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AMERICA IN DENIAL : Oil, Terrorism, and Saudi Arabia

Bob Petrusak, NOVA Greens

A. "Friendly" Saudi Arabia: Source of Oil and Extremism

The September 11th attacks by al-Qaeda have been used to justify the Bush Doctrine of preventive war, the disregard of international law, and the unprovoked invasion of Iraq. However, none of the September 11th hijackers was an Iraqi, and searches of Iraq yielded neither weapons of mass destruction nor collaboration between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda.¹ In contrast, Saudi nationals provided al-Qaeda with leadership, funding, ideology and 15

of the 19 September 11th hijackers.² In fact, every one of the hijackers was a member of the Saudi-based Wahhabi sect, as is their leader, Osama bin Laden.³ There is even evidence suggesting that persons within the Saudi government may have assisted the al-Qaeda terror organization prior to September 11th.⁴

Such realities may have motivated some Democrats and Republicans to endorse energy independence through alternative fuels as a means of promoting national security.⁵ Some Republican policy makers have even begun to question the transfer of oil dollars to persons hostile to the United States.⁶

However, America has yet to accept how the greed of the industrial West for the oil of the Middle East has fostered extremism, particularly in "friendly" Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil producer. Americans remain in a state of denial as to how the same excessive consumption which threatens the life-giving qualities of the Earth has also incited and aided terrorism. The recent pictures of George W. Bush walking about his Texas ranch hand-in-hand with the Saudi Crown Prince symbolize the national refusal to face reality.⁷

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Challenging Corporate Power : A Joint Project of the NOVA Greens and Arlington Greens

Paul Hughes, Co-Chair, NOVA Greens

In November 2004, months of planning by the Northern Virginia Green Party and the Arlington Green Party culminated in the first of a three-part "Green Hour" community television series on "Challenging Corporate Power". This collaborative effort began during the spring of 2004 with the updating of a previous Sierra Club PowerPoint presentation by Paul Hughes, Co-Chair of the NOVA Greens, and the enrollment of Don Rouse, a member of the Arlington Greens, in a TV director train-

ing program sponsored by the nonprofit arm of Arlington's private cable television station, the Arlington Independent Media. Kirit Mookerjee, of the Arlington / Courthouse Greens and current Virginia Green Party treasurer, agreed to serve as moderator for the half-hour interview programs.

The series is meant to draw the viewers' attention to the underlying cause of many of our separate campaigns for peace, justice, the environment, national health care, etc. The first show aired in November and introduced viewers to the root causes of corpo-

rate domination in much of our political, economic, social, cultural, and personal lives in the U.S. today. The history of corporations was traced, from the pre-Colonial era, the early period of this country following the signing of the Constitution through the Robber Baron period, through the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company (1886)*, to today's global corporate environment. It described the extent to which large, multinational corporations currently

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Democrats are Rubberstamping the Bush Agenda

GPUS Press Release, May 16, 2005

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Green Party leaders claim that Democrats are supporting some of the most damaging and extreme agenda items of the Republican Party, citing the unanimous Senate vote to institute a national identity card for all Americans.

"We're moving towards a one-party system, with Democrats rubberstamping most Republican legislation," said David Cobb, the Green Party's 2004 presidential candidate.

Senate Democrats and Republicans, unanimously and virtually without debate, approved the 'Real ID

Act.' This legislation mandates electronic ID cards for all Americans in accord with Homeland Security Department specifications.

Greens called the Real ID Act, which was slipped into an otherwise uncontroversial spending bill, a major step towards universal surveillance, a violation of the right to privacy and freedom of mobility, an ineffective security measure, and a vicious attempt to blame undocumented immigrants for the nation's problems. (Many Greens have supported other provisions in the bill, especially the increases in death benefits, life insurance, and payments for

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Rubberstamping Bush

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traumatic injury for U.S. service members.)

The Senate also voted unanimously on May 10 in favor of \$82 billion in emergency appropriations for military expenses in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Greens have called for an immediate end to the occupation and are urging defeat for HR-1268, the National Defense Authorization Act, but predict overwhelming support for the bill from both Democrats and Republicans.

Green Party leaders noted that mainstream Democrats have long agreed with Republicans on numerous major issues, favoring antidemocratic supranational trade authorities (NAFTA, WTO, etc.), the war on drugs, the 1996 Antiterrorism and USA Patriot Acts, the death penalty, the 1996 Telecommunications Act, welfare reform that penalizes the poor, expanded drilling for oil in Alaska, bills privileging credit card and other financial corporations over working Americans, and surrender of Congress's constitutional power to declare war to the

White House. Last month, Democratic Party national chair Howard Dean endorsed the continued U.S. occupation of Iraq. (Greens take the opposite position on all these issues.) Democratic Party leaders have also rebuffed attempts within their own party to introduce national health insurance, repeal Taft-Hartley restrictions on workplace organizing, and grant statehood to the District of Columbia.

"When John Kerry scolds his fellow Democrats for supporting same-sex marriage and Howard Dean hopes that Bush's Iraq policy is 'incredibly successful', it's painfully clear that the U.S. lacks opposing leadership," said Pat LaMarche, Green candidate for Vice President in 2004.

"Democracy demands an opposition party to challenge and debate the direction of our nation. The U.S. is in grave peril with no voice but that of the administration, amplified by the Democrats. That's why the Greens are the fastest growing political party in the country."

MORE INFORMATION
The Green Party of the United States
<http://www.gp.org>

Greed for Oil

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The official explanation for Saudi involvement in September 11th dwells on Saudi involvement in the decade-long Soviet-Afghan War that began in 1979. However, the land now known as Saudi Arabia had been a source of extremism and religious conflict for decades, if not centuries before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Some members of the Wahhabist sect, founded in the barren, central Nejd region in the 1740's, have promoted intolerance of Christians, Jews and more traditional forms of Islam, particularly the Shia faith. In 1802, Wahhabis sacked Karbala, slaughtering Shiite inhabitants and plundering the shrine of the 7th century Shiite martyr, Hussein; lesser attacks on Shiites continued into the early 20th century.⁸ In the latter 1920's, Wahhabi extremists rebelled against the Saud dynasty because of its relations with the West, and in a separate incident attacked and killed Muslim pilgrims from Egypt.⁹ In the weeks prior to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, extremists seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca and Shiites rioted in the Saudi oil regions, where they now form an oppressed minority.¹⁰ Clearly, the Soviet-Afghan War was not a cause of Saudi extremism; to the contrary, it provided the Saudi regime with opportunities to spread Wahhabism and send extremists out of the country.¹¹ The real causes of Saudi extremism as a powerful component of modern terrorism are intertwined with the formation of the Saudi state and the subsequent advent of enormous oil wealth.

Saudi Arabia is a society steeped in conflict and contradiction. It is the keeper of the holiest places of Islam and the provider of the oil that vitalizes the infidel West. It is ruled by an extremely wealthy, Westernized elite yet it was founded on the religious militancy and puritanical austerity of Wahhabism which regards the West with utter disdain. The Saud family allied itself with Wahhabism in the mid-18th century, and this sect has since provided the religious ideology that held the Saudi state together.¹² It also provided the warriors that enabled the Saud family to twice conquer most of the Arabian peninsula: once during the latter 1700's and again between the years 1902 and 1926, approximately a century after war with the Ottoman Empire destroyed the first Saud kingdom.¹³ That first kingdom had risen in a time when the Ottoman Empire was declining but still capable of suppressing upstart princes. The latter Kingdom, modern Saudi Arabia, rose while the Ottoman Empire died, and the British Empire, with an insatiable lust for oil, became the region's dominant power. However, the British believed that there was no oil in the Arabian peninsula and thus allowed it to become a stronghold of extremism.¹⁴

B . British Designs for Modern Saudi Arabia: An Oil-Poor State in an Oil-Rich Region.

