



Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meetings of the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta) and the Green Party of Canada in Alberta will be held from 9:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Gull Lake Room of the Red Deer Lodge on Saturday, **November 1st 2003** (note: this is *not* the originally scheduled date). The hotel is located at 4311 - 49th Ave in central Red Deer.

The meeting time will be split between an AGM for the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta) in the morning and one for the Green Party of Canada in Alberta (provincial wing of the federal party) in the afternoon.

NOMINATIONS

The provincial party will be accepting nominations for all four executive positions:

- Secretary (due to relocation of the current secretary, Pat Gidora). Madeleine Oldershaw has been nominated for this position.
- Chief Financial Officer (due to the resignation of the current CFO, Madeleine Oldershaw). Mark MacGillivray has been nominated for this position.
- President (due to the expiration of David Crowe's two year term). David Crowe has been nominated to continue in this position.
- Leader (due to the expiration of David Parker's two year term). David Parker and George Read have both been nominated for this position.

Nominations can be sent on a signed letter to the party's post office box (see page

2). The fact that a person has been nominated for a position does not prevent other nominations from being made.

If you are unable to be present at the AGM and wish to vote on positions for which more than one nomination is received please send a signed letter with this request to our post office box.

SPECIAL GUEST: JIM HARRIS

Jim Harris, the leader of the Green Party of Canada, has indicated that he will be present at this AGM! Don't miss this opportunity to meet the new leader of the federal party.

Growth in Alberta

The Green Party in Alberta is growing by leaps and bounds.

There will be a meeting of the party in Edmonton on October 26th 2003 at 5pm at Organic Roots at 112th and 82nd Avenue.

In Calgary, monthly meetings will resume in November. Contact any member of the executive for information at that time.

A Green Party Pub night is held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in Calgary. The new location is the Crush Pub. It is at the corner of 12th St. and 12th Ave SW. Please phone George Read for more information (+1-403-230-9474).

Federal Election Readiness

The Liberal party has essentially chosen Paul Martin as Prime-Minister-In-Waiting. That means that we are likely to see a federal election in the spring of 2004 as he tries to obtain his own mandate.

Federal funding laws have changed and any federal political party that gets 2% of the vote across the country will get \$1.75 for each vote cast from the government for the party. For the Green party that could mean about a million dollars to fund future growth and development, including regional support staff. This is an all-or-nothing game and to get this money we will have to run candidates in as many of the 301 ridings as possible. Here in Alberta we hope to have candidates in all 27 ridings.

The party has a good chance at running candidates in most of the ridings in Ontario and British Columbia. If we can field that many candidates we have a good shot at getting 2% of the total vote. We can be successful if everyone does their part.

Anyone who is eligible to vote can be a candidate. We need people to step forward who are willing to put their name on the ballot as a candidate. We also need people to work as Official Agents, campaign helpers and to donate money or useful goods. Help ensure that the 2004 election is the beginning of a new era for the Green Party!

If you are interested in helping please contact George Read by email at politics_of_ecology@yahoo.com or by phone at +1-403-230-9474.

Green Party of Canada Celebrates 20 Years

On August 8th 2003 the Green Party of Canada celebrated its 20th birthday. Members met at the party office in Ottawa for a celebration.

Manitoba Greens Shine in Election 2003

The Green Party of Manitoba did fabulously well in a June 3rd 2003 provincial election.

Markus Buchart, the party leader, received 19.2% of the vote in Winnipeg's Wolseley riding, coming second behind the NDP candidate. The popular votes of the other 13 candidates were:

- Jesse Tottle, Assiniboia – 1.3%
- Mario Ducusin, Inkster – 1.6%
- Frank Luschak, Kildonan – 1.9%
- Catherine Johannson, Burrows – 2.1%
- Connie Jantz, Steinbach – 2.2%
- Linda Goossen, River Heights – 2.3%
- Larry Powell, Dauphin-Roblin – 2.6%
- Nelson P. Morrison, St. Vital – 2.6%
- Keith Barber, St. Norbert – 2.7%
- Alon Weinberg, St. Johns – 3.7%
- Joan Johannson, Minto – 3.8%
- Mikel Magnusson, Fort Rouge – 5.0%
- Vere Scott, Lord Roberts – 6.3%

The party only ran 4 candidates in the previous election.

