



Greens of Virginia

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Forward 2004! Report from Milwaukee

Kirit Mookerjee, Arlington / Courthouse Greens

Converging on Milwaukee this past June were delegates from all over the country, as for the first time the Green Party held a contested Presidential nominating convention.

With suspense lacking in the two major parties' conventions, the outcome in the case of the Greens was uncertain even to the delegates assembled in the Midwest Center Ballroom. Advocates for not just Cobb or Nader, but every possible candidate including No Candidate / No Nominee lobbied

delegates from the moment they alighted from their plane, train, or automobile onto the streets of sunny Milwaukee.

The week was filled with meetings, debates, forums bringing Greens together to discuss a Living Wage for all, worker rights, opposition to the Death Penalty, reform of the Electoral College, and many other issues. Dedicated Greens spent many months formulating these ideas into the 2004 version of the Green Party United States platform. Virginia's own Brian Czech contributed a plank advocating a steady state economy as a goal for an environmen-

tally conscious party.

For Saturday's nominating convention, the week's events narrowed to a choice between two main positions--nominate David Cobb, former general counsel of the party, who had visited over 40 states in the run-up to Milwaukee, or endorse the independent candidacy of '96 and '00 standard bearer Ralph Nader without nominating anyone. Lesser support went to candidates Kent Mesplay, Carol Miller, JoAnne Beeman, Lorna Salzman, and Paul Glover.

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How Don Langrehr Won the Blacksburg Town Councilship

Don Mackler, New River Valley Greens

Don Mackler served as Langrehr's campaign manager, and shares this story of their uphill battle against the pro-development forces.

Don Langrehr was fairly new to the New River Valley. He moved here in the late 1990's, accepting a position at Radford University, about half an hour from Blacksburg, and initially was a Montgomery County resident. He immediately joined the New River Valley Greens and was very involved with the

2000 Nader campaign.

When Nader came to Blacksburg, Don was among the privileged few to spend time with Ralph, and credits Nader with inspiring him to run for public office as a Green.

Don decided to run for Blacksburg Mayor, but needed to (and did) change his residence to Blacksburg for the 2002 campaign. The sitting mayor, Roger Hedgepeth, had never had a serious challenge before, and I knew the odds were against us. In that

race, there was a third challenger as well (a conservative VA Tech student). Don enjoyed the support of the Greens of Virginia, and did well, getting 39% of the vote, coming in second place.

Running for town council seemed like the more realistic approach, as the next mayoral election would not be until 2006. The time was ripe, as three of the sitting council members, with help from the Mayor, had, within the last year and a half, come out in support of a number of very unpopular ideas.

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www.vagreenparty.org

America's Double Standard

Charles Murn, Central Virginia Greens

Dick Cheney reportedly said recently that the danger of electing someone besides himself and George W. Bush as Vice President and President is that the United States might then fall back into a "pre-9/11 mind-set" that "these terrorist attacks are just criminal acts." On the other hand, there may be no stronger justification than that for *not* re-electing the Bush/Cheney ticket.

Cheney's statement explicitly acknowledges that the US government has essentially replaced its prior criminal justice approach to fighting terrorist activities with a military approach. The biggest problem

with this change is that it plays into the strongest suit of the terrorists.

In our fight against terrorists on foreign soil, the military approach dismantles most of the protections of the criminal justice approach afforded to presumed innocent people. It allows the US military, incidental to attacking opponents believed in any way to pose the threat of terrorism, to kill, maim, and impoverish innocent foreign citizens. In this mode, the US military alone takes on the roles of police, prosecutor, judge, jury, jailer, and executioner in foreign lands. An innocent foreign

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Forward 2004! At the Green Party National Convention in Milwaukee.

Forward 2004!

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Debate continued uninterrupted in the hallways, lobbies, and on the street as everywhere you turned Greens tried to persuade each other. The dilemma for the various campaigns was trying to calculate how the votes might go after the first round, as most delegates were committed according to their initial state party voting. Controversy at the Thursday night candidate forum centered on Peter Camejo's claim that a vote for David Cobb was an appeasement to the Democratic party. Cobb reiterated in his reply that his goal was to build the Green Party, and asked where Ralph Nader was if this process was so important to him.

Saturday morning's decision arrived as tense delegates were instructed by GPUS officials on how to record their voting cards. Susan Dridi (VA) and Jim Weill worked behind the curtain ensuring the ultimate in transparency--the running vote totals would appear in real-time for the audience and C-Span viewers.