The 24 year process of restoring the modern Saud kingdom coincided with the creation of a "new" British Empire in Iran and Iraq far more promising than the troubled British domain in India. In 1901, the British began prospecting for oil in Iran and discovered huge reserves in 1908.¹⁵ By 1927, oil was discovered in Iraq, which had been organized as a British mandate after World War I.¹⁶ The British also exercised considerable influence over Iran's autocratic monarchy partly because they had helped subvert constitutional government in Iran between 1907 and 1911.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Greens,

We are excited about the road ahead, 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)
3. Local Reports & Upcoming Events
4. Book Reviews
5. Personal Expressions (Observations, experiences, reactions and opinions, Original poetry and artwork, Motivational and inspirational pieces, Words from the officers)
6. Photos of GPVA members in action (please remember an accompanying blurb)
7. GPVA members' direct actions and ongoing collaborations with other groups
8. National and International Green News
9. 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.



Greed for Oil

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The British lust for oil initially began as a means of sustaining the naval supremacy on which their empire depended. Well before World War I, oil-poor Britain began craving petroleum as a naval fuel because it gave warships greater range, speed, and acceleration than coal. Oil-fueled warships were also safer, cleaner, and roomier than coal-fired vessels and could be refueled at sea with relative ease. Oil also improved morale and efficiency by eliminating the miserable job of stoking boilers and freeing scores of crewmen for other tasks.¹⁷

The advantages of oil as a naval fuel, and its abundance in the Persian Gulf region, would have enormous repercussions for Europe and the two great oil-poor powers, Britain and Germany, who were competing to build more powerful navies. About four years after the precursor of Britain's Anglo-Persian Oil Company found oil in Iran, young Winston Churchill, civilian head of the British Admiralty helped commit Britain to an exclusively oil-fueled fleet. Two years later, on the eve of World War I, Churchill helped engineer a British government purchase of a controlling share in Anglo-Persian, which would eventually grow into the multi-national giant, British Petroleum. Britain, like Germany, correctly expected to find vast reserves of oil in the future Iraq, then part of the declining Ottoman Empire. British-German rivalry in this region helped foment World War I which brought unanticipated horror and agony along with a vastly expanded demand for oil. The war, which included British-Ottoman hostilities throughout the Middle East, proved oil to be vital not only for navies, but also for newly-mechanized armies and newly-formed air forces. After the war, civilian demand for oil soared as cars, trucks, buses, and even aircraft became widely used. Oil was not only essential for all military operations, it promised new economic vitality to over-extended, debt-ridden imperial powers like Britain and France, who both clamored for a share of the anticipated oil wealth of northern Iraq. In fact, British forces pushed on to seize this region even after their government had signed an armistice with the Ottomans.¹⁸

In restoring the family kingdom between 1902 and 1926, Abdul Aziz ibn Saud eventually raised an army of fanatical Wahhabis known as the "Ikhwan" or "Brotherhood." Ibn Saud waged war on other Arabs and, more importantly, chose the winning side in the First World War. Ibn Saud's alliance with the British contributed little if anything to the defeat of Britain's Ottoman Turkish adversary. However, the British, for self-serving reasons, would allow the Saud to fill much of the power vacuum left by the demise of the Ottoman Empire as a result of World War I. During the post-war years 1919-1925, the Saud's Wahhabi army defeated the rival Hashemite dynasty and drove them from Mecca and Medina and the surrounding Hejaz region, the Muslim Holy Land. The Hashemites had served the British well during World War I by leading the Arab Revolt now remembered mostly for the British advisor T.E. Lawrence, the fabled "Lawrence of Arabia." This revolt occupied thousands of Turkish troops and helped the British Empire seize both Palestine and Iraq, the latter being taken with a largely Indian force. Most importantly, the revolt kept the Ottomans from the Red Sea coast, from which they could have severed Britain's sea link with India and the troops it was providing for the western front.¹⁹

Why did the British abandon the Hasehmites, practitioners of tolerant mainstream Islam and proven allies, in favor of the Saud and their intolerant Wahhabi fanatics? The answer is "oil", but not because the Saud were believed to possess it. Rather, the British were using the proven imperial strategy of "divide and rule" to control not only the oil of Iran and Iraq but also the waterways that carried the oil west: the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Red Sea and Suez Canal. A poor and backward Saudi state controlling Mecca and Medina, as well as large stretches of Persian Gulf and Red Sea shoreline, defeated hopes for a united Arab nation that inevitably would have challenged British interests. During the war, the British had promised a united Arabia under Hashemite leadership as a means of inciting the Arabs to revolt against the Ottoman Turks. The Arab nation contemplated by the British promise would have included most of the Arabian peninsula, much of the inland region around Damascus, and oil-rich Iraq.²⁰ Such a nation would have ultimately threatened British hegemony over both Iraqi oil and the vital waterways. Lord Crewe, a British diplomat candidly admitted:

*What we want is not a united Arabia, but a weak and disunited Arabia, split into little principalities as far as possible under our suzerainty—but incapable of coordinated action against us.*²¹

Britain's wartime promise was set forth in written, long-distance negotiations between the Hashemite Hussein ibn Ali, Sharif of Mecca, and the British Commissioner for Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon. However, this "Hussein-McMahon Correspondence" of July, 1915 to March, 1916, evidenced British intent to exclude the Arabs from the Mediterranean coast by keeping lands west of Damascus, Hama and Aleppo (Halab) out of Arab hands. Final disposition of these lands was put off until after the war. Moreover, within 18 months of these negotiations, the British announced the Balfour Declaration, promising a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Hussein would later cry "foul" on the grounds that Palestine was within the Arab nation contemplated by the negotiations. McMahon claimed that he had not intended to include Palestine "in the area in which Arab independence was promised" and that this had been understood by Hussein.²² Amazingly, their negotiations defined the western boundary of the new Arab nation as simply the Mediterranean and Red Seas, without any further delineation of the land between these two bodies of water.²³ This undefined area consisted of mainly the Sinai peninsula, but certainly not the whole of Palestine. Thus, the Arabs believed that their new nation was entitled to a share of the Mediterranean coast, a result the British would not allow.

Keeping Palestine out of the hands of a strong or potentially strong regional power was seen as a matter of strategic necessity by the British. Turkish forces in Palestine had marched on Suez early in 1915. This attack, albeit unsuccessful, haunted the British with fear that Palestine with its arable land could once again be a staging area for an army assaulting Suez. Denying the Arabs Mediterranean ports and the arable coastal lands would also keep them weaker and less independent. This, in turn, could only advance British plans to pipe Iraqi oil to some of those same ports. Such plans were eventually realized, and pipelines from Iraq to the Mediterranean ports of Haifa and Tripoli comprised an important part of British strategy, by shortening the distance the oil had to travel, while reducing

dependence on the Suez Canal.²⁴ Haifa, also the site of a refinery, would eventually become part of Israel.