Greens in Quebec By-elections

Julian West

Yonnel Bonaventure was the candidate for the Quebec Greens (Parti Vert) in a June by-election in Levis, receiving 1.1% of the vote. This is not much, but they did not run a candidate at all in 2000, and they did better than the Alliance candidate (0.9%) and not far behind the PC (2.3%) and NDP (4.2%) candidates. The vast majority of the votes (from 23% of eligible voters) went to the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois.

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address:	Box 61251, RPO Brentwood Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada
Email:	molders@calcna.ab.ca
Web:	www.calcna.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html (or do a search for "Alberta Greens")
Leader	David Parker +1-780-469-1448
President	David Crowe +1-403-289-6609
Treasurer	Mark MacGillivray +1-403-204-5400
(acting)	
Secretary	Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788
(acting)	
Membership	Alan McCreary +1-403-239-6768

MEMBERSHIP - ALBERTA GREENS

Membership in the Alberta Greens is free! Simply send your name, address and other contact information to our mailing or email address above. Members have the right to vote at Alberta Greens meetings and will receive this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP - GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

Memberships in the Green Party of Canada are available for \$10 to individuals, or \$15 to families from:

Alan McCreary
Secretary, Green Party of Canada in Alberta
#46 - 6915 Ranchview Dr. NW
Calgary, Alberta, T3G 1R8, Canada
Email: alanmccreary@shaw.ca
Web: green.ca

DONATIONS

If you cannot give us your time, we could certainly use your money! 75% of your first \$150 in donations to the Alberta Greens are returned to you on your next Alberta tax return. You can also receive this tax break on donations to joint projects between the Alberta Greens and other environmental and social action groups. Contact us for details.

MEETINGS

For information on meeting dates, times and locations, contact the party secretary.

COMMENTS

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the party address above or directly to the editor by email to David.Crowe@aras.ab.ca.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know your new phone, address or email contact information before they change. Include your name, both your old and new information as well as the effective date of the change. Send updates to our address above.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Alan McCreary, Erica Crowe and Julia Crowe for their assistance with the distribution of the newsletter.

University of Calgary Campus Greens Summer Plans

Garett Kutcher

Universities have long been centers for political thought and activism, creating a fertile breeding ground for student-led branches of major political parties. However, the transitory nature of the students who provide leadership can result in ephemeral groups. A group that is successful and active for a year or two can disappear completely when its small group of core members moves on (due to graduation, increased workload in class or other reasons).

Thus one of the major projects which the UofC Campus Greens hope to spearhead is a regional, and later a national, network of Campus Green groups, which will cooperate not only on actions but provide a framework and training for members. In doing so, they hope to provide these groups with permanency and sustainability. Campus Green groups in the US already have an organizing guide, which is being used as the basis for the document currently being produced.

In addition to establishing a communication network with other campus green groups, the UofC Greens are planning a spring/summer action in conjunction with Oxfam, the National Farmer's Union, Council of Canadians, and the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate in opposition to GM wheat. Chosen not only for its importance, the question of genetically modified wheat is one of national interest, so it can serve as a common issue to connect campus groups across the prairies.

The GM wheat action will follow the pattern of education before protest. In this way, the UofC Campus Greens seek to differentiate themselves from the stereotypical campus activist group, which goes from protest to protest without coherent goals. The education portion of this action will include bringing in a number of guest speakers including embattled organic farmer Percy

Schmeiser. These actions will keep the group active over the summer. When school begins in the fall, the group can hit the ground running.

Actions require both time and money. This is where an active membership helps. The UofC Campus Greens are currently working to raise money in a variety of ways, including selling CDs in support of the Activist Network as well as selling compost to the University community. They are also happy to accept any donations of time, expertise, or money from members of the Green Party or from the general public.

Contact the UofC Campus Greens through their web site at:

www.ucalgary.ca/ucgreens

or by mail at:

UofC Campus Greens
c/o SU Clubs' Office, mailbox #10
2500 University Drive NW,
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4

Supreme Court Overturns Law that Harms Small Parties

On June 27, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected an appeal of a law that discriminated against small parties. The suit was brought by the Communist Party of Canada after it was deregistered and had its assets seized in 1993 because it failed to field 50 candidates. Parliament still has the option of passing another law within the next year, but they have limited room to maneuver now this unanimous decision has been handed down.

A Globe and Mail story with more details is at:

www.globeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20030628/UVOTEXA/TPNational/TopStories

Jim Harris, leader of the Green Party of Canada said that this decision "is a victory for Canadian democracy, but it is disturbing that it took 10 years to have this unjust, draconian legislation struck down as being unconstitutional."

