



# News

S U M M E R 2 0 0 7

see you at the  
**Green-Rainbow  
STATE CONVENTION**  
Saturday, August 25  
*Community Church  
of Boston*  
Copley Square  
*details on page 8*

## The moment is ours. Will we let it pass?

by John V. Walsh

Our nation is in a crisis far graver than many of us could have imagined even two years ago. The crisis springs from the war on Iraq which weighs heavily on the American consciousness.

70 percent of Americans, in Gallup Polls over the last year, say the war is the number one item that must be dealt with by the political system - with other concerns not even coming close.

And this crisis in foreign affairs is spilling over into domestic life with the police state growing in power to the point where even that most ancient of protections, habeas corpus, has been suspended in some cases.

But the core of the crisis is that the political system, as it presently exists, is unable to respond to the demands of the people for peace.

Cindy Sheehan said it as well as anyone has in her May 26 letter to the Democrats in Congress: she will now "try and figure a way out of this two party system that is bought and paid for by the war machine which has a stranglehold on every aspect of our

lives. As for myself, I am leaving the Democratic Party. You have completely failed those who put you in power to change the direction our country is heading. We do not condone our government's violent meddling in sovereign countries and we condemn the continued murderous occupation of Iraq. ... We gave you a chance; you betrayed us."

See:

<http://www.counterpunch.org/sheehan05282007.html>

The present crisis is comparable to the state of affairs in the 1850s when the question of slavery dominated the national consciousness and could not be resolved with the compromises of 1820 and 1850. Then in 1854 under pressure from both abolitionists and northern industrialists (yes, capitalists!), the Republican Party was formed. In 1856 it ran its first presidential candidate who lost, and in 1860 it ran Lincoln who won.

Six years was all it took—even

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## Accidents common in Biowar labs

see story on page 6



Green-Rainbow joins protest against BU Bioterror Lab

[photo: annie butler]



Citizens, including Green-Rainbow activists, confront Governor and top development aides at a February press conference in Cambridge. [photo: Eli Beckerman]

## Connected developers ducked permit—new State permitting chief was their attorney

by John Andrews, MCHC

In February, the state's highest court ruled that a state agency responsible for issuing environmental permits improperly gave developers of a Cambridge site a waiver from a state law protecting waterways.

DEP had ruled that no coastal wetlands permit was needed for development of the property.

A lawsuit challenging the exemption was filed by Cambridge residents, with the support of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods.

The citizens' victory in the Cambridge lawsuit reinforces environmental protection for so-called "landlocked" wetlands according to Stephen Kaiser, a former state environmental official who served as an expert witness for the citizens' lawsuit. Kaiser noted that "DEP just looked the other way, and let the developers proceed without a permit. Now they have to

revisit their position."

Kaiser added that another issue that must be resolved concerns publicly-owned tidelands that the citizen's research discovered on the site. "Historic tidelands belong to the public. This is public property that cannot just be taken by private developers who want it for their development."

In an interesting twist to the story, the real estate lawyer who led the fight against the citizen lawsuit was recently appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to oversee the state's new "expedited permitting" program.J2

Prior to accepting his appointment, Gregory Bialecki was a partner at DLA Piper Rudnick, the law firm representing North Point developers, Spaulding & Slye Colliers.

The Chapter 43D "expedited per-

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Lebanese-Americans react to supporters of Israel's attack on Lebanon at a Boston rally last summer, in which Green-Rainbow locals participated

[photo: annie butler]

## ***In times of crisis, things can move faster than anyone might imagine***

**Walsh**

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without the internet. The point is that in times of crisis things can move faster than anyone might imagine. Can we know with certainty that we are at such a juncture? We cannot. We can test the crisis only by our action, and by winning or losing, we shall know. But if we do not try, of course we shall never know.

What greater opportunity could there be for the Green Party? The vast majority of the public knows by now that neither party wants to end the occupation of Iraq. It is abundantly clear that there is now only one party, the War Party, with Republican and Democratic wings.

After the 2006 elections few can deny that the Democrats, true to their history (Wilson in WWI, Truman in Korea, Kennedy and Johnson in Vietnam), are a party of war and empire. The inaction of this Congress makes that fact evident for the first time since the end of the Cold War, which masked the reality of empire.

The ties of the Democrats to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and to the military industrial complex—especially the industrial wing of it—will stop them from opposing the war on Iraq and the

scourging of Iran and Somalia and Sudan—either by sanctions or by bombing or both.

So the central problem is that we have no antiwar party, and the people are crying for peace. The situation is as close to that of 1854 as historical analogy permits.

The crisis was in full display at the recent national meeting of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) in Chicago. UFPJ is the largest coalition of peace and justice organizations, and the one that has organized the largest national antiwar mobilizations. But organizationally and ideologically, its scope is quite limited. It links war to its own notions of justice and will not make alliances with those who do not agree with this "analysis."

UFPJ is also hobbled by institutional limitations. It is dominated by the old "Communist" party (CPUSA) and "liberal" Democrat organizations like Progressive Democrats of America (PDA). The CPUSA has been supporting Democrats since the days of Franklin Roosevelt and will continue to do so. So this grouping in the end will serve to keep antiwar activists inside the "lesser evil" war party, the Democrats.

### **Where were the Greens?**

In part, however, this state of affairs is the fault of us Greens. It is true that

the Greens have stuck to principle in opposing the war. But the Green Party was not much in evidence at this meeting. I was there but not as a delegate since the Green-Rainbow Party has severed organizational ties with the State affiliate of the UFPJ.

The rank and file at the conference were fed up with the Democrats, but there were few voices other than my own to point out that there is an alternative. So the discussion moved quickly to which Democrat should be backed in '08.

### **Democrats by default**

And the Democrat operatives there were calling for more effort—to get them a veto proof Senate and the Presidency. These operatives were quick to anger, but not to respond, when I pointed out that it only takes 41 votes or abstentions in the Senate to end the war. And of course the Democrats already have 51! (See: FilibusterForPeace.org. Daniel Ellsberg and Cindy Sheehan are among the signers of the petition at that site.)