Off to the races — the first round commenced with states called in alphabetical order and revealed votes spread all around for the various candidates (Cobb 308 / Camejo 118.5 / Nader 117.5 / No Nominee 74.5 / Salzman 40 / Mesplay 23.5 / Miller 9.5 / NOTA 35.5). Rules dictated that only candidates willing to accept the Green Party nomination could be listed for Round Two. Thus, as the delegates went to lunch, even they weren't sure what the choices would be in the next rounds.

As Round Two commenced, Cobb, Mesplay, Beeman, and No Nominee were announced as the remaining alternatives on the board. Delegations huddled as the states were called, and Cobb and No Nominee were running neck-and-neck. With the last-minute support of Texas and host Wisconsin, David Cobb went over the top by a mere 23 votes and was declared by administrator Matt Gonzalez the nominee of the Green Party. Cobb then announced Maine's Patricia LaMarche as his running mate (Cobb 408 / No Nominee 308 / Mesplay 43 / Beeman 8 / Abstain 3).

Call it unpredictable, tense, spirited--just don't call Forward 2004! undemocratic. Ultimately, all positions had ample opportunity to influence delegates and the Nader/Camejo supporters had an extremely complicated strategic position of convincing delegates to nominate no one in order to get to the endorsement phase. Many rank-and-file delegates admitted afterwards that they might have supported Nader as a nominee but were unsure that the endorsement option was in the best interests of the Green Party.

Who knows what the election landscape will look like in 2008, but no doubt the Green Party having survived a truly contested convention will be stronger and more unified next time!

The National Green Party Black Caucus is now online !

Visit <http://gpblackcaucus.us> to find a local chapter, get action updates, and hear about Efia Nwangaza, the Virginia native now running for U.S. Senate.



Greens of Virginia

Newsletter of the Greens of Virginia/Green Party of Virginia

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Greens,

We are excited about the upcoming election season, and look forward to an influx of new members who are inspired by our message and our hard work on the issues that matter.

We are also looking forward to a more regular schedule of newsletters which document our progress, but this depends on you — keep sending in your articles, photos, and artwork!

Here's what we're looking for:

1. Candidate news
2. GPVA business news (Calls for volunteers and candidates, candidate guidelines and deadlines, Officer elections, Upcoming GPVA events, meetings and agendas, Major GPVA policy and platform decisions, meeting notes & press releases, Committee decisions / notices, Welcoming new members)
4. Local Reports & Upcoming Events
5. Book Reviews
6. Personal Expressions (Observations, experiences, reactions and opinions, Original poetry and artwork, Motivational and inspirational pieces, Words from the officers)
7. Photos of GPVA members in action (please remember an accompanying blurb)
8. GPVA members' direct actions and ongoing collaborations with other groups
9. National and International Green News
10. Activism Opportunities

Preference will be given to articles which describe what we are doing here in Virginia, though feature articles of a national scope will serve as well. However, we need express permission from all authors. All authors retain their copyrights, but submissions may be edited for length, content, and wording.

The newsletter has also been authorized to begin accepting Green-friendly advertising in order to become financially self-sustaining.. Please write to editor@vagreennparty.org for an application.





Tikkun Teach-In Gives Congress a Plan for the Middle East

Jim Lowenstern, NOVA Greens

The Tikkun Community recently held a Teach-In to Congress at which it presented "A Resolution for Middle East Peace" resolving that the Congress urge the President of the United States to work for a just solution to the conflict in Israel/Palestine. In Hebrew, *Tikkun* means to mend, repair and transform the world.

Founded by Rabbi Michael Lerner, Tikkun is an ecumenical organization that is committed to social justice and peace among the peoples of the world. The Tikkun Teach-In, held June 1 - 4, provided an opportunity for grassroots lobbying of Congress on peace between Israel and Palestine. Leaders from Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities, as well as Tikkun community members, came together for four days of meetings that providentially fell at the same time that President Bush was meeting with the Prime Ministers of Israel and Palestine.

On Tuesday, June 3, members of the Teach-In met with their congressional representative or an aide to request immediate efforts be made to pass the Tikkun resolution. The resolution provides both a beginning and an end to the "Road Map" that Bush has presented. The beginning is a peacekeeping force to end the violence and bloodshed between Israelis and Palestinians. The end is a two-state solution that provides security and safety for both sides of the conflict. The full text of the resolution can be found on the Tikkun website at www.tikkun.org.

Members of the Tikkun Community were heartened by the response of members of Congress who saw that ending the violence between Israel and Palestine would go a long way toward ending terrorism worldwide. They came away determined to take the message that peace is possible to people in their homes and churches, mosques and synagogues.