Tripoli, west of the Damascus-Hama-Aleppo line, would become part of the Maronite-Christian dominated state of Lebanon. The British clearly preferred "divide and rule" to having to contend with a major regional power that could have the ability to nationalize British assets or otherwise secure a greater share of the wealth.

In fact, during McMahon's lengthy negotiations with Hussein, the British and French secretly agreed on an entirely different fate for Iraq and those lands to the west with a Mediterranean shoreline. During the latter weeks of 1915 and early 1916, Britain and France negotiated the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which partitioned the Ottoman Empire into British, French, Russian and Italian zones.²⁵ This secret agreement, published by Bolsheviks who discovered it in the files of the Czar's government, contemplated British and French control over both Iraq and wide corridors to the Mediterranean; that is, control of the oil regions and access to the sea! Sykes-Picot belied the sanctimonious Franco-British claims that they fought for the freedom and self-determination of oppressed peoples, and instead suggested a cynical greed for oil. Sykes-Picot caused considerable outrage, particularly among Arabs. Further negotiations among the Allies, including the 1920 San Remo conference, resulted in British mandates over Iraq, Palestine, and Transjordan, a French mandate over Syria, and an oil sharing agreement between Britain and France for the oil regions of Iraq.²⁶

Although Hussein's sons, Faisal and Abdallah, wound up as puppet-kings in Iraq and Transjordan, Hussein was, to say the least, enraged by British duplicity. He became the first Arab leader to seriously protest the Balfour Declaration as prejudicial to the Arab majority in Palestine.²⁷ He regarded the British mandates as a poor substitute for the independent nation promised in his negotiations with McMahon. Having declared himself King of Hejaz, the newly independent coastal region containing Mecca, Medina and the ports of Jidda and Aqaba, Hussein refused to sign a friendship treaty with the British. However, such a measure would likely have done him little good, as the British were already regarding the Saud as the dynasty destined to dominate the Arabian peninsula. Serious border clashes with Ibn Saud's Wahhabis had weakened Hussein's army, and when full-scale war erupted in 1924, the Saud appeared likely to prevail.²⁸

After pilgrims cleared the holy cities, the Saud attacked and took Taif, the eastern gateway to Mecca. Ibn Saud's Ikhwan slaughtered many civilians, and Mecca was abandoned to the Saud. Jeddah and Medina were defended, and the defenders proclaimed a constitutional republic after Hussein abdicated.²⁹ Having declared themselves "neutral," the British ignored pleas for help against the Wahhabi onslaught. Some maintain the British supplied arms and advisers to the Saud, while cynically denying them to the Hashemites.³⁰ The British did afford asylum to Hussein, who fled with a fortune in gold coins. They also seized the Hejazi port of Aqaba and awarded it to Transjordan, a morale-breaking move which also reminded the Saud who really ruled the region.³¹

Jeddah and Medina fell in December, 1925, and

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Greed for Oil

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in January, 1926, ibn Saud proclaimed himself "King of Nejd and Hejaz and Their Dependencies."

In 1927, a group of Wahhabi extremists rebelled, angry over creeping modernity and Saud relations with the British. The rebels were particularly incensed that British enforcement of the border between Iraq and Saudi Arabia stopped their raids on Iraqi Shiites.³¹ With British aid, including vehicles, weapons, and aircraft flown by British pilots, ibn Saud defeated the rebels,³³ and in 1932, he renamed his domain "Saudi Arabia." However, the dynasty ultimately accommodated Wahhabism by giving its adherents control over the Kingdom's religious and cultural institutions.³⁴

This accommodation would have been of little consequence had Saudi Arabia remained a poor and backward society dominated by religious reactionaries who tore down telephone lines, smashed cars and despised most innovations, except rifles and other modern weapons. As such, Saudi Arabia would have been another "little principality" in the British sphere of influence, a near perfect obstacle to the largely secular Arab nationalism that was trying to emerge after World War I. Had the British realized the extent of the oil wealth concentrated near the eastern shore of the new Kingdom, in the region the Shiites call "al-Hasa," the Saud princes likely would have suffered a fate similar to the Hashemites. The domain they aspired to rule could have easily been partitioned by a great power, and justice for Shiites in al-Hasa would have provided a perfect pretext. Allowing the Saud and their Wahhabi fanatics to control both the Muslim Holy Land and the vast oil wealth on the opposite shore would have been contrary to the British strategy of divide and rule. However, as a result of this strategy, the British have left an Arab world that is embittered and increasingly prone to religious extremism. The dangerous combination of Saudi Arabia's deeply-embedded religious extremism and enormous oil wealth would be made even more volatile by American policy.

C. American Investment, Unparalleled Oil Wealth and its Consequences

The destruction of telephone lines, cars, and other symbols of the modern world failed to isolate Saudi Arabia from the world economy. The worldwide depression of the early '30's caused a serious drop in pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina, and state revenues plunged. As a result, ibn Saud sold an oil concession to Standard of California (later renamed "Chevron") in May, 1933. It took nearly five years to strike oil.³⁵ However, Saudi Arabia's reserves were so great that their enormity was not fully realized until after the United States entered World War II.

The war brought a full-blown domestic energy crisis which had to be addressed with rationing. Nonetheless, America's abundant supply of oil proved to be the most important single factor in the Allied victory. Allied ships, planes and tanks ran on full fuel tanks while their Axis counterparts literally ran out of gas during crucial battles. Of equal importance was the ability to keep America's war industries running at full capacity while Axis industries suffered from fuel shortages and wasted considerable effort and resources on futile synthetic fuel programs. World War II was truly a victory of

the oil-rich United States, Soviet Union and British Empire over oil-poor Germany and Japan. Nonetheless, the energy lessons of the war would be lost in a post-war spate of consumption in which the United States gave up its energy independence and allowed the Persian Gulf to replace the Gulf of Mexico / Caribbean Basin as the major center of world oil production.³⁶ The America that had once supplied itself and other parts of the world was becoming a net importer of oil. The economic and national security implications of these changes are now manifested by trade deficits and terrorism.

With the end of wartime rationing and the onset of the Cold War in the latter 1940's, it became apparent that America's oil fields could not supply both increasing domestic consumption and perceived defense needs. The latter included not only fuel needed for ongoing operations, but also reserves that were believed necessary for another prolonged conventional war. In 1948, the National Security Resources Board recommended importing significant amounts of Middle Eastern oil so that a similar amount of Western Hemisphere oil could remain in the ground as a wartime reserve.³⁷ This was accomplished, in part, by ignoring demands for tariffs or quotas by independent American oil companies, a policy of favoring large corporations over small ones that would continue until import quotas were established in 1959.³⁸ However, this was not entirely an exercise of free-market economics. U.S. government policy in the Persian Gulf would profoundly affect the relationship between producer states and the oil companies, with the intent of insuring cheap gas at the pump, untouched military reserves under American soil, and preservation of the Saudi state.