It is only by default the Democrat Party holds onto the swelling antiwar vote.

The same missing of the mark can be found in the recent call for the July Green Party National Meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania. In the

announcement that came to me and probably to many others, there was no mention of the war!! (Check your mail for the announcement.) The most space went to a campaign to prevent the privatization of water resources, a laudable goal, but hardly the one most on the minds of the people.

In moving on the issues of war, empire and the police state, we will have to be flexible. There is no reason why "blue" states cannot turn Green. Certainly Massachusetts is now a one-party state with no possibility of a viable Republican Party. But our state belongs to the Greens as does California and many others.

The "red" states will probably be a different story at the moment. The anti-empire movement in the red states will probably have to come from the Libertarians, and we must prepare ourselves for that and prepare ourselves for alliances with them. Without that, the precious liberties we have and the essential democratic rights which come down to us from the Enlightenment will certainly be lost. And this and other wars will continue to plague us.

The time is ripe, and the people are with us. It is up to us.

John V. Walsh can be reached at [John.Endwar@gmail.com](mailto:John.Endwar@gmail.com).



Thousands move through the militarized streets of Boston toward the site of the 2004 Democrat National Convention in a demonstration led by the ANSWER Coalition.

The Democrats endorsed a pro-war platform and Presidential candidate as the Green-Rainbow Party participated in other demonstrations later that week.

[photo: annie butler]

**On Holyoke City Council, I will be...**

# A true and relentless voice

by Rick Purcell

I was born on the longest night of the year in 1959 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

I first came to Holyoke in the summer of 1974, from the Tahatchi Indian Reservation located along the Northern Arizona/New Mexico border. I graduated from Chicopee Comp High School in 1977 and entered the U.S. Army. After my first discharge in 1983 I lived in California, Florida, and then moved back to New Mexico. I re-entered U.S. Army 1987 and was honorably discharged a second time in 1991.

In June of 1991 I bought my home in Holyoke, and since 1992 I have been working at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

I was raised in a Below Poverty Environment, and I am of the impression that Human Potential is limitless as long as we apply ourselves.

**More Than Just A Word**

Democracy is a Greek word when broken down: Demos=the People, Kratein= to rule, making our form of government by the people, for the people or through representatives.

I was a registered Democrat. I switched to Independent. Finally I joined the Green Party during the Nader/LaDuke Presidential Campaign in 2000.

I had the privilege of meeting and knowing David Cobb, our past Green Party Candidate for President. It was an honor to help Grace Ross in Western Massachusetts in her bid for Governor.

In the last municipal election there was an "us versus them" attitude. I

was chairman of the Vote No to Aquarion Contract Referendum Question. The citizens voted not to privatize our Waste Water Management Department—only to be ignored by the current Mayoral administration.

We the citizens, the Bill Footers, voted one way, and they the Money Spenders, acted another, throwing democracy/open government out the window. This helped to plant the seed in me to run for City Council.

This is my first run for public office at any level. I decided to run for office, because I would like to help to make the city I live in a better place to live in, for all the citizens, regardless of socioeconomic stature, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

I am profoundly concerned about ending poverty, in the poorest City in the Commonwealth. I believe we can do away with the highest per capita teen pregnancy rate in the Commonwealth with thorough education at the youngest allowable level.

**Putting Labels on Individuals limits Human Potential**

I am labeled an activist in Holyoke for Veterans issues and I am a member of United Veterans of Holyoke, and a past 6 term Commander of the War Memorial Post # 25. I am also labeled an activist when it comes to issues that affect the everyday lives of the Citizens of Holyoke.

I prefer to be referred to as a citizen who is active. I volunteer for many causes including Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Hampden County, Junior Achievement of Western Mass, Holyoke Citizens for Open



**REPORTING FOR DUTY**

**Richard P. Purcell 99 Martin St. Holyoke, Ma 01040**  
**Candidate for Ward 3 Councilor, Holyoke City Council**  
**Green-Rainbow Party State Committee, Hampden County**  
**47years old, Single Desert Storm U.S. Army Veteran**  
**Born: 12/21/59 Albuquerque, N.M**

Government, Volunteer for Life Choice Organ Donor Bank to name a few.

I believe in order for the Green Rainbow Party to be considered a driving force in the democracy of the U.S of A, we need to hold office at the local

level, through Green-Rainbow grass roots efforts.

When elected I will be a True and relentless Voice of the Citizen and for the Citizens, with Open Government and with Pure Democracy.

**'A whole new level of engagement'**

# Worcester Council campaign begins

by Grace Ross

Before I ran for Governor, I really had not considered service in the capacity of an elected official. I had always been a community organizer.

Some people say that running for City Council is a step down. I disagree: they are not comparable.

A City Councilor gets engaged at the people level. Issues are concrete—Is there enough in the budget for teachers we need? Creative, integrative solutions make visible magic and a real, measurable difference. Change at the State level can seem somewhat distant from real people. Change at the state level more often is policy distant from real people; while more overarching, the process is much lengthier. Here I will get to create and prove changes locally.

My campaign will combine a series of special focuses on folks who seldom vote with more traditional campaigning among those who usually vote. In a non-partisan race, we can work more easily across the political spectrum, under a big tent where our different strengths and perspectives are respected. I am deeply honored and excited by the possibility and reality of union endorsements for a real labor voice on City Council.

We envision a whole new level of



Grace Ross outside at a gubernatorial debates last summer. [photo: Eli Beckerman]

engagement among younger people and communities of color in Worcester, and of local business owners to reclaim the economic future of Worcester. Quite simply: a new, much broader level of public participation.

Environmental activists have stood for labor—what other important, critical alliances can we forge?

The City thrives when the people thrive. Worcester, like most communi-

ties in our state, is having a hard time financially because of state cuts, federal monies being drained by illegal war and our struggling local economy. Solutions will emerge by bringing home the resources to our people that we have already paid for, from food stamps to development money; by using those resources to support local initiative and growth; and by engaging everyone in coming together.

But we reject the right-wing language of "self-sufficiency." Worcester has never been self-sufficient, but has been a regional hub, its resources and future integrated from its roots and regionally up through State and Federal government.