Dorie Southern, a member of the Tikkun Community presented this report about the meetings in Washington and the Tikkun resolution to our recent meeting of the NOVA Greens.

VA Tech Greens Elect New Officers

Don Mackler, New River Valley Greens

The Campus Greens of VA Tech have just elected new officers, President Elijah Morrison, Treasurer Betsy Kain, and Officer John Frey.

We will have another fantastically busy year at Virginia Tech, as the Campus Greens have been allotted one of the largest budgets for campus groups, due to our past performance of bringing in quality speakers.

[*Editor's Note : For more information on starting or joining a campus Green organization in your area, visit <http://www.campusgreens.org>]*

Don Langrehr

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Here's the scoop. A few wealthy developers own a great deal of land in the undeveloped northwestern portion of Blacksburg, in particular the Tom's Creek Basin, which includes Blacksburg's recently acquired "Heritage Park and Natural Area" — formerly the "Brown Farm". They have long wanted the town to build a sewer in that area, so they could connect to it and develop. This has never been a popular idea among Blacksburg citizens, as it would mean residents would pay the costs, while the developers reap the profits, all the while ravaging the Tom's Creek Basin area. Consequently, though the plan has some support in the Town Council, there had never been enough for a majority decision.

A few years ago, the vice-Mayor, a progressive Democrat, had to resign for family reasons, and the Mayor took this as an opportunity to appoint anyone he wanted, and in doing so could make the pro-sewer Council members a majority. But even a new pro-sewer appointee (J.B. Jones) and eager majority could not act on the sewer proposal without first changing the town's charter and Comprehensive Plan.

This turned out to be a huge political mistake, and it was clear to us that the citizenry were angered by the decision. Since J.B. Jones was appointed mid-term, he would have to run in the next election in order to keep his seat. Two other council members, Ron Rordan and pro-sewer candidate Frances Parsons, were also up for re-election, but Parsons had declared her intent to retire instead of running again. We knew that by either winning Parson's seat or beating Jones, the anti-sewer coalition would once again represent the town.

The pro-sewer incumbents understood this as well, and increased their pace in moving the sewer preparations along. To counter these efforts, "Citizens First", a new coalition of Greens, liberal Democrats, and Nader supporters, arose at this time and began a full-force campaign in support of the three anti-sewer candidates (including Don Langrehr). In addition, some of the Citizens First members began a lawsuit against the Town for sidestepping the charter.

A few weeks before the election, Frances Parsons unexpectedly changed her mind and decided to get back in the race, accompanied by newcomer and developer Toby Rock. Because they were late in filing, they were limited to write-in campaigns.

Fortunately, the citizenry of Blacksburg understood perfectly well what was going on, and Don Langrehr and the other anti-sewer candidates won by huge margins, each individually receiving more votes than the three pro-sewer candidates combined!

Thus, we will again we have a democratically elected Town Council, while the lame duck council is licking their wounds and reversing their former pro-sewer actions in order to avoid further legal action.

Let this be another example of how coordinated citizen action can win the day and maintain quality of life for all residents!

Double Standard

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citizen's only input — into the determinations of who is a threat and why, and what should be done about the perceived threat — is what the US military will allow, which is usually nothing.

The rest of the world is surprisingly accommodating in the application of the military approach. The world was on our side when the US invaded Afghanistan to rout al Qaeda from its bases there. But there was a clear connection between the Taliban regime and the presence of terrorists known to have just inflicted a severe attack upon the US. There was a general sense that the Taliban were protecting al Qaeda.

At the same time, even the general support for the invasion of Afghanistan changed to indignation and outrage when after the fall of the Taliban, the US military struck civilian targets in the mistaken belief that they were enemy fighters. Even in the arena in which the US military approach had significant global support, the US military could not keep itself from killing many innocent civilians. That fact is as much a reflection of the nature of military action as it is of the orders given the military, after any remotely justifiable application of military force had accomplished its goals there, to continue to pursue al Qaeda and Taliban leaders across Afghanistan.

It is those orders, however, that play into the hands of the terrorist cause. Our use of military force, with its inherent tendency to kill, maim, and impoverish innocents, is exactly what the terrorists want. Ayman Zawahiri, often described as the mastermind behind al Qaeda, plainly said so in his book, "Knights Under the Prophet's Banner." The euphemistically named "collateral damage" that the US use of military force causes, Zawahiri recognizes as one of the strongest recruiting tools for al Qaeda.

Individual victims and survivors cannot help but feel outrage and anger when US military force kills, maims, or impoverishes innocent members of their families and communities. But it is the double standard that US military action represents that truly rouses passions against the United States.