Proportional Representation Vote

Guy Dauncey

One of the most under-reported stories of the year is that Members of Parliament will vote on Tuesday September 30th 2003 on an NDP motion to call a referendum to see if Canadians want to change the electoral system to proportional representation.

This will be the first time that parliament has voted on proportional representation in 80 years. See:

www.ndp.ca/changethesystem.html

for more information.

Please write to your MP, to make sure that they vote to change the system.

BC Greens: Monitors of the 2010 Winter Olympics

Green Party of British Columbia

On July 2nd 2003, the Green Party of British Columbia congratulated those who worked hard to win the bid to host the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler. "Our party took its stand to oppose hosting the Games here in 2010 not because we're against the Olympics", stated BC Green Party leader Adriane Carr, "but because of concerns raised by people throughout BC. Many people are worried that the Games will cost too much at a time when there is too little money for the services that people need, and that the economic and social benefits have been exaggerated, especially for people outside of the Vancouver-Whistler region," says Carr.

Now that Vancouver and Whistler have been awarded the 2010 Games, the BC Green Party expects the BC Government and the new Vancouver Organizing Committee to honour the many promises and commitments made to the people of BC, including:

- Thousands of jobs for BC workers.
- Increased tax revenues.

- Economic spin-offs in tourism involving all regions of the province.
- ‘Green games’ that do not damage the environment.
- Improved transit and transportation.
- Sport facilities and support for elite athletes
- Benefits for the socially disadvantaged in our society, including non-market housing.
- Open and accountable process for the awarding of contracts.
- No scandals!

Carr said “Our party will create a *watchdog* panel of experts to monitor preparations for the games. It will report annually to the people of BC and expose any failures to honour the promises made by the Bid Corporation and the BC Liberals as well as provide suggestions for improving the preparations so that the Games can be the best they can be, economically, socially and environmentally. Only by ensuring that all of BC’s people benefit, can the Games truly honour the Olympic spirit.”

Ontario Greens Run a Pretty Darned Close to Full Slate

Frank de Jong, leader of the Green Party of Ontario, announced on September 6th 2003 that the party had a full slate of 103 candidates in the ongoing Ontario election, although later it turned out that one candidate had not turned in the required paperwork on time. In the 1999 provincial election the party ran 58 candidates. de Jong has also stated that “We intend to start winning some seats.”

The Green Party was excluded from the leader’s debate, even though a majority of Ontario residents who were polled felt that they should be included.

The Green Party of Ontario platform, and much more information about the party and its policies, can be found at:

greenparty.on.ca

We will report on the success of the Ontario Green Party in the ongoing provincial election in our next newsletter.

Ontario Green News

The Ontario Green News, a publication of the Green Party of Ontario is available on the web at:

www.uoguelph.ca/~whulet/OGN/Home.htm

Canadian Greens Support NAFTA?

According to a June, 2003 Ipsos-Reid poll, 63% of decided Green Party voters support NAFTA. This is not as high a fraction as for Alliance (79%), Liberal (77%), PC (75%) or Bloc Quebecois (74%) voters, but more than NDP voters (47%).

Perhaps more interesting than the poll results is the fact that a major pollster has recognized Greens as a distinct political force.

In the poll, Greens represented 5% of decided voters. Few Greens supported NAFTA strongly, and a considerable number (23%) strongly opposed it.

Canada Well-being Measurement Motion

Mike Nickerson

After almost three years of work, the Canada Well-being Measurement motion, M-385, passed in the House of Commons on June 3rd, 2003 by a vote of 185 to 46. This will encourage the development of “a set of indicators of the economic, social and environmental well-being of people, communities and ecosystems in Canada”.

Joe Jordan, the supporting MP, says it is uncommon for private member’s business to move so quickly to a vote. This could have been because many people contacted their MP’s and asked them to support it.

The passage of this Motion means that in the opinion of the House of Commons the creation of a Genuine Progress Index is a good idea. Where this goes remains to be seen. Some believe it will go nowhere, but others believe that the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainability will draft a ‘Canada Well-Being Measurement Act’.