**Pride and our future**

This is a campaign of pride—the basis for a brighter future. Our city played a proud role in the Revolutionary War for Independence. Worcester was the source of the lawsuit that ended legal slavery in Massachusetts. We hosted the first US Women's convention. Today we boast a wonderful diversity of cultures and nine institutions of higher learning.

We live amidst the headwaters of the Blackstone River, a critical but abused part of our environment. With the first municipal Climate Action Plan in the state, Worcester hopes to be the Green Heart of Massachusetts! What better place to serve!

Please be in touch with our campaign to help in the heart of our wonderful state: share contacts, volunteer (virtually & physically), provide resources. Contact us at Grace4Worcester.org, grace4worcester@gmail.com or (508) 654-8020.

"The future is ours if we claim it as all of who we are!"

## Reflections after eight years in office

# People, politics, and the building of a sane society

by Chuck Turner

In 1999 I ran for the office of District 7 City Councilor. District 7 includes Roxbury, Lower Roxbury, as well as parts of Dorchester, Fenway, and the South End. I ran with the objective of infusing energy into organizing focused on raising the quality of life in my community in particular and the City of Boston in general.

Equally strong, however, was my commitment to use the experience of working inside government to sharpen my strategic thinking regarding organizing strategies to bring an end to the state of neo-slavery that continues to grip this country.

During my seven and one half years as Councilor, I believe that I have made significant progress on these two objectives. I believe I have contributed significantly not only to organizing but also voting in my district, community, and City by establishing a district office and creating the District 7 Roundtable, monthly meetings focused on raising political consciousness.

### Fund the Dream

The Fund the Dream campaign, initiated by the Roundtable, has breathed new life into the prophetic vision Dr. King had at the end of his life that this country needed a Poor People's Campaign to initiate an occupation of Washington, D.C. This campaign would confront the government's support for the evils of militarism, materialism (economic exploitation), and racism.

While our District 7 efforts were not able to generate support in D.C. or among national leaders for the launching of such a national campaign, the

Fund the Dream concept continues to resonate as a framework of thought regarding how to restructure the political, economic, and social framework of this country.

There was also an additional unexpected consciousness raising benefit resulting from the Fund the Dream efforts. The difficulty we experienced in generating energy behind the idea of launching such a campaign forced the Roundtable leadership to acknowledge that the belief in the future that had infused the movement of the sixties was no longer present.

Our experience required us to acknowledge that the forty-year experience of attempting to integrate into the American society had left African-Americans listless and confused not only about our future but also about ourselves. In addition, people of color and working class whites seem increasingly demoralized regarding the prospect for beneficial change in this country. The D7 Roundtable realized that there needed to be a local movement to rebuild belief in ourselves and our ability to create individual as well as collective positive change.

### Boston Workers Alliance

This led to D7 launching the "More Than a Paycheck Campaign" during the summer of 2005. We focused on organizing unemployed workers in our community, particularly those who found themselves discriminated against because of their criminal records or involvement with the court system.

This campaign led to the development of the Boston Workers' Alliance

(BWA). The Alliance, led by unemployed workers of color, has become a force in the struggle to persuade the state legislature and governor to change the laws relating to the treatment of those who have court records, euphemistically known as CORIs (Criminal Offender Record Information System). Organizing by the BWA and MARC (Massachusetts Alliance to Reform CORI) led to the Boston City Council passing the first municipal law in the country forbidding discrimination against those with criminal backgrounds.

In addition to its political focus, the BWA is also attempting to establish an economic infrastructure controlled by workers. Through the establishment of a community controlled temp agency and businesses owned cooperatively by BWA members, the Alliance hopes to benefit all workers.

Yet, despite the fact that I believe I have worked well and hard as a Councilor, during my term of office

- the school dropout rate has continued to rise;
- the lack of entry level jobs has reached unprecedented levels in Boston;
- discrimination against those with criminal records is becoming the norm;
- the number of homicides and drug related deaths through overdoses has continued to increase.

Even more distressing is the fact that my eight years' experience as a City Councilor has confirmed my thinking as an activist that government at all levels is unable—if not unwill-

ing—to effectively deal with these issues, particularly as they relate to people of color.

My constituents are looking to me to provide suggestions for solving the problems that confront us rather than just complaining about what government is not doing. In April of this year I launched what I am calling the "Peace and Prosperity Initiative." I am asking each of my constituents to make a "Peace and Prosperity Pledge," centered on these four elements:

- 1) Do no harm;
- 2) Develop Self—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually;
- 3) Build a legal economic development strategy for Self and Family;
- 4) Hold government and institutions accountable and responsible for serving all the people of this country.

This strategy is based on the principle that if the leaders and people of this country are unwilling to turn away from the militarism, materialism, and racism that have been the foundation stones of this country—it is up to people of color and clear thinking whites to lay the foundation for building a healthy and sane society.

Some have questioned whether what I am projecting is realistic. Based on my life experience and observation of the life experience of others, I am convinced that any one who makes the commitment to focus on developing a life practice built on the principles of the pledge is in fact creating the soil out of which peace and prosperity will grow. [continued on next page]