It is true that the Bush administration has applied the military approach to fighting terrorists to its domestic efforts as well as the foreign efforts. If it does anything, the USA Patriot Act authorizes military-style surveillance and investigations against US citizens in their homes and communities. The constitutional law of war, as affirmed this summer by the US Supreme Court, allows the US government to declare any citizen to be an enemy combatant and to be treated as such, until proven otherwise.

Even these seemingly drastic curtailments of individual rights in the United States pale in comparison with how the military approach affects foreigners in their homelands. Would America tolerate the bombing or shelling of someone's house here in America based merely upon sketchy information, provided by informants of dubious credibility, without any additional effort at determining the guilt of the human targets of the bombing or shelling? Then why do we tolerate it in foreign countries for which the US claims to be a role model?

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Double Standard

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Therein, of course, is the double standard. Through the use of military force in foreign lands, our government acts with brute force against foreigners that it merely suspects might be a threat of some sort, by attacking a location it suspects might be accurate at a particular time. But it would never do so here in our own country.

Zawahiri refers often in his book to the West, including the US, as hypocrites. I have to agree with him on this point. Americans generally do have a double standard. I would go one step further and say that we have a blind spot for our double standards. Our country is established on double standards, from the slaughter of Native Americans, to the enslavement of Africans, to the indenturing of poor Europeans, and so on. Overcoming this history is the perhaps the greatest challenge facing our nation.

Zawahiri is not the only foreigner to have noticed this American character flaw. I lived in India for about a year, a year that was bisected by September 11, 2001. As much as the average Indian on the street loved America's ideals, our technological prowess, and our wealth, he or she was just as likely to resent the previous indifference of the US to the scourge of terrorism. To the rest of the world, September 11 was just a particularly large blip on the radar screen in the decades-long struggle against terrorism. Not until the US was attacked on its soil did we begin to take the struggle seriously.

More ominously, that double standard did not surprise the Indians I spoke with. It was the commentators and essayists, however, who showed me why. Virtually every single Indian writer whose essays I read pointed to repeated incidents in the last fifty years in which the US showed a double standard to the detriment of foreigners and, in particular, Asians. Almost all of them started out with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They talked about US war crimes and use of chemical weapons (i.e. Agent Orange) in Vietnam. The refusal to hold anyone accountable for the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal. There are more examples, but the significant fact is that almost all of these writers are not Muslim. You get the picture — this view of the US is not confined to the Middle East.

The true danger, therefore, is this: if the US continues its indiscriminate use of the military approach to fighting terrorists, Al Qaeda's plan, according to Zawahiri, is to provoke the US into a military response, in order to generate outrage at the US for its double standard, which it can then use to make the US the target of its recruitment activities in the short term. Then, when it is strong enough, it will turn on the governments in the Middle East that it portrays as dependent upon US support for their continued existence.

The US has no choice, then, but to change strategy. The criminal justice approach is the only approach that treats the situation in the Middle East as it is: these governments are facing the threat of civil war. This strategy not only promises justice, but exacts it in the same way that Americans have come to expect — as targeting the actual perpetrators, conspirators, and planners. We must sting the arms dealers. We must do far more to filter out terrorists attempting to enter or bring materiel into the US. We must pressure oppressive governments to improve the standard of living of their people and

allow them more freedom. We must compel Israel and the Palestinians to a just resolution of their conflict. And perhaps most importantly, we must allow for the testimony of an Iraqi victim, alone, to convict an American abuser. Only then will we be able to honestly say that we have recognized and dealt with our own double standard.

Issues in which Locals of the Green Party of Virginia are Involved

- The Green Party is the only party fully committed to peace!
- The GPVA supports the DC Statehood Green Party in their mission to achieve statehood.
- Opposition to the unpatriotic Patriot Act.
- Opposition to the Mattaponi River Dam/Prince William Reservoir
- Health Care
- Traffic Reduction/Rail/Anti-Sprawl
- Affordable Housing
- Living Wage
- Identification of the Worst Local Polluters

GET INVOLVED !

Virginia at the Crossroads: Which Energy Future?

Elena Day, Central Virginia

People's Alliance for Clean Energy (PACE) along with some other groups — Nuclear Information and Research Services, Public Citizen, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, and possibly CCPJ and Piedmont group of the Sierra Club — will be sponsoring a day long conference entitled *Virginia at the Crossroads: Which Energy Future?* on October 2, at Clark Hall, Environmental Sciences Building, UVA, in Charlottesville.