In February 1945, President Roosevelt met King ibn Saud, on the U.S. cruiser *Quincy* in the Suez Canal Zone, to discuss post-war petroleum issues.³⁹ This historic meeting would result in an American commitment to preserve the Saudi state later expressed in writing by President Truman but never ratified as a defense treaty by the Senate.⁴⁰ Unlike Iran, Iraq, or Kuwait, Saudi Arabia's reserves were being exploited exclusively by major American companies, and those reserves had proved too large for Standard of California to fully develop and market on its own. Thus, in 1946, Standard of California and Texaco formed a consortium which was expanded in 1948 to include Standard of New Jersey (later "Exxon"), and Standard of New York (later "Mobil").⁴¹ The consortium, known as the "Arabian-American Oil Company" or simply "Aramco," represented an enormous investment vital to America's post-war economic and military plans. However, Aramco's success hinged upon the stability of the Saudi state, and King ibn Saud was aging and in poor health, and the father of some 37 sons, each of them a potential claimant to his throne.⁴²

President Truman's written assurance to the Saudi state, given in October of 1950, was alone insufficient to insure smooth succession and prevent unrest. In December of the same year, the State Department encouraged Aramco to share more proceeds with Saudi Arabia with the belief that money could strengthen this friendly government, quell discontent, and avert possible nationalization. This would result in the so-called "50-50 split" of profits between Aramco and the Saudi state. Although members of Congress had been made aware of the impending, and administratively-complex profit-sharing deal, the preceding and related Presidential guarantee of Saudi security was by then, a *fait*

accompli.

A corporate income tax deduction was integral to the "50-50 split."⁴³ The oil companies could deduct the greater revenues paid to the Saudis from their federal income tax. As a result, the losses incurred by giving more money to the Saudis would be borne primarily by the U.S. government and American taxpayers, not the oil companies! This arrangement was part of the overall U.S. commitment to preserve, at taxpayer expense, an autocratic government enriched by American corporations, despite the lack of Senate approval for the Presidential commitment. This arrangement would ultimately promote dynastic excess and corruption. It conferred unprecedented wealth on every potential pretender to the throne in a rapidly growing family of princes and in so doing, it would ultimately foster rather than quell discontent, in the expanding population of the Arabian Peninsula. The Saudi family now has, by conservative estimates, over 6,000 wealthy princes. They, and their families and associates, constitute a privileged elite whose garish life style and Western vices create untold indignation among Saudi Arabia's growing, impoverished underclass. Nonetheless, this elite includes members prone to support extremist causes, out of either sympathy or a perceived need to buy the favor of extremists.

Even without the "50-50" split, oil money would have surely flowed to the Wahhabist-run religious, cultural and charitable organizations that eventually funded terrorism.⁴⁴ Nonetheless, this arrangement represented a classic example of government attempting to solve a problem—in this case the inherent instability of the Saudi state—by simply throwing money at it. The "50-50 split" represented a quick and expedient alternative to a responsible, Congressionally-monitored foreign aid program that might have brought Saudi Arabia into the 20th century with greater educational and employment opportunities for its citizens and a more equitable sharing of its natural wealth. Instead, Saudi Arabia would become a society whose vast oil wealth would create resentment that fuels extremism while simultaneously funding extremist causes through state-sanctioned organizations. The fact that Wahhabi extremists revolted against the dynasty, even before it became wealthy and Westernized, was apparently overlooked in an arrangement that insured little for Saudi Arabia other than the gross enrichment and Westernizing of its ruling elite. Decades later, the dynasty's acceptance of an American military presence, in the face of threats by Saddam Hussein, would be viewed by Wahhabi extremists not as a reasonable national security measure but as a final, unacceptable betrayal of Wahhabism. By waging war to defend the Saudi state and its oil fields, American forces would incite a terrorist campaign against the United States.

Some 18 months after September 11th, America invaded Iraq, ousted Saddam, and removed forces from Saudi Arabia, where they had been a grievance of terrorists.⁴⁵ This may or may not mark the first time in history that a powerful nation waged war to appease its enemies. However, it certainly reflects the refusal of the Bush administration to acknowledge the role of America's dependence on Saudi oil in what that administration deems an existential struggle against world terrorism. A similar sense of denial pervades the American public, which continues its gross oil consumption despite ongoing war in the center of the world's greatest oil producing region.

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Greed for Oil

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It is foolhardy to hope that the U.S. can stop terrorism without re-examining its increasing dependence on the region's oil, which incites extremism while funding extremist causes.

During the 20th century, oil became the most precious strategic commodity of all time, the key to both military victory and economic prosperity. However, the unacceptable human and economic costs of the conflicts associated with oil create a compelling need for alternative energies.⁴⁶ Combining these costs with the ecological damage of fossil fuels makes such alternatives absolutely essential. There is no cause more important than moving humanity beyond the war-ravaged, environmentally destructive age of oil.

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¹¹Rashid, Ahmed, Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, 2000, p. 129
¹²Lacey, p. 57-59
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¹⁴Yergin, Daniel, The Prize; Free Press, N.Y., 1991, p. 281-282; A British firm known as the Eastern and General Syndicate explored for oil in the al-Hasa region of what is now Saudi Arabia from 1923-1925. It apparently found "some" oil but no commercially-exploitable quantities justifying further risk or investment. See Aburish, p. 35. In 1926, The Eastern and General Syndicate tried to sell its concession to the prospering Anglo-Persian Oil Company which answered "no" on the belief that there was no oil to be found in this region. Yergin, p. 282
¹⁵Yergin, p. 137, 147
¹⁶Yergin, p. 189, 204
¹⁷Advantages of Oil as a naval fuel: Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1902, pp. 27-29; Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, 1904, pp. 15-17; Massie, Robert K., Dreadnought: Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War, Random House, N.Y., 1991, pp. 784-785.
¹⁸Churchill's roles: Yergin, p.153-163; Expanded role of oil: Yergin, e.g., p.167-68, 183; British advance after armistice: Yergin, p.189
¹⁹Lacey, p. 120

²⁰The MacMahon-Hussein Correspondence, Letters 1-4: Hussein to MacMahon, 7/14/15; MacMahon to Hussein, 8/13/15; Hussein to MacMahon, 9/9/15; MacMahon to Hussein, 10/24/15. available at <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/hussmac.html>

²¹Lacey, p. 137

²²Bard, Mitchell, "The Hussein McMahon Correspondence", www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org

²³MacMahon-Hussein Correspondence, Letters 1-4, 5, 6, 7

²⁴Yergin, pipeline map, p. 423

²⁵Lacey, map of Sykes-Picot plan, p.135

²⁶Yergin, pp. 188-190

²⁷Lacey, p. 183

²⁸Lacey, p. 182-84

²⁹Lacey, p. 184-200

³⁰Aburish, p. 20

³¹Hussein's flight with gold coins; seizure of Aqaba by British: Lacey, p. 189, 196

³²Lacey, p. 203-207

³³Lacey, p. 211-214, Aburish, p. 34

³⁴Accommodation of Wahhabism: Kyl and Schumer

³⁵Yergin, sale of concession p. 291; Striking oil p. 300

³⁶Yergin, end of energy independence, p. 428

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Quotas to protect domestic producers: Yergin, p. 512

³⁹Yergin, pp. 397, 403-404

⁴⁰Yergin, pp. 427-428

⁴¹Formation of Aramco, Yergin, pp. 410-419

⁴²Yergin, p. 411

⁴³Tax implications of the 50-50 split, Yergin, p. 446-49

⁴⁴Funding of terrorism by Wahhabi charities: 9/11 Commission Report, p. 170-71; 371-374

⁴⁵9/11 Commission Report, p. 373

⁴⁶An article in the February 4th, 2004 Wall Street Journal reported a study which estimated that if military and associated costs related to protecting the oil supply were reflected at the pump, the price of gasoline would be about \$5.28 per gallon: "In Quest for Energy Security U.S. Makes New Bet: On Democracy," WSJ, 2/4/04, p. A1, A6.