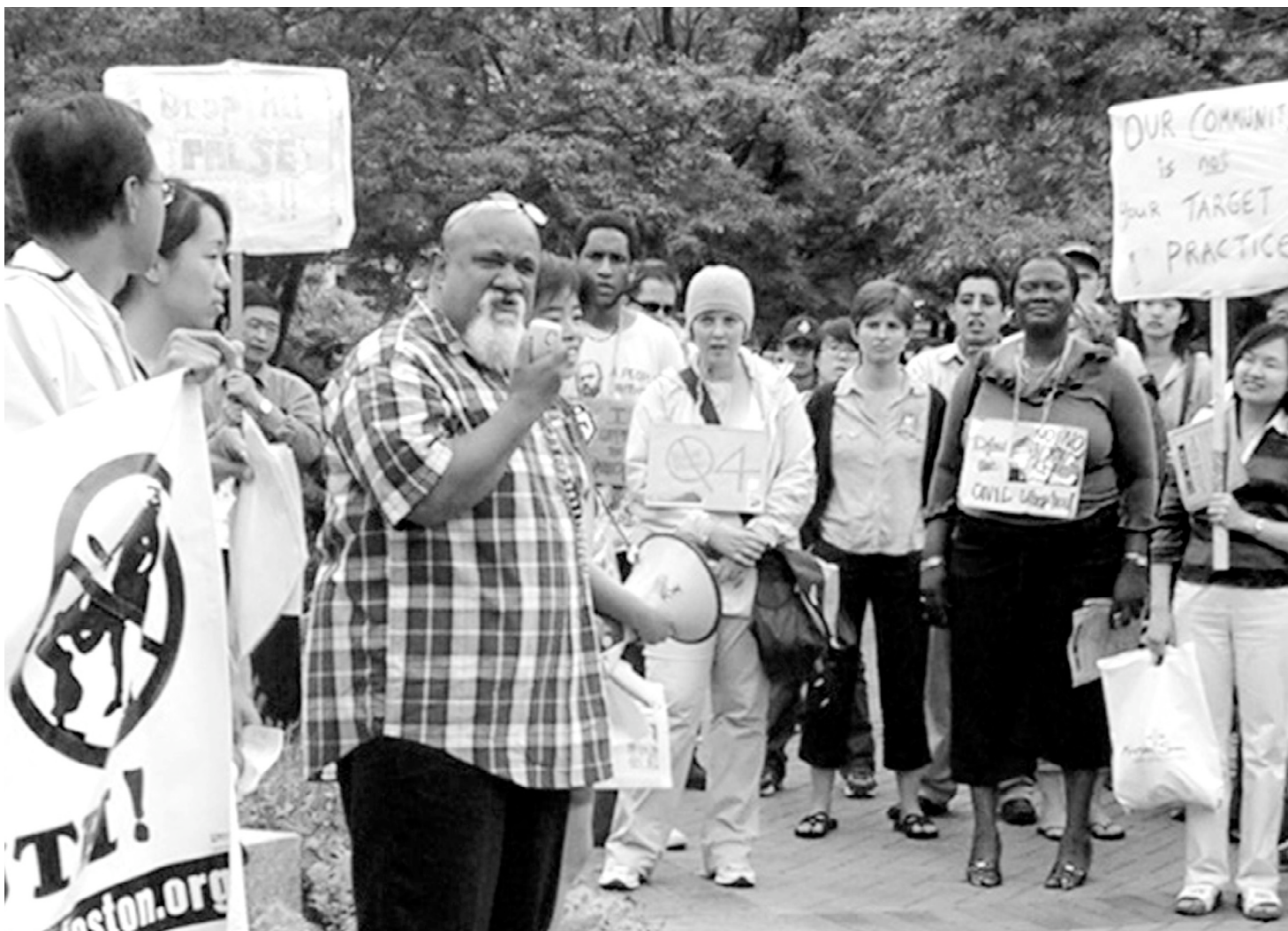
## 2008 elections— by Mike Heichman

### Campaign Development and Legal Committee (CDLC)

The Empire is a system of worldwide domination with its political and economic capital in the U.S. This Empire wages continuous war around the world. It intensifies oppression at home in defense of white, rich, male supremacy. It commits ecocide against our beautiful life-sustaining planet. In the US, both major political parties support this insane, toxic system.

Members of The Green-Rainbow Party (GRP) work for social justice, peace and grassroots democracy. Saving our environment is inseparable from our work. In the struggle for justice I believe that using the electoral system could be an important part of our strategy. Elections call for public debate about the nature of our world. The GRP brings a very different set of values to that debate. Being elected would continue this conversation and allow our agenda to be part of our government, the political seat of the Empire.

Some of our members are already campaigning for the Fall municipal elections. Members of CDLC are working to prepare for the 2008 elections. We would like to hear from potential candidates as soon as possible.



Councilor Chuck Turner speaks last summer for four young Chinese-Americans attacked by Quincy police

[photo: annie butler]

The reason for the present turmoil and insanity of the country is that it was built and continues to rely on the principle that only those who are white, male, and rich are qualified to lead. From that perspective, the rest of us, people of color, women, and workers have to be content to follow the lead of those who were born to lead even if their leadership is built on a continuation of oppression. Therefore, if we are to emerge from the psychological stupor of neo-slavery, we must wake to the fact that we have the capability of building a new reality for ourselves which can serve as the foundation of the building of a Sane Society.

My practice and success as a community organizer has been built on the concept that by linking of our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual energy we have the capability to positively transform even the most oppressive reality. It is time to bring this perspective to our political work.

**A new way of life**

It is time to build a political movement based on the concept that the people of this country, region by region, must establish a new way of life and a new economy that is life giving to us all, rather than beneficial just for a few. We, the people, are challenged to use our creative energy to build the framework of a Sane Society. Our elected officials will then have the responsibility of helping to guide the development of the society that we are building block by block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood, state-by-state, and country-by-country.

I believe that the District 7 Plan for Peace and Prosperity can play an important role in our resurrection and triumph over the internalized oppression and external oppression that confronts us each and every day.

For further information about my work and campaign for re-election, visit [www.chuckturner.us](http://www.chuckturner.us)

read Lloyd Smith's interview with Chuck Turner: about the Spirit in politics and hip-hop culture  
<http://bridgenews.org/news/062004/turnerinterview/view?searchterm=chuck%20turner>

# Andrews

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mitting" law was passed in 2006. The idea originated in real estate industry lobbying circles, and was made a priority by Governor Mitt Romney and legislative leaders. In justifying the law, legislators were responding to claims from developers that local boards were not moving fast enough to approve their development permits.

The measure was opposed by public interest groups, including MASS-PIRG who stated that the measure "sacrificed thoughtful planning, environmental protection, and community concerns." Governor Deval Patrick, who will now administer the law, has repeatedly stated that expedited permitting is a key part of his administration's economic development plans.

DLA Piper Rudnick is a major advocate for development interests, and includes State Senator Jarrett Barrios among its real estate lawyers. The interlocking relationships between state government personnel and the real estate industry is further strengthened by the fact that Dan O'Connell, the new Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, was Spaulding & Slye's principal in charge of

the North Point development. Bialecki reports to O'Connell.

