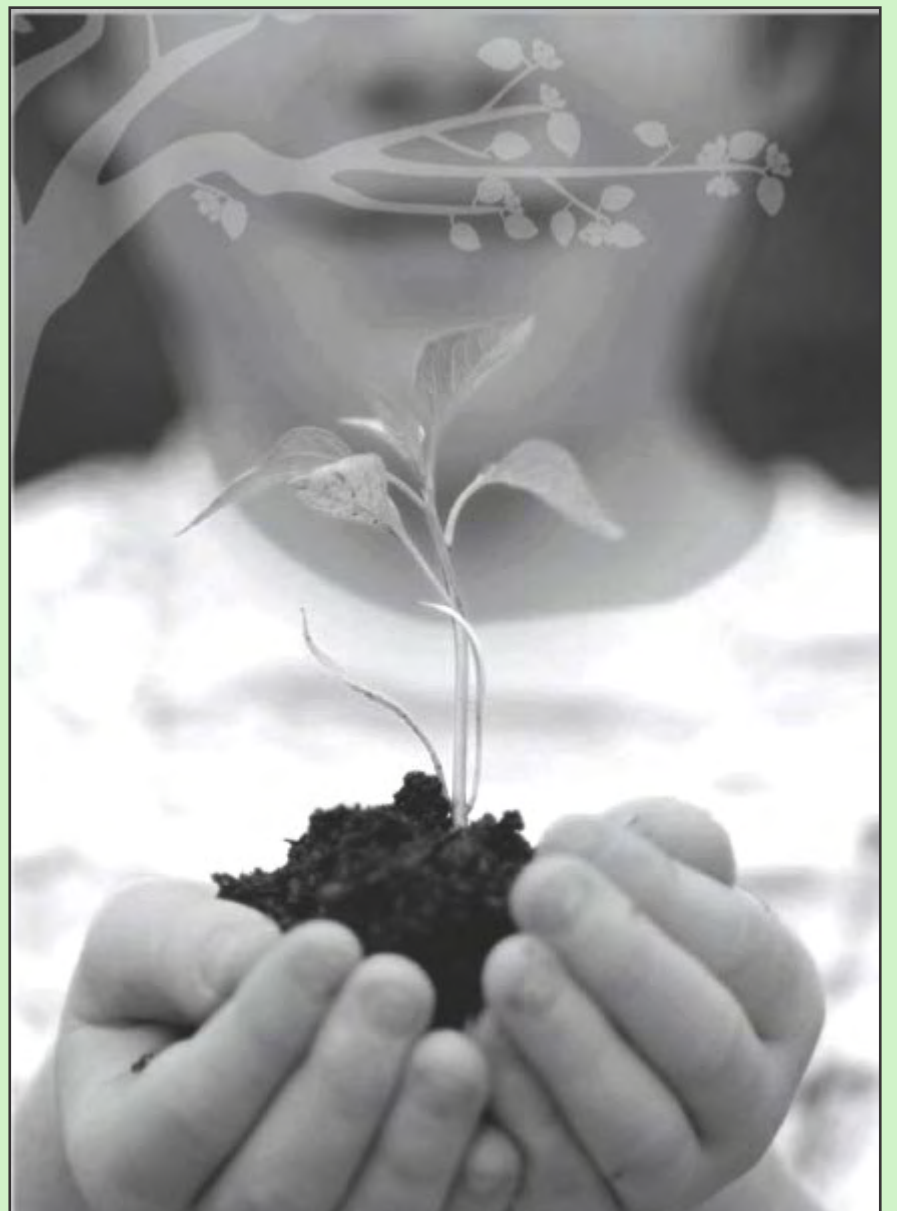
We gave away a busload of bumperstickers and buttons. Many told me our Green Party booth had the best stickers.

At 8:30am I had to hide half the sticker/button stock under the table so there would be some left later and I kept saying "please take just one and make sure you wear it or display the sticker!" It was wonderful and hopeful seeing all the interest from young people! They stayed at the booth, talking and listening. I must have said hundreds of times "when you get to be 18, you can register to vote with the Green Party."