As you know, Dominion Power has made preliminary application to build two new nuclear reactors at North Anna in Louisa County. Is nuclear power safe? What about terrorism? What about radioactive waste? And what will be the impact on Lake Anna and water resources downstream? The purpose of the one-day conference is to educate ourselves on nuclear power and explore safe alternatives for Virginia.

Paul Gunter of NIRS will give the introductory address, entitled "Nuclear Virginia: Past, Past, and Future." Workshops include *The ABC's of Nuclear Power, Health and Nuclear Power, Fuel Pools, Dry Casks, And Yucca Mtn.*, and *Renewables in Virginia* — to mention a few. Arjun Makhajani, of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, will give the keynote address, entitled *Meeting Our Future Energy Needs*. Registration begins at 9:00. The fee is \$10 and includes lunch, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. There will also be time for networking and discussion of activist strategies. For more information or to register, call 434-296-2494.

Fall 2004 GPVA Meeting Scheduled for Rockbridge County

Eric Sheffield, Rockbridge Greens

The Rockbridge Greens will be hosting the fall meeting of the Green Party of Virginia on Saturday, November 13th near Lexington. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and finish before 5 pm. A delicious vegetarian lunch will be provided by the Rockbridge Greens.

The meeting will be held at the Maury River Friends Meeting House at the intersection of W. Midland Trail (Old Rt. 60) and Waterloo Rd. The Meeting House is an historic 19th century church built on the banks of Kerrs Creek. Rockbridge County surrounds the small cities of Lexington and Buena Vista and is known for its rural beauty, outdoor recreation, civil war history, and as a hotbed of Green organizing. Contact Eric Sheffield, eric@rockbridge.net, or 540-261-4306 for information or accommodations.

Directions: From I-81 exit onto I-64 west at Lexington. Continue on I-64 about five miles to the second exit, which is Kerrs Creek. After exiting, turn left on Fredericksburg Rd. and go a half mile to the stop sign at a "T" intersection. Turn right at the stop sign on Midland Trail and proceed about three miles to Waterloo Rd.

Arlington/Courthouse Greens Local Update

Kirit Mookerjee, Arlington / Courthouse Greens

Arlington/Courthouse Greens have been involved in two major efforts in the first part of this year.

First, in partnership with many local community groups including churches, unions, and residents, Arlington Greens have assisted the Living Wage Coalition to collect thousands of petition signatures, lobby the County Board, and speak out at public hearings. In large part because of these efforts, the County budget for next year includes a living wage for county, school system, and in-home assisted care employees. The expansion of the ordinance to include Arlington County's contractors is still being debated. Overall, this effort has allowed Greens to interact with key elected officials and many diverse community groups in the interest of promoting social and economic justice.

Secondly, as the war marches on in Iraq, members of Arlington Greens have played key roles in the formation of Northern Virginians for Peace—an umbrella group of churches, synagogues, mosques, and residents networking in opposition to the war. Larry Yates, a well-known activist and Arlington Green, has marshaled a weekly event every Saturday at the Clarendon Metro station. Other Arlington Greens have spoken out at town hall meetings and been quoted in local community newspapers. Northern Virginians for Peace continues to stress that the best way to support the troops is to bring them home!

Visit the Arlington / Courthouse Greens website at <http://arlingtongreens.org> for more information.





I-81: Where Are We?

James Vail, Rockbridge

What does a former riverboat captain, whose home is Fort Yukon, seven miles above the Arctic Circle, have to do with the Shenandoah Valley? Plenty, it seems.

Congressman Don Young (R, AK), the powerful Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, wants a demonstration 325 mile, 4 lane "truckway" constructed in Virginia's I-81 corridor as his legacy. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and many politicians, appear similarly inclined to help start this \$13 billion project. For his part, Young has requested a \$900 million earmark in federal funds as a part of the House transportation bill, which is now in joint House/Senate conference.

The plan to construct dedicated truck lanes along the I-81 corridor is well advanced. STAR Solutions, a consortium of highway builders headed by the Halliburton Corporation, is currently negotiating a contract with VDOT, following the selection of the STAR proposal by a special I-81 advisory committee.

On a parallel, but separate track, VDOT has chosen a contractor to conduct the first phase of an environmental impact statement (EIS), a draft of which is expected to be available for public comment by the summer of 2005 (interestingly, the firm hired by VDOT to conduct the Phase 1 EIS was a former partner in the STAR consortium).

While the EIS has the potential to assure the Valley's citizens that the option chosen to deal with increasing truck traffic is environmentally acceptable, so far its development appears to focus on process, rather than on substance. VDOT has been very careful to make certain that all the mandated steps in the development of the EIS are complied with, such as providing the opportunity for public comment at appropriate times. However, whether or not the comments so far received from interested citizens and organizations have had any impact on the decision process is an open question.