The North Point case underscores the tendency of state regulators to favor developers over the environment, according to Jill Stein, who has been heading a statewide effort by the Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities (MCHC) to protect local planning rights.

Stein observed that "We are failing to hold developers responsible for the safeguards that we need to protect our imperiled environment - an environment upon

which our health and economy depend. We have the third highest population density in the country, and we have serious development-related problems, including one of the highest asthma rates and some of the worst surface water pollution.

"Expediting the permitting process is going to make these problems worse. The permitting reform that we really need is to implement a careful, open and honest permitting process and to make sure it isn't subverted by the influence-peddling of politically connected developers."



North Point construction seen from Cobble Hill, Somerville [photo: Eli Beckerman]

# Exposing the North Point "fix"

by Eli Beckerman

**After the SJC decision, the Patrick Administration quickly filed House Bill 3757, legislation to "fix" the problem posed to developers by the ruling. Designed to exempt landlocked tidelands from public trust protections, it drew opposition from area legislators who had been big Patrick supporters.**

The Governor's bill would dramatically weaken the public trust doctrine and the Chapter 91 Public Waterfront Act. At an April 6 public hearing, an array of legislators, non-profits and neighborhood groups tilted heavily against that bill.

Jill Stein, who led the statewide mobilization against Patrick's bill, testified that "our oceans and our shorelines are in real trouble, with fisheries declining 90 percent in some cases.

"Recently we've heard a lot here in Massachusetts about expedited permitting

and expedited development. But what we really need is expedited environmental protection."

On the Joint Committee, Rep. Will Brownsberger (Belmont) and Rep. Michael Moran (Allston) challenged testimony from the real estate lobbyists and insisted on the need for public process on filled tidelands.

Acting DEP (environment) Commissioner Arlene O'Donnell drew some laughs when she portrayed Chapter 91 as requiring oversight of filled lands like "center field at Fenway Park."

But Rep. Moran responded that "oversight over 4 or 5 million square feet of new development in my district is not a joking matter. . . . To ask us to give away our oversight, our authority, our seat at the table, if you will—to ask us as a Legislature to do that—I think we'd be crazy to."

Referring to Patrick's campaign slogan,

Moran told Administration officials, "To be frank, this doesn't really have a 'Together We Can' type of attitude."

Now that the Northgate developers have turned to suing each other, the project hailed by Senator Ted Kennedy and all the other big shots as a "model of urban smart growth" remains in legal limbo.

The shakiness of the North Point project suggests that building our economic future on such projects is a highly questionable strategy.

Scarce public funds are being invested in poorly conceived insider-driven mega-projects, while community-driven economic development that could provide a sound basis for jobs and future ecological security is neglected.

Whether or not "growth" is really "smart," shutting communities out of the planning process is stupid.

# strengthen progressive movements and build our party

**Electoral possibilities for 2008**

The race for the Green Party's presidential candidate is wide-open. Will Ralph Nader run for president again? Will he run as a Green? The same questions apply to former Democratic Party Congressperson from Georgia, Cynthia McKinney, who has publicly stated she is not red or blue and her clothes are all green these days.

On June 9th, speaking at a Harlem fund raiser to retire her Congressional Campaign event, she on three occasions addressed speculation that she might run for President in 2008. At the end of the program, Robert Knight of Pacifica Radio who MC'd the evening's events takes the pulpit to ask: "I can't hardly wait for 2008. Ms McKinney, in 2008, what color is your parachute?"

McKinney responds from the audience, "it's not red and it's not blue" A video of her remarks is linked from <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2508693105235438933>  
<http://www.allthingscynthiamckinney.com/node/67>

Former national leader of the Black Panther Party Elaine Brown, is running also. Several other candidates have already announced.

The success of the GRP in the 2006 elections guarantees us major party ballot status. This means there will be a

Massachusetts Green presidential primary in March of 2008. Our presidential candidates won't need to gather signatures to get on the primary ballot. To run a presidential campaign is no easy job but at we will not have to gather signatures to secure a spot on the November ballot.

What role will the GRP play in the nomination of the US Green Party's presidential ticket? Our Campaign Development and Legal Committee (CDLC) will organize a subcommittee for the statewide effort to educate our enrolled members and the public about the March primary. At that time we will also elect delegates to the national Green Party's 2008 nominating convention. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this subcommittee.

[mikeheichman@verizon.net](mailto:mikeheichman@verizon.net)  
 or (617) 265-8143

To maintain major party ballot status after the November, 2008 election our parties needs to increase party enrollment to over 40,000 or one of our statewide candidates must get over three percent of the vote in November.

It will be very simple for us to get our presidential candidate on the ballot but a US senatorial candidate will need 10,000 valid signatures. An effort very similar to our successful 2002 and 2006 statewide petition drives would be

called for. If we run a serious campaign for the US Senate our candidate would have to be able to get the campaign up and running very quickly and would need to be able to raise additional resources beyond the base of our active GRP members,

Throw your hat into the ring and inform me ASAP if you are interested in running.

As for the Congressional races of 2008, given the current weakness of the State's Republican Party, a GRP Congressional candidate might be the only opposition to an incumbent Democrat. Each Congressional district has only ten percent of the statewide population and that would mean more manageable campaigns. Should we run one or more candidates for Congress? If you are considering a run I strongly urge you to make the decision to run soon and talk to the party about it.

If you want to focus more on the local level, consider running for the State Legislature. These campaigns are much smaller geographically. In a district campaign, a dedicated GRP candidate, with a small core committee willing to go door-to-door can run a credible race with minimal funding. Once again the key is to decide early, especially if you are a first-time candidate.

And lastly there are ballot ques-

tions. The GRP activists I have spoken with think that this is not the year to play a major role in promoting a statewide ballot question. They believe that such a project is beyond our party's current size and strength. It could be possible to join other ballot efforts and play a supporting role. We could improve our efforts in working in coalitions around issues that are important to our constituencies.