I talked to many teachers and gave them info and my card to arrange Green Party speakers for their classes.

Christine Pinto designed a great youth flyer and our tips are more thorough, if I do say so myself, than the tips on the city's website: <http://www.milliontreesla.org/>

Thanks also to the LA Greens steering committee for their input on the flyer, Cathy McKnight for copying and poster production, and to Perias Pillay for tabling with me.



Book Review

Thinking Points: Communicating Our American Values and Vision

George Lakoff, and
the Rockridge Institute

I keep waiting to read a great book by George Lakoff on frames, deframing, reframing, or outframing arguments.

And I continue to be disappointed.

George Lakoff first hit my personal radar screen in 2004 with an interview he did on KPFF Pacifica radio in Los Angeles on the topic of his new at that time book, "Don't Think of an Elephant!"

That book introduced the non-linguists in our midst to the concept of 'frames,' the conceptual frames of reference which are inherent in any complex equivallence that people might utter.

You are a rude dude! That is a complex equivalent. You is the subject, rude is the adjective and dude is the object.

Abortion is Murder is another complex equivallence. Or consider, No Justice, No Peace! Virtually any human proposition is a complex equivalent if it has a subject, a verb, adjective and object.

Unfortunately, George Lakoff, Phd. from the faculty of UC Berkeley doesn't know how to communicate the real power of semantics to those of us who could use it most effectively to counter the specious arguments of

neo-conservatives, right wing christians, the WTO crowd, and the Bircher-Black Helicopter, conspiracy theorists.

Case in Point. "Thinking Points," is only 156 pages, but nowhere does it empower people with the methodology of being what another author has suggested we could become, "semantic magicians." Lakoff, and his graduate student ghost writers, (god, let's hope Lakoff didn't write this book...) lay out a rehash of Lakoff's grounding thesis that conservatives worship a 'strict father' image and the liberal progressives all had 'nurturing fathers.' That may be far less accurate, and a more simplistic view in real human experience than Lakoff would suggest. I know a few tough, young and middle aged lefties; both men and women, gay and straight, whose fathers where union men, or militarist's that 'wouldn't give an inch' and that is enough for me to know that Lakoff's observations are far from universal. So, I sometimes think that ole George may have possibly been projecting all that from his own personal experiences or wanna be experiences. That he got a Phd. out of the thesis with a book entitled, "Moral Politics," complete with statistical analysis and all the rest, may or may not lend credibility to his thesis and his position in my opinion.

Building a weak case on his arguments concerning the nurturing father, strict father concept, he does little more in this book than play with a couple of basic liberal and conservative motifs or position statements and almost laughably suggests on page 125, (a bit late in the book for even simple suggestions like this)

"That is why someone attuned to politics can immediately understand or construct a "new" argument as soon as a new issue surfaces..."

This to me is a big tipoff that this book by Lakoff is either worthless by

design, or worthless on its merits due to poor thinking or limited mental resources attuned to the effort. A real book on semantics should empower people to become magicians with words themselves so they don't have to stand in awe of the 'college boys' that know all the tricks.

It is to me interesting that the Democratic Party has adopted Lakoff as their poster boy for Newthought and Newspeak that will somehow bowl over the evil neo-cons with some new found semantic secrets of rhetoric.

A truly progressive effort would make every citizen a mental semantic giant and capable magician in the cause of progressive values.

Lakoff's book, with the help of his apparent ghost writers, simply fails miserably to accomplish this goal. I will never read another book by George Lakoff again.

If however, you really do want to become a semantic magician, a person who could argue virtually any case or point of view with the clarity of a high priced Washington attorney or the likes of the late William Kunstler, listen up.

In the world of cognitive psychology and neuro-semantics, a couple of men stand out as giants in their capacity to train other human beings in the incredibly persuasive art of semantic framing, reframing, deframing, and outframing which is possible by careful analysis of the panolpy of sentences that invoke the complex equivallence's as suggested in the opening paragraphs of this review.