The Biggest Media Sin

Sam Smith, Progressive Review
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Which American political party best reflects the views of a majority of citizens on the Iraq war, environmental issues, health care, campaign financing, population growth, genetically modified foods, and marijuana use?

The answer, based on various polls, is the Green Party.

That you may not be aware of this points to a problem with American journalism far more important than plagiarism, blogs, or Fox News, namely that our media - for all its professed objectivity - is stunningly biased towards the views of the American elite, and particularly those who buy space in their papers or time on their channels.

On the environmental issue alone, the Green Party has been proven by the latest scientific data far more prescient and sane than either of the older parties. Yet the media prefers to dismiss, discredit or disregard the Greens, as well as leaders who share their views such as David Cobb or Ralph Nader.

But let's assume for a moment that one is not entitled to coverage simply for being right and let's adopt the childish media view that the only ideas that count are those that demonstrate sufficient strength at the polls. We're still left with all those Americans who agree with the Greens and don't know it:

- The 52% of Americans who think the Iraq war was not worth fighting.

- The resolutions critical of the Patriot Act that have been passed in 378 communities in 43 states, including six state-wide resolutions.

- The 68% who find the "problems of the global environment: global warming, destruction of rainforests, destruction of species, loss of ozone layer" to be very or extremely important to their life.

- The 62% of Americans who support universal health coverage as opposed to the current system.

- The 68% of the public who support a version of public campaign financing used in several states.

- The 78% who think the population is growing too fast.

- The 80% or more of Americans who believe "protecting the environment will require most of us to make major changes in the way we live," that an underlying cause of environmental problems is that "the way we live produces too much waste," that "we focus too much on getting what we want now and not enough on future generations," that "we need to treat the earth as a living system," and that "Americans should have more respect and reverence for Nature."

- The 61% of the American public who oppose arresting and jailing nonviolent marijuana smokers.

- The 76% who believe that large companies have too much concentrated power.

- The 73% who agree with the statement: "I regard myself as a citizen of the world as well as a citizen of the United States."

Why do we hardly ever see any of these folks on cable television, on the op ed pages of the Washington Post or the New York Times, or mentioned in political analyses? It would be interesting, for example, for a columnist to attempt to square the red vs. blue, Christian vs. secular dichotomies currently in fashion with some of the data above. Or to ask the question: do our elites want us to hate each other so we don't find out what's really on our minds? And what we have in common?

The Harris polling people report that over the past ten years 31 million Americans have had someone close to them die after the removal of life support systems, but the media would have us believe it only happened once in Florida. 29,999,999 true stories left untold so one more myth can be created.

Here then is the real sin of America's media: It has created an America it chooses to see, not the one that exists. It has denied access to its pages and its channels to voices representing the majority or even greater percentages of Americans on key issues. And it has made us dislike each other even when on many of the critical issues that it ignores or distorts we have much in common.





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.
World Trade Organization (WTO)	Oppose Greens oppose the WTO because of its 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.





Fission's Folly

OPINION by Rebecca Farris, GPVA At-Large

Perhaps some of you are like me and were raised in the 1950's when we were taught that the answer to all of society's needs for clean, safe, cheap and unlimited energy was to be found inside the atom.

This is a hideous, perverted LIE. I am a teacher and in the past year I have learned that there is no magic in fissioning the atom. There is horrible death and the potential for complete planetary destruction - and there is HEAT. Enormous amounts of heat - hundreds of times what is needed to boil water.

Yes - that's right! ALL THIS is about boiling water, which changes to steam, that turn turbines that generate electricity. We are not against electricity. We are not against folks making a living or tax bases for counties. But when did we all buy into the idea that having enough energy for our needs meant we also had to have terrorist threats, lethal poisoning of radioactivity for 10's of 1,000s of years or children with leukemia and birth defects? This is NOT an either/or proposition. WE CAN HAVE CLEAN ENERGY.

If we shut down nuclear today, we would not have to return to living in dark caves rubbing sticks together to make fire. When we turn to wind and solar for our electricity, power companies will still make profits, people will still be employed, taxes will still be paid. But make no mistake - we ARE against breathing air full of radioactive particles, drinking water that poisons instead of giving life, and eating food that gives our descendants cancer for untold generations.

How does one explain the fact that we seem to be more willing to protect our fragile psyches from looking honestly at the horror we are creating than doing whatever we can to protect our babies?

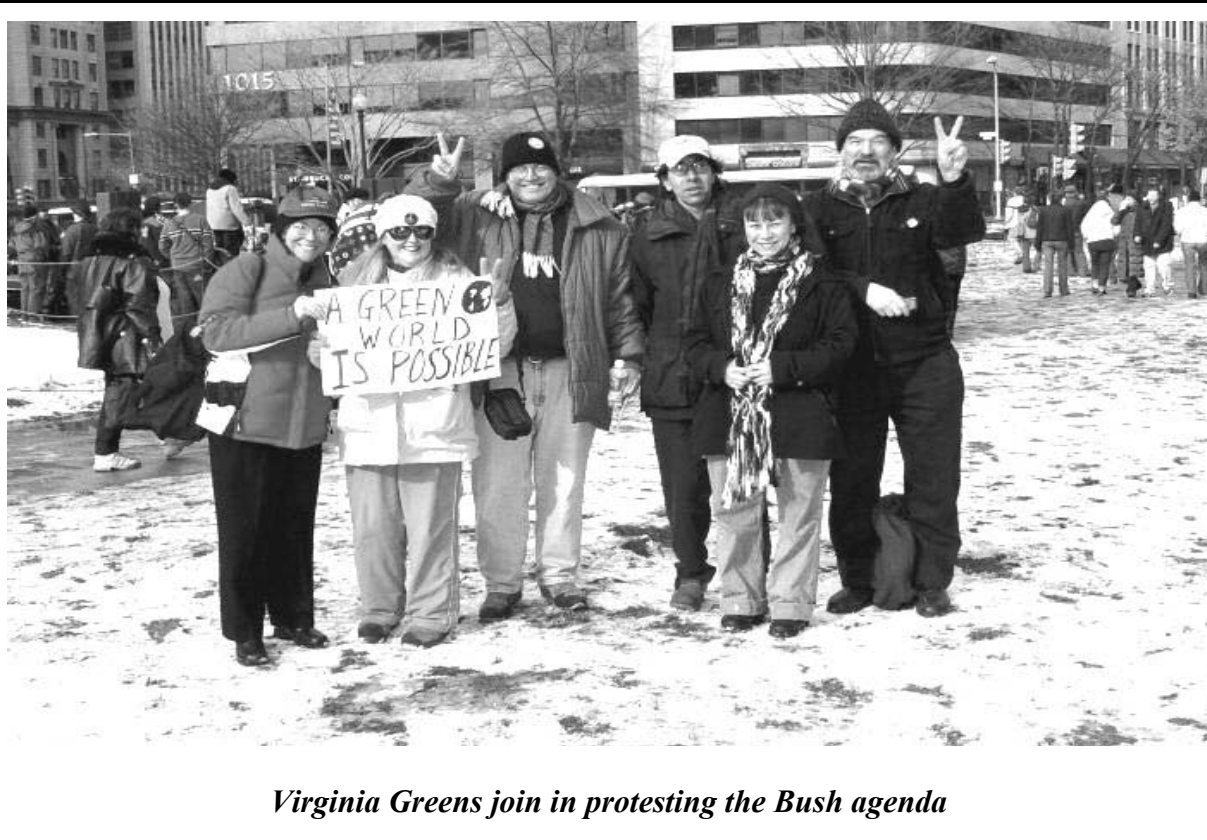
We must stop hiding behind "We'll fix it tomorrow" or "We'll let another generation pay for it" or "Accidents never happen". We must speak openly of the truth — that we are talking about the end of life on this planet and perhaps the end to the only life in the entire universe — because, whether it comes by terrorism, leukemia, poisoned air and water, or the destruction of our DNA, death is the inevitable end of this madness that is nuclear fission. WE CAN DO BETTER. Don't you believe we are smart enough and capable enough to figure out ways to boil water that aren't suicidal? I do. I know we are.