Ron Francis, former GRP co-chair, proposes to run one or more advisory questions in various State legislative districts. It is relatively easy to get advisory questions on the ballot. He thinks this is a good way to build our party locally, but the State Committee has not approved this initiative.

It is my hope that we will have many candidates and campaigns moving simultaneously and cooperatively across our state. 2008 has the potential for greatly advancing our vision and building our party. We need many more party members to step forward and be the candidates and campaign workers.

I believe very strongly that the party can use electoral opportunities as part of our overall strategy to grow our vision and nourish our values. The CDLC will warmly support your electoral efforts.

# Newspaper building community in Cambridge, Somerville

by annie butler

I used to complain about the newspapers and the mass media. I still can only read a few headlines before I have to stop reading, murder, guns and drugs; and that is before I get to the local news.

Headlines that I remember that told the truth, "Marxists Win Elections In Chile", "National Front For the Liberation Of Vietnam Rolls Into Saigon On May Day," "Sandinistas Win Power," were always followed by stories full of lies. Letters to my local paper about the bias and lack of accuracy in the story were never printed.

But I never forgot the headlines.

**"If you don't like the news, go out and make your own!"**

It's not news that many of the stories in the daily paper read like press releases for our government or corporations.

It's not news that the mainstream press is more boring and less trustworthy as the years pass.

It's not news that our right to a free press and free speech may be guaranteed but the more money you have the

more rights you can buy.

In the late 60's alternative community press emerged all over the country as local activists began to realize just how marginalized the truth was. I worked on one myself in the early 70s.

Over thirty years have passed and mainstream media still clings to what is best for business because they are business. Telling the truth about the latest environmental tragedy does not set a business free, it only dries up its "revenue stream."

The Mystic River Green-Rainbow chapter (MRGRA) voted to authorize a newspaper project in 2003. The newspaper committee talked for many months. They decided on a community newspaper to focus on news from our local's two cities, Cambridge and Somerville. The Green-Rainbow perspective would guide the choice of articles, but writers would have broad freedom of expression.

I met the local, Mystic River Green-Rainbow Action (MRGRA), when I joined that Newspaper Committee.

The hardest thing to decide should have been one of the easiest. We hag-

gled for months over the name before someone who wasn't on our committee walked into the room and suggested the winner—*The Bridge*.

American journalism students learn to give equal space to both sides of a story, as if there were only two. They are also supposed to not favor one of the sides.

At *The Bridge* we expect more than two sides to most stories. We make it very clear that we do take sides. We believe that we should be a fighting paper that focuses on the Ten Key Values. We seek to be involved in the news that we report.

Since we come out monthly at the most, we are able to take the time to work with writers to make sure what gets printed is what they intended to say.

### A few of our favorite stories

Among our contributors, Salma Abu Ayyash and P.F. Soto reported on muffling the voices of Palestinians; Roy Bercaw on cops seeking taser weapons; I interviewed Kazi Toure on surveillance, particularly during the Democratic National Convention.

Amee Chew asked MRGRA for support defending women from anti-

abortion fanatics at clinics and ended up reporting the story. And, yes, MRGRA endorsed that work and *The Bridge* backed it up in print. Marilyn Wellons wrote on the Urban Ring highway scam; Carol Hill on fighting Harvard in our neighborhood; and ex-prisoner Ray Levasseur remembered his comrade Richard Williams, a local man who died in a US prison for fighting apartheid.

Kathy Podgers regularly reports—and acts—on the violated rights of People With Disabilities; Susan Mortimer and Andrea Hornbein expose the abuse of prisoners by the punishment industry.

Somnath Mukherji explained India's Bhopal disaster and its warning to Boston; and oil worker Larry Davey, who has seen the environmental cost of off-shore drilling, asked why Africans should pay the price of our high energy consumption while we piously protect our Georges Bank.

We also use national sources of underreported information that concern our community, the Green-Rainbow Party and promote our Ten Key Values.

Since June 2004, we have distributed between 8,000 and 22,000 copies per issue, mostly door to door, and mostly in Somerville and Cambridge.

When our neighbors ask us when the next newspaper is coming out we know we are "going out and making some news." Not to sound too corny but I also think we are living up to our name and trying to bridge our community back together, trying to rebuild community when so much seems to be falling apart.

*The Bridge* is also a website where we post stories that we can't fit into our usual eight-page tabloid format. We archive past issues. We post up-to-date reports and announcements. We have links to other sites.

We have not posted to the website recently. We await the installation of a new Green-Rainbow server. The site's archives remain up and available however, at [www.bridgenews.org](http://www.bridgenews.org) Check us out.

*The writer of this article joined the MRGRA and the Green Rainbow Party, even though in the past she swore she would never join a political organization again.*

### International Women's Day

The annual celebration... (text continues)

### THE BRIDGE

Vol 14, No 48 www.bridgenews.org

### Building emergency communities

At the recent... (text continues)

### Bruta

... (text continues)

### Picariello is acquitted

... (text continues)

### Local 122 taking it

... (text continues)

### Inside

... (text continues)

### THE BRIDGE

Vol 14, No 48 www.bridgenews.org

### Immigrant rallies sweep U.S.

... (text continues)

### Animal advocat federal

... (text continues)

### Jim Crow Goes Fishing

... (text continues)

### The City signed our neighborhood rights away to Harvard

... (text continues)

### Call for s of Lafaye trial set f

... (text continues)

### Et tu, celly?

... (text continues)

### THE BRIDGE

Vol 14, No 48 www.bridgenews.org

### Cambridge cops seek Taser weapons

... (text continues)

### Mystic River sludge plant w impact Everett, Somerville

... (text continues)

### Islamophobia—anti-Semitism for the twenty-first century

... (text continues)

### Et tu, celly?

... (text continues)

# Bioweapons accidents—more norm than exception

<http://www.sunshine-project.org/>  
Austin, Texas, July 3— (Sunshine Project) Far more accidents have happened in biodefense and other high containment labs in recent years than the public knows about.

The Sunshine Project has made public unreported accidents with biological weapons agents that resulted in an order from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Texas A&M University to cease and desist all research with bioweapons agents.