Although VDOT has indicated that all reasonable options for dealing with the increasing traffic on I-81 will be assessed, it appears that the "supersizing" of I-81 by laying more asphalt is clearly the preferred, and the more likely, option that will be ultimately chosen.

RAIL Solution, a group of western Virginia citizens favoring an upgraded rail system to carry "time-sensitive" freight now traveling on I-81 trucks, has been successful in having some 40 jurisdictions pass resolutions favoring a viable rail alternative. Information about this group, including their concerns about a widened I-81 and details about a modern high-speed railroad to carry intermodal freight, may be found at www.railsolution.org.

Locally, opposition to the STAR proposal has been mounted by the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC). RACC has critiqued numerous VDOT documents and has provided written and verbal testimony at various local and state venues. RACC will host a business meeting of RAIL Solution at the RACC office on Saturday, September 26th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Folks interested in this issue are welcome.

Greens Endorse Million Worker March, Planned for October 17 in Washington, D.C.

GPUS Press Release, September 6, 2004

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Green Party of the United States has endorsed the Million Worker March, which is planned to take place in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, October 17, 2004.

"The Green Party is a working people's party -- we reject the money and influence of corporate lobbies that have enthralled the Democratic and Republican parties," said Maya O'Connor, co-chair of the national party and an employee of United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

"As Greens and as working people, we look forward to marching behind our party's banner and to meeting people from all over the U.S. who share our ideals," added Ms. O'Connor, who is also a member of the Newspaper Guild, which is part of Communications Workers of America. "The demands of the Million Worker March are Green Party demands."

The Coordinating Committee of the Green Party, in which 43 state Green Parties are represented, voted overwhelmingly to endorse the event.

The Million Worker March was proposed by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10, in response to the attacks upon working families in America, invasion and occupation of Iraq, and the millions of jobs lost under the Bush administration with the complicity of Congress. ILWU member and march organizer Clarence Thomas received a standing ovation after addressing the Coordinating Committee at the 2004 Green National Convention in Milwaukee on June 25.

The Green Party's platform calls for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act's restrictions on workplace organizing, living wages, single-payer national health insurance, and creation of jobs through public works programs and community-based businesses. Greens have vigorously opposed international trade authorities, such as NAFTA and FTAA, that wield the power to overrule nationally and locally enacted labor and environmental protections.

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

Green Veep Candidate to Sleep in a Dozen Homeless Shelters

GPUS Press Release, September 8, 2004

Green Party vice presidential candidate Pat LaMarche announced her upcoming "Left Out Tour," an unprecedented two week journey designed to draw attention to those living on the edge of society -- the homeless, victims of domestic abuse, people without health insurance, and the working poor -- and to collect donations of essential items for homeless shelters.

The tour will start on September 21 in Augusta, Maine, where the Governor's Council on Affordable Housing will be meeting, and end in Cleveland, Ohio, October 4, on the evening prior to the vice presidential debate. In between those dates, LaMarche will crisscross the country sleeping in

Cobb Launches Green Tour

Green Presidential Candidate will focus on Innovative Environmental Solutions

GPUS Press Release, September 13, 2004

Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb will begin his "Green Tour," highlighting innovative solutions to the environmental issues we face, this Wednesday in Michigan. Cobb's Green Tour will take him to Minnesota's Green Institute and the largest solar array in the Upper Midwest, a wind farm in Nebraska and will conclude on September 25, at the Common Ground Festival in Unity, Maine an event sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association.

"The Green Party is the party of peace, the Green Party is the party of social and racial justice, we are the party of genuine democracy and yes, we are the party dedicated to protecting the planet which sustains all life on earth. While some parties may choose to stick their heads in the sand and ignore crises like life-threatening global warming, Greens are actively working on solutions. Creative, positive solutions are the focus of the Green Tour," said Cobb.

Cobb's Green Tour will examine environmental justice issues, examples of green buildings and architecture, and growing industries, such as organic agriculture, which are good for the environment and the economy. Cobb will use a hybrid vehicle whenever possible on the Green Tour.

Cobb has previously called for a massive investment in alternative energy to reduce pollution and global warming, create millions of jobs and eliminate the need to wage war on oil-rich nations.

"This isn't exactly rocket science. The solutions are right in front of us. Unfortunately, the two old establishment parties put the profits of the energy corporations and their other corporate contributors ahead of the concerns of their constituents. The Green Party puts people first. We know that protecting the people of this country and protecting our health and our economy means protecting the environment," said Cobb.