For more information, including a copy of the background document “Measuring Well-Being”, contact Mike Nickerson at:

sustain@web.ca

A booklet entitled “Measuring Well-Being” is available at:

www.SustainWellBeing.net/index3.html

Green Success in Germany

*Saphir Robert
(translated by Richard Ockel)*

www.gruene-partei.de/rsvgn/rs_dok/0,,16567,00.htm

Who would ever have expected such a success? Even among the German Greens there were enough people who anticipated a little over 7% but would have considered popular support of nearly 9% as presumptuous impudence. With their deafening jubilation at the Berlin Tempodrom on election night, party members and supporters not only expressed their enthusiasm regarding the first incoming projections. It also reflected their relief and their surprise.

It wasn’t much different for the commentators. Even the harshest critics had to admit that Green ideas and Green politics were able to convince a larger percentage of the population than they expected.

Because no one dared doubt this fact, the Greens received praise from an unusual quarter, the conservative press. The daily ‘Bild’ called the Green Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer a ‘superstar’. ‘Die Welt’ commented on the party’s unified and professional profile, of course not without reminding their readers once more of

Fischer's 'revolutionary roots' of the 1970's.

Perhaps with tears in their eyes 'Welt' commentators once more wrote 'Sponti party' (party of undogmatic leftists) before this term was - possibly for ever - banished to the archives. The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper (FAZ) even recognized the fact that the Red-Green coalition would be continued "...not despite the Greens, but despite the SPD [Social Democratic Party] and because of the Greens".

Analyses show that ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS political principles enjoy high approval among voters. Be it the environment or the position on Iraq - "...for many policies Schroeder has adopted, the Greens actually seem more convincing", writes the 'netzzeitung'. This may also explain the high number of votes the alliance received from past SPD supporters.

Depending on the pollster, between 500,000 and almost one million former SPD voters placed their X with the Greens this time around. Whereas Chancellor Schroeder's (SPD) appearance in the flood areas, and his 'no' to German involvement in a possible Iraq war were interpreted as election strategy by some, the Greens were ascribed a high level of competence and persuasion regarding policies on the environment and peace.

In addition a further Green core issue ranked third in this election: According to Infratest-dimap, behind economic and employment policies, the issue of social justice played an important role in deciding the vote. 40% of alliance voters declared that this was the deciding factor for their vote. The fourth place issue was foreign affairs and security and here too the Greens were able to score well with their leading politician Joschka Fischer.

Another thing became quite clear: The issues leading to the Red-Green coalition's success were to a considerable extent shaped by the federal Greens. Be it nuclear power phase-out, same-sex partnerships or a change in agricultural policy, the reforms rewarded by the electorate are identified with names such as

Joschka Fischer, Jürgen Trittin (Green Environment Minister) or Renate Künast (Green Minister for Consumer Protection).

But there was another reason to vote Green. It was essential to prevent a red-yellow (FDP, the Free Democratic Party) coalition. With the FDP all beginnings of new environmental, consumer protection or foreign policies would have been stalled. During the flood disaster last summer it became evident that the FDP's humorous slogans had failed the first test. The polling institute Infratest-dimap discovered that trying this party's efforts to distinguish itself through the issue of 'tax cuts' was not working. The attacks by the former leader of the FDP in Northrhine-Westphalia, Jürgen Möllemann against Israel and the Central Consistory of the Jews in Germany kept the electorate from voting Liberal. Because of this issue half the voters attributed a loss of credibility to the FDP.

According to the polling institute the Greens have gained a reputation as a responsible partner in government. This was in large part due to the 'top personnel', first and foremost Joschka Fischer, with an 83% approval rate among the population. This makes him by far the most popular politician in Germany. But Renate Künast, the Green Minister for Consumer Protection also enjoys broad support. According to Infratest, 58% of the electorate hold her in high regard.

This electorate can fittingly be described as 'female and young'. According to the Infratest dimap analysis it was particularly women who voted for the alliance - 9.6%. With 5.2% of women's vote the Greens even managed to pass the 5% hurdle to achieve representation in the Laender of eastern Germany. Social justice is an issue especially important to female voters and they see this issue best represented by the Green Party.

Rita Mueller-Hilmer of Infratest sees a long term trend here and advises the Green Party: "One should not rule out that women will keep the Red-Green alliance in power even longer. Now the Greens just have to do a good job." A dis-

covery pollsters have made should prompt other parties to take notice: 77% of women consider a gender quota desirable when it comes to filling political posts, and this only happens with the alliance.