We must remember that Life is not just about money and power. We must remember that Life is about laughter and music and fighting with our spouses and making up. It's about raising our

children to be good people and living to be old enough to hold their children in our arms. How have we forgotten that?

This Earth does not belong to us alone. We have only borrowed it from our children and our grandchildren and their grandchildren, too. Won't you join us today to do all we can to leave this path of suicidal greed before we hear the emergency sirens or see the mushroom cloud - before it is too late?

When future generations look back, let them not have cause to curse our names. Rather, let them say that this was the day, let them say that this was the place, that ours were the voices that brought this insanity to an end. Because if not here, where? If not now, when? If not us, who?



Virginia Greens join in protesting the Bush agenda

Downing St. Memo is Evidence for Bush Impeachment

GPUS Press Release, June 9, 2005

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Green leaders reiterated the party's July 2003 call for impeachment of Bush, and called on all Americans outraged by the Bush Administration's list of deceptions, violations of the U.S. Constitution, the disastrous Iraq occupation, and policies that have disgraced the U.S. to demand that Congress begin the impeachment process.

"The invasion and occupation of Iraq has caused the deaths of over 1,600 U.S. military personnel, as well as untold suffering and tens of thousands of civilian dead in Iraq," said David Cobb, the Green Party's 2004 candidate for President of the United States. "The Downing Street Memo confirms what we already knew -- that a conspiracy to deceive the American people led us into the war, and that this conspiracy constitutes 'high crimes and misdemeanors' according to the U.S. Constitution."

The Green Party of the United States called for the impeachment of George W. Bush during the party's 2003 national meeting, and Greens have organized and participated in numerous protests against the war since early 2003, and have called for an immediate end to the occupation, cancellation of further war spending, and removal of military recruiters from schools as

U.S. troops continue to face death and injury in Iraq. Greens praised Rep. John Conyers' (D-Mich.) public demand for an explanation from President Bush in the wake of the Downing Street memo's publication, and questioned why so many of the mainstream U.S. media have remained silent on the content and implications of the memo.

But Greens also called many Democrats as responsible as Republicans for Iraq policy, having voted in October 2002 to transfer war power to the President, which created the scenario for White House deceit and abuse of power, and having recently voted for another \$82 billion for the war.

"It was already apparent, long before the Downing Street Memo, that President Bush's case for

continued, p.11

Supreme Theft

GPUS Press Release, June 28, 2005

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Green Party leaders sharply criticized the Supreme Court's June 23 decision in the Kelo v. City of New London case, calling it a "legalization of theft." The decision expands the power of government to condemn private property ('eminent domain'), permitting officials to transfer property from one private owner to another.

"Working class and low income homeowners will be at special risk, since they provide less tax revenue, and the Court now gives permission for city councils to evict and replace them with commercial and residential development for the sake of a wealthier tax base," said Steve Kramer, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States.

Green leaders say that the party will remain steadfast in its opposition to the use of eminent domain to remove people from their homes. "Republican and Democratic officials -- including many liberal and progressive Democrats -- accept huge gifts from real estate interests that want to clear out neighborhoods for new development. Greens refuse all corporate contributions," said Peggy Lewis, also co-chair of the national Green Party.

The Rockbridge Greens
will be meeting **Wednesday, July 6**
and **Wednesday, October 5**
7 p.m. At the
Rockbridge Regional Library
Lexington





Arlington Courthouse Greens Local Report

Kirit Mookerjee, Arlington Courthouse Greens

During the first part of 2005, Arlington Courthouse Greens have been actively involved on a number of fronts including:

A) Opposition to the widening of I-66. Members have provided public feedback in response to the IDEA 66 study which has been cited as deficient in its lack of consideration of options other than adding lanes to the highway inside the Beltway. Members are in support of initiatives to counter uncontrolled growth and urban sprawl in Northern Virginia, and alternatives to projects focused exclusively on automobile transportation, like the inter-county connector and proposed expansion of I-81.

B) Developing groundwork for support of a community-led effort for initiatives on affordable housing, including a possible moratorium on demolition. Greens have met with representatives of churches, civic associations, and other community groups to address the burgeoning rise of "mixed-use" high-rise buildings throughout the county. Affordable housing in the areas is increasingly at risk, with the demolition of single family homes to be replaced by designer townhouses.

C) Participation in Faith, Values, and Capital Punishment conference sponsored by the Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (VADP). Event featured discussion among attendees including politicians, ministers, death row exonerees, and other residents regarding the focus for anti-capital punishment activists in Virginia for 2005.

D) Production of cable access Green Hour show on Arlington Independent Media. See Don Rouse's article elsewhere in this edition for more details.

Please visit www.arlingtongreens.org for more information on this local!

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

- The Green Party is the only party fully committed to peace!
- Opposition to the "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 !

Green Party Opposes Widening of I-66

Bob Petrusak, GPVA Press Secretary

The Green Party of Virginia is opposed to widening Interstate 66, as has been proposed by the Virginia Department of Transportation. We question the impartiality of that department's study, which recommends expansion of the road, and maintain that widening I-66 inside the beltway is unnecessary and ineffective. It is not the answer to congestion and gridlock. The widened road will soon again fill up with cars, and that many more people will sit in traffic.

Added lane mileage induces significant additional travel. Every 1% increase in new lane miles generates a 0.9% increase in traffic in less than five years. As a result, it is difficult to conceive of a more irresponsible governmental project in an age of excessive demand on the world's oil supply, with all of its accompanying problems of global warming and instability including terrorism in the oil-rich regions of the world.

We should expect that the widening described in the study is just the tip of the iceberg, and that multiple lane widening and construction inside and outside the Beltway, with the concomitant taking of land by eminent domain, is what our elected officials and their related business interests have in store for us in the future.

Instead of contributing ever more to the destruction to our environment - the places where we live - our public officials should attempt to implement reasonable alternatives that will help target I-66 congestion. Here are some:

- Increase restrictions for highway use once again to HOV-3. Enforce HOV restrictions to substantially reduce violations.
- Make "spot" improvements, such as better ramps, merge lanes and altered ramp metering. These options should be designed to improve traffic flow and reduce crashes, which are a significant cause of delays.
- Increase the existing hours for HOV restrictions inside and outside the Beltway to reduce congestion.
- Implement "Reverse Commute" HOV for I-66 westbound.
- Concentrate on Metrorail capacity and operational issues, including upgrading Metrorail to 8-car trains.
- Encourage better bike and pedestrian access to rail stations.
- Preserve space in the I-66 median for at least four Metrorail tracks to accommodate future express rail service in the I-66 and Dulles corridors.
- Evaluate value pricing options (i.e. HOT lanes) for the existing lanes, with some toll revenue supporting public transportation.
- Promote and improve bus service to Tyson's Corner and the Dulles Corridor, especially for "reverse-commute" travel, expanding or enhancing bus access as necessary, possibly by creating a bus rapid transit (BRT) system.