The Green Tour will take Cobb to Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Maryland, Massachusetts and Maine.

homeless and domestic violence shelters and in a tent across from the Rhode Island Statehouse. LaMarche will also hold an all-night vigil in front of the current vice president's mansion in Washington, D.C.

"The reason for the Left Out Tour is to focus on people who are left out in our society and more importantly, to demonstrate things we can do to help them," said LaMarche.

The Left Out Tour is a first in the history of U.S. political campaigns. Never before has a vice presidential candidate used "the bully pulpit" to raise awareness about America's least privileged citizens. And no vice presidential candidate has ever been bold enough to walk in their shoes.

LaMarche will use the tour to raise donations for homeless shelters of blankets, toiletries and children's books.





Issue	Green Party	Republicans	Democrats
Pro-Choice	Support Greens support full access to abortion , with funding, for all women in the U.S. and around the world.	Oppose Republicans: Bush opposes abortion, ordered a ban on US funds for overseas agencies that offer abortion.	Support? Democrats: Support abortion rights -- but Clinton signed the same ban in November, 1999. Gore favored outlawing late-term abortion in the US.
Strict Standards on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)	Support Greens support thorough testing and strict controls of all GMOs.	Oppose	Oppose
Corporate Agriculture	Oppose Greens support family-scale farms, diversified, sustainable agriculture that emphasizes organic growing methods.	Support	Support
Increase Automobile fuel Efficiency	Increase Standards. Advocate vastly increased fuel efficiency standards, a "gas guzzler" tax on new inefficient vehicles, and a "gas sipper" rebate on efficient vehicles.	Maintain Inadequate Standards	Maintain Inadequate Standards
Drug War	Oppose	Support	Support
Labor Unions and a Living Wage	Support A living wage, democratic workplaces, and strong unions. Urge repeal of Taft-Hartley Act .	Oppose Republicans oppose raising minimum wages and have worked to weaken unions.	Lip Service Only Democrats undermined NLRB under Clinton, exported US jobs, supported NAFTA, WTO. They claim to support unions but refuse to overturn Taft-Hartley Act restrictions on union organizing.
WTO	Oppose Greens oppose the WTO because of their anti-democratic power to overturn labor, environmental, and human rights protections.	Support	Support
NAFTA	Oppose	Support	Support
Fast Track	Oppose	Support	Support
Handouts to Wealthy	Oppose Greens support progressive taxes (relief for low-income and working people); would move funding from military spending to environmental and social needs, including assistance for the poor.	Support Bush's tax cuts will give the richest 1% over \$470 billion (36% of \$1.3 trillion in cuts) over the next 10 years. Passed the Bankruptcy Bill favoring credit card businesses over consumers.	Support Democrats proposed a \$1.35 trillion tax cut, compromising with Bush, and helped pass the Bankruptcy Bill . Clinton signed the Welfare Reform Act, cutting aid to the poorest Americans.
Death Penalty	Oppose	Support	Support
Military spending	Decrease Call for sharp reductions in military spending with funds redirected into social and environmental needs.	Increase Pushed for increases and enactment of "Star Wars" National Missile Defense. The Bush administration is full of people with direct ties to military industry.	Increase Gore proposed even greater increases in military spending and he supported Star Wars.
Increased Accounting Oversight .	Always Supported Supports fundamental changes in the way publicly traded companies' financial records are audited.	Oppose	Opposed until the Enron scandal broke.