Dr. Michael Hall, Phd. and Bobby Bodenhamer, D.Min; have written a series of books that have not only made them world renowned experts in semantics, rhetoric, coaching and training, but provided a wonderful book entitled, Mindlines: Lines for Changing Minds," which will do everything that



Linguistics Professor George Lakoff's book entitled, "Thinking Points," has little to offer in comparison to the more serious semantic 'magic' book by Dr. Michael Hall, which is discussed below.

one would look for in the Lakoff books. I challenge you to go to the following TinyURL and read for yourself:

<http://tinyurl.com/2zss9w>

Read all the reviews, then back go to the page on Amazon and might I suggest you buy the book and read it several times. I am now on my 7th reading and I can assure you that you will learn and master new concepts and linguistic skills with each reading.

I promise you that if you read and master the 26 possible alternative semantic frames possible for any given human expression that you shall never be caught speechless again, under any circumstances. Get back to me if after reading the book three times you don't agree. I will buy the book from you if it is in decent condition. This book is an adventure – live it and change your life.

Campaign and Candidate Announcements

Candidate Training Program Videos Available

DVDs of the Candidate Basics training program held in Petaluma March 19, 2006 are available for distribution to County GP's 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. Packets have been distributed to contacts in Alameda, Fresno, Humboldt, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Placer, Riverside, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Tulare and Ventura, For more information, contact Warner Bloomberg, the CCWG Program Coordinator at (408) 295-9353 or send email to: wsb3attyca@aol.com

Signatures in Lieu of Filing Fees for Partisan Candidates December 28 - February 21

The period for candidates to collect signatures in lieu of filing fees to qualify as candidates for the GPCA Primary Election ballot began December 28, 2007 and ends February 21, 2008 (with an additional period ending March 7th to collect additional signatures to replace disqualified signatures).

Collecting signatures to eliminate the need for (or at least reduce) the filing fee for State Senate, State Assembly and Congressional candidates can save a candidate hundreds to thousands of dollars. It is extremely important for County GPs to inform potential candidates for partisan office about these deadlines and to support their signature gathering efforts by holding meetings and events where GP registered voters can be gathered to sign candidate petitions.

Host(s) Sought For Spring 2008 Candidate Training Program and Strategy Meeting

The CCWG currently is seeking a host for a one-day candidate training program in March or April 2008. 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 2006 Candidates Basics program by focusing in greater detail on selected topics. The CCWG also is seeking a host for a day-long strategy meeting to be held after the February 5th election. If a single host group is willing, the candidate training workshops and the CCWG strategy meetings can be held on the same weekend.

For more information, contact Warner Bloomberg the CCWG Program Coordinator at (408) 295-9353 or send email to: wsb3attyca@aol.com

CA Delegates to 2008 National Green Party Convention Now Available Online

In accordance with the charter enabling California delegates, we are announcing that the list of delegates from the Green Party of California to the 2008 National Presidential Nomination Convention can be viewed at the following webpage on:
<http://www.cagreens.org/delegates/conv08/>.

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.

We are not Embarrassed To Admit It!

We could use your help in producing this newspaper.

If you own a digital camera, enjoy going to Green Party events and have college level skills in writing, we may want to make you a roving correspondent for this paper.

ALSO WANTED:

Graphic Artists
Cartoonists

Contact either of the following people in email below, to find out how you can help.

Send email to ned.goudy@gmail.com or civillib@comcast.net

Don't be shy!
Get in touch today...

Be Mindful Unto The 7th Generation



The Green Party Is Planning On A Sustainable Future for All

But We Need Your Help to Make It Happen

The Green Party of the State of California is working hard to promote candidates and provide financial support to campaigns on the local and regional level that we feel we have a chance of winning, or in which we feel we can make a spectacular showing in the media.

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!

Sustainers Receive Green Focus - Free

We Appreciate Your Support

Mail To: Green Party of California
P.O Box 2828
Sacramento, CA 95812

Yes! I will proudly donate **monthly** to the Green Party of California

\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50

Other \$ _____

Contributions of \$100 or more must by law be returned if we do not have this information on file. Contributions are not tax deductible. Other restrictions on sources of contributions may apply.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Wk: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expires: mm/dd/yy _____

Signature: _____