With the people of Northern Virginia, like so many other urban areas across the United States, hit as

never before with unbridled growth, uncontrolled sprawl and urban development in the region, and the doubling of population in 25 years, we need our public officials and their business partners throughout the region to implement effective initiatives to improve not only our transportation options but our entire quality of life. These may include:

- Telecommuting
- Building affordable housing in each neighborhood for lower and middle income people, to include service personnel, military, teachers, police, fire personnel, and senior citizens, to reduce travel.
- Imposing a moratorium on all new building, to prevent the tear-down of existing structures and the substitution of McMansions and high priced real estate.
- Reversing government programs and tax policies that help create sprawl.
- Have developers pay for their projects, not taxpayers. End subsidies to developers who build sprawling developments and have developers pay impact fees to cover the costs of new roads, schools, water sewer lines and property tax impacts.
- Building town centers to reduce the need to drive long distances and make multiple trips, and balance jobs, housing, shopping and services.
- Protecting open space in neighborhoods and in rural areas from sprawl by enacting growth boundaries and parks & open space protections.
- Reinvesting in existing communities to restore and improve them, adding walkable, traditional town centers, attract new businesses, reduce crime, improve schools; and revitalize vacant land, abandon storefronts, and huge parking lots.

Green Debate: Which Way for the Party in 2008?

Kirit Mookerjee, Arlington Courthouse Greens

Greens as representatives of the Nominating Process Working Group, just like party members everywhere, have continued the debate from 2004 with an eye to coming to consensus on an improved process for next time.

Almost everyone agrees that the party needs to get an early start in terms of encouraging qualified candidates and disseminating information about them to the grassroots level.

Of course, the apportionment of delegates to the convention has been a source of criticism from proponents of "One Green/One Vote", under the assumption that Green-heavy registration states such as California and New York were underrepresented at Milwaukee. The difficulty facing the working group is coming up with a fair system which still encourages smaller and growing state parties. Stay tuned later in the year for the recommendations to the National Committee.

Whether you supported Cobb, Nader, or neither in 2004, it seems apparent that the Green Party lost ground with voters in the presidential race. What can we do now to reverse the trend? -- That is the question.





Using Cable Access to our Advantage

The making of "The Green Hour"

Don Rouse, Arlington Courthouse Greens

For the ordinary citizen of Arlington, Va., Arlington Independent Media (Channel 69 Public Access TV) is the greatest thing since sliced bread. At a minimal cost, individuals and organizations can produce their own TV programs that serve their needs. Arlington Independent Media (AIM) televises everything from Lyndon LaRouche to Telepathic TV, and a lot of good stuff in-between (including the "Green Hour"). One of my favorites is "Swing Central", which features good local jazz/dance bands and swing dancers.

To produce programs, an individual must join at \$15 a year, and take workshops provided by the station (at a very nominal fee) to learn the use of the equipment. After certification that the required workshops are completed, an individual is free to submit program proposals to the station. If a proposal is approved, the individual becomes a

producer, and uses the station under the guidance of the paid staff to go into production.

It takes about seven people to work on a live program; all volunteers, operating, for example, cameras, lighting, and sound; and switching camera shots, operating a graphics generator, and performing technical directing. Many volunteers produce their own shows on the station. Then, the only additional expense is the cost of tapes for copies of the program the producer chooses to make, and the very reasonable cost of studio time for dubbing and program editing. Lest I forget, there is the cost of drinks, pizzas and other delectables for the volunteer staff pitching in to create the show. One very important rule of the station is that programs must be produced and used for non-profit, non-commercial purposes only.

The Arlington Courthouse Greens and Northern Virginia Greens have combined to produce a TV program, the "Green Hour", on Channel 69. Currently, the half-hour program airs in Arlington at 5:30PM on Wednesdays and again at 10:30AM on Thursdays, weekly.

In the pilot program, Paul Hughes of the Northern Virginia Greens discusses "Challenging Corporate

Power", informally subtitled "Ending Corporate Domination". This program highlights the myriad significant ways corporate power controls all our lives. The show is moderated by Kirit Mookerjee, and uses slides originally prepared by the Southeast office of the Sierra Club.

Our second program, in what has become a series, continues with the theme "Challenging Corporate Domination" and discusses "How Did We Get Here?", a history of the development of corporate dominance, as well as the fiction of corporate personhood in our society. The next one will continue the general theme and address the question, "What Can We Do About It?" Future programs on the board address the arbitrary invasion of Iraq and the social and political history that has led to it, as well as the abrogation of general elections in our democratic society.

The pilot and subsequent programs are available free to Green groups, peace and social justice groups, and other sympathetic organizations free of charge on VHS. Just remember the caveat that the program may not be used for commercial purposes. Contact Don Rouse (Producer), 5010 N. 11th St., Arlington, Va. 22205, jdrouse@erols.com.

Spirituality and The Greens

OPINION by Devan Malore, Rockbridge Greens

I am writing this letter just after attending the November 13th Green Party meeting held at Maury River Friends Meeting House. I am new to the Green Party and have, like many people, always voted, mostly for the party candidate. I have not been very politically active but can say with certainty I am a spiritual person who has experienced a whole range of spiritual traditions, from sitting with the Buddhists to sitting with the Quakers, to chanting with the Hindus and Native Americans.

Considering the fact that the Green Party's Ten Key Values would fit in well with many of the beliefs held in common with the less fundamentalist extremes of many spiritual traditions, I think the Greens should not make the mistake the political Left has made of trying to distance itself from communities of faith. Remember that little phrase "moral values", which seems to have swayed the opinion of many voters. Consider the writings of Rabbi Michael Lerner from the Tikun Community, which were written up in a previous newsletter.

Rabbi Lerner has written much about the connections between politics, religion and environmental issues.

As much as we would like to say there should be separation of church and state, I think it is increasingly clear that more people make voting decisions based on moral values that have been passed down through their religious traditions, than on accumulation of facts and candidate abilities. Progressive spiritual leaders are increasingly finding environmental issues and basic human rights to be of highest priority. These are the same leaders often admired by people in poor and minority communities as the ones who have been closest to their own suffering.

I think it is wise for the Green Party to approach these spiritual leaders with an introduction to the Green Party's Ten Key Values as a way of building grassroots support. If the Green Party is simply an attempt to create a third party more in alignment with progressive secular values I don't think it will have much of a chance here in a country so suffering from over abundance of material things and lack of spiritual connection. Spiritual traditions and associated practices have the ability to bring people into

some direct experience with the creative life force flowing through people and living things. As "out there" as that sounds to many secular people, it is what keeps many of the poorest and most suffering people going.

As one writer has stated, it isn't so much that we have to get rid of religious traditions, but rather replace poor religious values with enlightened ones. Those who have some experience of a spiritual connection can more likely accept the difficult changes we will have to make to ensure something as simple and seemingly impossible as redistribution of wealth.