The Project has confirmed a number of other incidents involving bioweapons and/or BioSafety Level Three (BSL-3) labs.

• In mid-2003, a University of New Mexico (UNM) researcher was jabbed with an anthrax-laden needle. The following year, another UNM researcher experienced

a needle stick with an unidentified (redacted) pathogenic agent that had been genetically engineered.

• At the Medical University of Ohio in late 2004, a researcher was infected with Valley Fever (*C. immitis*), a BSL-3 biological weapons agent. The following summer, a serious lab accident occurred that resulted in exposure of one or more workers to an aerosol of the same agent.

• In mid-2005, a lab worker at the University of Chicago punctured his or her skin with an infected instrument bearing a BSL-3 select agent.

• In October and November of 2005, the University of California at Berkeley received dozens of samples that it mistook for a relatively harmless organism. In fact, they contained Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, a BSL-3 bioweapons agent. UC

Berkeley never told the community.

In addition to lab-acquired infections and exposures, other types of dangerous problems have occurred, such as unauthorized research, equipment malfunction, and disregard for safety protocols.

• In February 2005, University of Iowa researchers performed genetic engineering experiments with tularemia without permission. They included mixing genes from tularemia species and introducing antibiotic resistance.

• In September 2004, University of Illinois at Chicago lab workers at a BSL-3 facility propped open doors of the lab and its anteroom, a major violation of safety procedures.

• In March 2005, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill lab workers were exposed to tuberculosis when the BSL-3

lab's exhaust fan failed. Due to deficiencies in the lab, a blower continued to push disease-laden air out of a safety cabinet and into the room. An alarm, which would have warned of the problem, had been turned off. The lab had been inspected and approved by the US Army one month earlier.

• In December 2005, at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York City, three lab workers were exposed (converted) to tuberculosis following experiments in a BSL-3 lab.

• In mid-2004, a steam valve from the biological waste treatment tanks failed at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The building houses BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs. Major damage caused the building to be closed for repairs.

# Green Speaks: Berkshires alternative TV

by Wanda Boeke

Green Speaks is a one-hour show that highlights local and projects in the Berkshires. We have been on air for about ten years at our local cable channel, Pittsfield Community Television (PCTV). We also highlight speakers who come to our community. Last year that included the gubernatorial candidates. Our program focuses environmental sustainability, social justice, and more recently peace.

Being close to the New York state line, we get to work with folks all the way from Albany, Columbia, and Rensselaer Counties to Hampshire and Franklin Counties. We also went to Cambridge for the 2004 Green Party presidential candidate debate.

We have a DVD archive of past shows, and I am struck by how relevant these shows still are.

"Is the Military Your Best Option?"—a moving two-part forum held at Berkshire Community College (BCC, Pittsfield) includes members of Veterans for Peace, American Friends Service Committee, Army vet Molly Mast of Stockbridge and Air Force vet, Frank Houde from Military Families Speak Out.

Former Marine John Amidon of the Interfaith Alliance of New York State, who traveled with Carole Ferraro of Albany, and Diane Reiner of Rensselaer can be seen in their program "US Academics for Peace Visit Iran and Syria."

John Bonifaz, the activist attorney, describes the founding of afterdowningstreet.org. We follow his footsteps as he tries to hold government accountable and reclaim the Constitution.

The 2007 Martin Luther King Day presentation in Spencertown, New York, remarks about the lawsuits filed with 2004 Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb against voting fraud in Ohio, and his book *Warrior-King: The Case for Impeaching George W. Bush*.

"Surplus Is a Big Plus" presents Berkshire activist and GRP member Eddie O'Toole speaking at Simon's Rock College of Bard. He inspires and amazes with his recycling projects. He



Jeff Turner and Wanda Boeke in the PCTV studio

[photo: Jamie Cooney]

*Green Speaks has been around longer than we have. Mike Castronova ran it for the first five years. When he told PCTV that more people wanted to be involved, they gave us a training session on how to use cameras in the studio. It took 45 minutes of one Saturday afternoon.*

*We learned to work in the "cabinet," a board with lots of buttons and switches. Later we had a three-minute session on how to use the portable cameras to record outside events.*

*PCTV has a more or less full time staff of four to help you. Pittsfield has enough production to fill up three channels. The smaller Berkshire towns don't have that much material. They can and will air anything that they find on their computer to fill the space, including commercial material. We reach out to those towns and offer them CDs of Green Speaks shows.*

*People reach out to Green Speaks too. They see Jeff is a real trouper, so he gets hooked into helping with other people's PCTV shows!*

*We have a very active peace community out here. Pittsfield is near Albany, New York, so we get to work with people there a lot. We Berkshire Greens are building connections to the growing Hispanic community here. The main idea is getting young people into the studio and involved. That's kind of exciting.*

*Once an Iraqi hostage had some footage he wanted to show, and we were shocked at the images that were there. PCTV told us we could run a disclaimer "includes images that might not be appropriate" for some viewers. Nothing is prohibited except explicit incitement to violence.*

tears apart unwanted buildings, collects school and medical equipment headed for landfills, and sends it all down to Guaimaca, Honduras. There, at El Centro Capacitación Nueva Esperanza (The New Hope Training Center) he puts it together again. Local youth learn bicycle repair, mechanics, building construction and CPR/EMT. O'Toole has shipped down used ambulances and a school

bus as well.

"An Interview with Bernard Avalle" was prompted by Columbia County activist Wendy Dwyer who interviews the PCTV director to educate the public on the importance of community television. The show was aired in May on the eve of the bill to eliminate local cable franchising (which fortunately didn't pass).

Green Speaks filmed Ralph Nader

when he spoke at BCC in May.

Currently airing is Simon Harak, on the cost of the US military. Followed by Ray McGovern on the CIA its role in our disastrous US foreign policy.

You will soon be able to order our shows at the Berkshire Greens new website <http://greens.berkshires.ws> There you can enjoy our YouTube snippets.

Stay tuned!

## Green-Rainbow Party expands internet offerings

by James O'Keefe

The Technology committee is working on a number of projects to improve communication between members and between the party and voters.