Issue	Green Party	Republicans	Democrats
Patriot Act	Oppose Law gives too much power to President and undermines civil liberties. Law will NOT help prevent terrorism.	Support	Support
War with Iraq	Oppose Opposed to removing a foreign leader with violent means that will endanger the lives of civilians and threaten to destabilize the entire Middle East region.	Support Most Republicans in congress supported a full scale invasion of Iraq.	Support Less than a handful of Democrats openly criticized George Bush's calls for an invasion.
Kyoto Treaty - Global Warming	Support Support rapid reduction of global Greenhouse gas emissions. Support Kyoto Treaty ; higher efficiency standards; conversion to renewable energy sources.	Oppose Oppose any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Bush withdrew the U.S. from the Kyoto Treaty.	Oppose and Failed to Act. Failed to act on global warming in 1990s. Clinton and Gore sabotaged the Kyoto Treaty in November, 2000, demanding higher US greenhouse gas emissions.
National Health Insurance	Support Single-payer national health insurance , with guaranteed treatment and medicine, and with choice of doctors and hospitals.	Oppose	Oppose Clinton and Gore deleted plans for universal health care from the Democratic platform.
100% Publicly Financed Elections - Real Campaign Finance Reform	Support Greens will not accept corporate PAC contributions. Propose comprehensive campaign finance reform, with full public financing of elections to remove the influence of big money .	Oppose Accept big checks from corporations, including defense contractors, oil companies, insurance and drug firms, etc.	Oppose Democrats say they support campaign finance reform but they do not advocate for 100% publicly financed elections - while they continue to accept big checks from corporate PACs.
Telecommunications Deregulation - Giveaway of public broadcast spectrum to private companies.	Opposed to Deregulation Supports the creation of substantial public space for non-profit use of airwaves.	Supported Supported the giveaway of public airwaves to private companies.	Supported Supported the giveaway of public airwaves to private companies.
Bank Deregulation and Banking Reform	Opposed to bank deregulation.	Supported bank deregulation.	Supported bank deregulation.
Enron Contributions to Party National Committees (2001)	\$0	\$114,752	\$102,050
Enron Contributions to Current Members of Congress, 1989-2001	\$0	\$761,000 158 Members	\$368,000 98 members
Financial Sector and Credit Card Industry Donations	\$0	\$440,119	\$287,000
Election Reforms	Support Greens support proposals to provide free air-time to all candidates, enact instant run-off voting ; and establish independent monitoring of elections.	Oppose	Oppose
Reform the Presidential Debate Commission	Support A new citizen-controlled debate commission should be formed to handle all future Presidential debates.	Oppose	Oppose Did everything they could to keep third party candidates out of the Presidential debates in 2000.



Upcoming State Party Meeting

Saturday, November 13, 2004
10:00am – 5:00pm

Maury River Friends Meeting House
at the intersection of
W. Midland Trail (Old Rt. 60) and Waterloo Rd.
Lexington

See story on page 4 for details.



Greens' 10 Key Values

Grassroots Democracy: Citizens have the right and responsibility to participate in the environmental, political, and economic decisions that affect our lives.

Social Justice: Everyone should share in the fruits of our society, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, class, age, or disability. We work for a world in which all can live free of fear and discrimination.

Ecological Wisdom: Whatever we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves. We advocate stewardship of our resources for the continued health of our communities and our planet.

Nonviolence: We reject violence at all levels of society, from the family to the nation. We promote peace by working for justice and by advocating non-violent resolution to conflict.

Decentralization: Concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few contributes to social and economic injustice as well as environmental destruction. We call for the return of local decision-making so individuals and communities may act in their own best interests.

Community-Based Economics: We support the strengthening of local communities by encouraging economic self-reliance in all ways practical.

Feminism: We call for cooperative ways of interacting to replace the cultural ethics of domination and control. We actively promote equal rights for all citizens.

Respect for Diversity: We support the cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious, and spiritual diversity among all people. We also cherish and encourage the preservation of the Earth's biodiversity.

Personal & Global Responsibility: As individuals, we strive to be mindful of our inter-connectedness, to consider the effects of our actions and lifestyle choices on the Earth and its inhabitants.

Future Focus & Sustainability: For love of our children, we consider the long range consequences of current actions. For the sake of future generations, we seek to create a society which meets the needs of everyone within the natural limits of the Earth.

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Membership

The Greens of Virginia welcome all persons who are committed to the Greens' Ten Key Values. Membership is open to anyone, regardless of gender, age, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or handicap. Members receive our newsletter and other mailings, and are invited to attend our meetings and public forums. *We look forward to meeting you!*

YES, I am committed to the Greens' Ten Key Values and would like to become a member.

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

County _____

Districts : Congressional _____ State Senate _____ House of Delegates _____ Local _____

Please let us know your expertise in any area which you are willing to promote either the GPVA or one of its locals:

Please select the local most appropriate for you (See the list to the left). If there is no local in your area, choose the Greens of Virginia At-Large. All members of these affiliated locals are also members of the Greens / Green Party of Virginia.

Unlike the Democrats and Republicans, the Green Party accepts no corporate contributions. We rely on the generous support of citizens like you. Please consider contributing \$10, \$20, \$50, \$75, or \$100 to help us work for community-based democracy.

Contribution (optional) \$ _____ Employer (if donation this year exceeds \$200) _____

Federal law requires us to collect the name, address, occupation and employer from donors contributing more than \$200 per year. Please include this information with your check. You must be at least 18 years of age in order to contribute. Contributions to the Green Party of Virginia are not tax deductible.

Thank you for your support! Please return this form and optional contribution to :

The Green Party of Virginia, P.O. Box 7316 Falls Church, VA. 22040
or sign up on our website at www.vagreennparty.org