I was impressed by the smooth running of the Green Party meeting, but would wonder also, as was brought up, where are the women we would welcome as helping to bring about change? Maybe they are home feeling the despair, not just of the lost election, but the many who continue suffering because of American policies. I think the Green party will have to find its heart and soul, and convey it to people in a way which moves them, not just by its logic, but by compassion, wisdom, empathy and a connection to people who are not leaving their traditions, but searching within them for higher values to live by.

Notes from the 'Green Festival'

Eric Sheffield, Rockbridge Greens

On the weekend of September 18th and 19th, I attended the 'Green Festival' at the DC Convention Center, and I think it is worth reporting on for future reference.

The festival was organized by Co-op America and Global Exchange, and was the third in a series that started in San Francisco and then went to Austin. I think it was an amazing event and I came away inspired.

There were dozens of famous green thinkers and

activists. I listened to talks by Paul Loeb, William Greider, William McDonough, Michael Ratner, Amy Goodman, Jim Hightower, and Julia Butterfly Hill, as well as equally fascinating presentations by not so well known persons. They had three speakers scheduled concurrently, as well as panel presentations, workshops, dance/yoga, and films for the entire two days. In addition to all that there were hundreds of green businesses and green organizations with booths. There was a food area with half a dozen vendors and live music. I didn't hear any numbers on attendance but it looked like many thousands to me and probably a couple thousand listening to some of the more popular speakers.

The cost for all this was \$10 for the weekend, five dollars if you arrive on your bike (as well as valet parking). I actually had a coupon from The

Progressive magazine, so got in free. They did strongly encourage donations by those who are able so they can bring the festival to other places.

The Green Party was conspicuously absent save for T-shirts on a few individuals such as myself. I don't know if this was an oversight on our part or whether the organizers meant to keep overt politicking at bay, but it certainly was a missed opportunity which shouldn't happen again. All those speakers talking about green values and ideas and no one there to point out that there is a political party they can join that stands for the same values.

They hope to come back to DC this year. Perhaps we could share a table with the DC and Maryland Greens? I think it would be well worth the effort.





Challenging Corporate Power *continued from p.1*

dominate entire sectors of our economy, how they were able to amass such control, and how they are, with the help of the U.S. government, doing their utmost to expand such corporate domination internationally through such organizations as the World Trade Organization and various existing and proposed free trade pacts.

The second program in the series was recorded in March 2005 and dwelt on the underlying legal basis for corporate power – the fact that human-created and legislatively chartered entities are defined as “persons” under the law. This legal premise owes its genesis to a faulty legal interpretation by a Supreme Court reporter who took excessive editorial license in summarizing the ruling in the Santa Clara case. Since that time, corporate attorneys and lobbyists have used the “corporate personhood” mantra to amass even more power for corporations than that held by individual citizens. Such is the extent of the effectiveness of the “colonization of our minds” on this issue that most citizens have come to accept that corporations are more powerful than the citizens (who enabled their creation and to whom they are responsible), and we frequently hear the term “good corporate citizen” as though corporations were entitled to vote, exercise Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination, enjoy the

right against unannounced “unreasonable searches” by government agencies, etc.

The third and final program in this initial series will address how advocates can begin the process of recouping the authority that citizens have allowed to accrue to corporations over the last 200 years. This will not be an easy task and may not even be fully accomplished in any our lifetimes, but the process needs to begin, for the sake of our children and the Seventh Generation that follows us. The full panoply of strategies and actions that can be taken will be discussed, with the first phase clearly being to educate our own Green Party members, as well as the public and key policy “influentials” in public office, in academia, in the media, and in advocacy organizations, as to the root causes and extent of the problem, rooted in the public’s acceptance of “corporate personhood” as a legal concept.

Viewers will be provided with key sources to educate themselves in-depth about this issue, ways to begin networking with others similarly aroused by the insidiousness of this concept on our democracy and the sustainability of the planet. Organized educational programs, such as the 10-part study group manual prepared by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), books and newsletters published by the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy (POCLAD), intensive weekend retreats offered by the Community Envi-

ronmental Legal Defense Fund’s Daniel Pennock Democracy School, the landmark book by Thom Hartmann entitled Unequal Protection: The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights, and local NOVA Green and Arlington Green campaign contacts, will be highlighted for viewers interested in becoming more active in this campaign.

There are tentative plans to have subsequent programs conducted in a panel discussion format that will focus on concentrations of corporate power in various sectors of the economy (e.g., food, media, insurance, etc.). Copies of the three-part series also are being made available by the Arlington Greens to other local Virginia Green parties and the national Green Party as a basis for conducting study groups and strategy sessions on how members can become more active on this issue. The NOVA and Arlington Green parties will themselves be moving to the next phase of the campaign – the adoption of a local strategy to begin educating their members, the public, key officeholders, media representatives, academics, and other policy influentials on this issue.

If you would like to learn more about this campaign, obtain references for additional resources, or learn how you can join the growing network of activists working on this campaign, please contact Paul Hughes (703/280-1719). For copies of the three-part series, please contact Don Rouse (703/525-3786).

Downing Street Memo *continued from p.8*

invading Iraq was based on fraud," said Rebecca Rotzler, co-chair of the Green Party's Peace Action Committee.

"All of the reasons for invasion that Mr. Bush listed in his January 28, 2003 State of the Union address -- Iraqi WMDs, collusion between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda, evidence that Saddam had sought nuclear weapons materials from Africa, nuclear aluminum rods, Iraq's supposed threat to the U.S. and to other nations -- are now known to be false. The Downing Street Memo shows that the intelligence supporting an invasion was fixed, with the complicity of the Bush and Blair administrations as early as July 2002."

Green Party leaders also noted that Ahmed Chalabi, whose false testimony to U.S. intelligence officials on Iraqi WMDs formed much of the basis of the claim that Saddam Hussein was an international threat, is now serving as interim Iraqi Oil Minister, with the Bush Administration's approval; and that John Bolton, now under consideration for appointment as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., repeatedly manipulated intelligence and lied to the U.S. media and the U.N. about Iraqi weapons materials.

"Americans should be protesting in every way possible against the continued occupation of Iraq, and for impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney," said Jake Schneider, treasurer of the Green Party of the United States. "But this has also been a bipartisan war all along, and every Democrat and Republican in Congress who has supported it despite evidence of deceit from the very beginning also deserves removal from office."

MORE INFORMATION
Green Party of the United States
<http://www.gp.org>
202-319-7191, 866-41GREEN

The Green Party needs YOU to run for office in 2006!

Run for local office in May 2006 —

- Most of the battles over sprawl are fought at the local level.
- It's a great way to get involved in your community.
- It's easy to get on the ballot for school board and town and city council elections.
- Greens have won local offices. Last year, Don Langrehr won a seat on the Blacksburg town council!

Run for Congress in November 2006 —

- Many Congressional elections are uncontested in Virginia.
- Give Virginians the chance to vote Green and vote for civil liberties, universal health care, bringing our troops home from Iraq, and a better environment.

Get in touch with the
Candidate Exploration Committee
at cec@vagreenparty.org,
or with your local group (see back page).

The sooner we start working on your campaign, the better are your chances of winning and bringing Green values into our government!



Upcoming State Party Meeting and Fifth Annual Retreat

September 9-11, 2005

Pocahontas State Park

Appomattock & Chickahominy Cabins at the Ecology Camp
I-95 Exit 61, Route 10 West, to Beach Road (Hwy 655)
Chesterfield, VA



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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<http://www.gp.org>

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 \$25, \$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