### For our voters

We are working with the Communications Committee to increase communication between the party and our voters by starting a blog for party announcements, events and user comments. Please check out [green-rainbow.org](http://green-rainbow.org) to see what we have setup. This new functionality is made possible due to a generous donation of a new server by one of our members.

We have also started expanding our presence in a number of social networking and sharing sites including: mySpace, Facebook, Flickr and Orkut.

We hope to have a YouTube page and the capability of doing live blogging by the time you read this. Please check [green-rainbow.org](http://green-rainbow.org) for the latest.

### For our members

We are upgrading our site's web software to make it easier for members to submit content to the site, and allow editors to review that content before it appears on the site. We believe that this change will help members share their knowledge and events and

will increase communication between members.

We are also exploring alternatives to our e-mail lists and would love your feed back on what works and what doesn't. E-mail or call us!

### For our activists

Our activists find it hard to find members in their area. To fix this, we launched an effort to cleanup our database, update addresses and phone numbers and make it accessible over the web to activists in a secured manner. We will be using an open source system that is very effective and is highly recommended by the Green Party of Canada and several state parties. We will train members in how to use the new database at the convention and will hold trainings over this year and next.

### How you can get involved

It is very easy for members to get involved and there exist many tasks for people to do who have little time.

Indeed, not all tasks are technical, such as moderating our pages on various social networks, writing articles for and moderating our blog, or sharing photographs or videos of Green-Rainbow events.

However, on the technical side we do need people

with experience with web design, databases and administering UNIX servers. Please e-mail—[techhelp@green-rainbow.org](mailto:techhelp@green-rainbow.org) or call 617-447-0210 if you want to help.

### Network with the GRP

We are expanding our presence to a number of social networking and sharing sites including: mySpace, Facebook, Flickr and Orkut. Please, check [green-rainbow.org](http://green-rainbow.org) for how you can join us on those sites.

### Can't make the convention?

For members who can't make the GRP convention—check [green-rainbow.org](http://green-rainbow.org) to keep up with the latest developments.

**GREEN-RAINBOW PARTY NEWS**  
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# Green-Rainbow Party 2007 STATE CONVENTION

## 9:00am to 5:00 pm—Saturday, August 25

### Community Church of Boston in Copley Square



#### directions

**by car:** Via Mass Pike or Storrow Drive take the Copley Square exits. Turn left, 2 blocks to Boylston Street.

**by public transportation:** take any Green Line train to Copley—*or* take Orange Line to Back Bay station, walk 3 blocks down to Boylston St—*or* 39 MBTA Bus from Forest Hills (Get off at Boston Public Library)



Community Church 617 266-6710 through this door upstairs at 565 Boylston Street

Public parking is available at the Back Bay Garage. Entrances are on Clarendon Street and St. James Ave.

**on site child care provided**

watch the Green-Rainbow website at <http://www.massgreens.org/> for 2007 Convention agenda details

## Green-Rainbow in first-ever Strategic Planning Process

by John Andrews

Where should the Green-Rainbow Party put its focus over the next few years? What is needed to ensure steady growth and make a unique contribution toward a society that reflects our key values, including justice, sustainability, and nonviolence?

These kinds of questions are constantly debated within GRP circles. But up to now, the party has had no process for reconciling divergent views, identifying immediate priorities from longer term priorities, and providing coherent, consensus-based guidance for the work of the Party.

For this reason, the GRP State Committee voted at its January meeting to establish a Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG).

The SPWG was formed in February with members appointed by the Party working committees, caucuses, and by the party co-chairs.

Current members include John Andrews, Steve Baer, Eli Beckerman, Dave England, Jim Henderson, Eva Kerr, Merelice, Celia Rock, David Rolde, David

Spanagel, Elie Yarden, and Betty Zisk.

The SPWG was charged with writing a strategic plan to guide the party in the 2007-2009 time frame. They were asked to look at near-term objectives, volunteer and financial resources, prospects for growth, key outreach issues, and the appropriate tactics to use to move each objective forward.

In order to obtain a range of ideas from Party supporters, the SPWG hosted a public meeting on May 6 in Worcester at which attendees were invited to provide testimony to the SPWG on any topic they felt was relevant to the Party's strategic planning. The SPWG is reviewing this testimony.

Anyone who has ideas that they think would be helpful should send them to the SPWG via Eli Beckerman, at [elibeck@gmail.com](mailto:elibeck@gmail.com)

Or speak to any of the SPWG members. Further information on the SPWG can be found online at: [www.green-rainbow.org/Committees/Strategic\\_Planning](http://www.green-rainbow.org/Committees/Strategic_Planning)

right after the convention beginning at 7:30 PM in the Community Church

## DAVID ROVICS in concert

to benefit the Green-Rainbow Party!

**\$15.00—\$10.00**

at the door —sliding scale



## financial supporter and membership form

- I want to be a dues-paying financial supporter of the Green-Rainbow Party  I am renewing my dues
  - \$10 low income  \$20 regular  \$30 family  \$50 supporting  Other \$\_\_\_\_\_
  - Monthly Sustainer: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month\*
- I am a member of the Green-Rainbow Party since I am
  - registered as a Green-Rainbow voter in Massachusetts, or
  - paying dues and registered as Unenrolled (independent) in Massachusetts, or
  - paying dues and am not registered to vote
- Save postage! send my future newsletters via email.  Keep me informed! Add my email address for announcements
- Please contact me. I am interested in volunteering with a local GRP chapter.

first name \_\_\_\_\_ middle \_\_\_\_\_ last \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_ apartment \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

credit card number\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_ date of signature \_\_\_\_\_

occupation\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ employer\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Green-Rainbow Party, POBox 440353, Somerville MA 02144-0004

Checks payable to: Green-Rainbow Party Federal fund

#### important notes

By giving this donation you acknowledge that as specified by US Federal law you are a US citizen or a Federally recognized permanent resident.

Donations over \$100 must be made by check or credit card.

\* Due to credit card processing fees, the minimum monthly amount for sustainers is \$10.

\*\* Credit card billing information must match name and address.

\*\*\* If your total contribution is more than \$200 in a calendar year, Federal law requires us to furnish this information