Green policies are also well received by future generations of voters. Parallel to the federal election the first not-rated 'junior federal election' was held this year. Of 700,000 students from 240 schools 14% voted for the alliance! Those who were allowed to cast their ballots for the first time during this election voted in a similar fashion. 12% of first time voters chose the Green Party. This means that compared to other parties women as well as young voters can consider themselves best represented by the alliance. The majority of Green members of parliament are women, the caucus is the youngest in parliament and with the much portrayed 19 year old Anna Lührmann the party also boasts the youngest member of parliament ever.

It is hard to know who celebrated more boisterously on election night September 22, the German Greens or the Green Parties in other countries. After the election, the alliance received hundreds of enthusiastic congratulations from all over the world. For example Arnold Cassola, General Secretary of the Federation of European Federation of Green Parties (EFGP) wrote the election result is "... a success for all European Greens". The US Federation of Green Parties went even further: "Your victory is a victory for all Green Parties in the world!"

One thing above all became clear from the reactions. This Red-Green success has had a signal effect at least in Europe. Although a number of conservative and right oriented parties in several European countries have posted recent victories the trend seems to have come to a stop for now.

It is not surprising that for example the Finnish Green Party sees itself strengthened: "Your election victory shows that the Greens can govern, that they are able to maintain political approval and even improve on it", was the message from

Helsinki. The Spanish Greens talk of a 'wave', which hopefully "will splash over all of Europe". The Dutch sister party sees the Green position strengthened and challenges the alliance to a surprise attack: "Change Red-Green to Green-Red".

Our answer is that together we can ensure that out of the Green election successes in recent months (Australia, Sweden, Slovakia, Germany Latvia, Brazil) a strengthened, internationally effective, at the same time realistic and radical power will grow, which will do all it can for just globalization and sustainability, for human rights, self-determination and peace. Austria, now it is your turn!

Belgian Greens Lose Ground

The Green Parties in Belgium (Agalev and Ecolo) lost ground to the far right in May 18th 2003 elections. French speaking Wallonia reduced the number of Green parliamentarians from 11 to 4 and in Flanders their seats were reduced from 9 to none.

According to Reinhilde Vanherck-Peeters, a Belgian Green and elected Town Councilor in Bornem, "It is difficult to talk about the elections. It hurts a lot. The parties who were in the previous government with Agalev/Ecolo organized a big demonstration against Agalev one week before the elections. We could not believe our eyes! I think that a lot of the voters wanted the Greens out of the government, and back into the opposition because then we could 'make more noise'. The result is that there is not even a Green opposition now. We lost everything, including a lot of money from the government which means that we cannot even pay our staff any more. It also means that we, Green members of town-councils, have lost our support and back-up from the Brussels office. Lots of Agalev groups are now talking about merging with the socialists. I could never do that in my town. I am not going to sell my soul. Never! I am Green and I will stay Green."

Since Reinhilde wrote this, she has reported on a joint meeting of Agalev representatives from across Belgium which gave hope for the party to emerge from its ashes, through its continued presence on Flemish town councils.

European Green Website

Information on European Green Parties, and a jumping off point for their websites is available at:

www.europeangreens.org

Professor Bullsh*t on Genetic Engineering

The Norfolk Genetic Information Network presents Dr. Bullsh*t and associates who provide "bogus research, false reports and other spin-doctoring from the pro-GM [Genetic Modification] lobby" at:

members.tripod.com/~ngin/pb.htm

US Green Presidential Hopefuls

Prospective and declared candidates for the presidential nomination on the US Green ticket are David Cobb of Texas, Carol Miller of New Mexico, Lorna Salzman and Paul Glover from New York as well as two-time Green presidential candidate Ralph Nader.

US Greens Call for Impeachment and Troop Withdrawal

At their 2003 national meeting in July, the Green Party of the United States called for the impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney and the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan by the end of the year.

US Greens Warn of Police State

Green Party of the United States

A legislative proposal from the office of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld would, if enacted, grant the military nearly unlimited freedom from civilian oversight, and, in combination with other recent laws and policies, bring the U.S. to the brink of a military-dominated state, say members of the Green Party of the United States.

The "Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act" would:

- Allow the Secretary of Defense to choose billion-dollar corporate contractors without public accountability or Congress' review;
- Strip Defense Department employees of union rights, whistle-blower protections, annual pay raises, and right to appeal disciplinary actions;
- Exempt the Pentagon from environmental protection rules on more than 23 million acres of U.S. land; and
- Exempt the Pentagon from numerous Congressional oversight rules.

In a March 7 memo, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said President Bush should exempt defense facilities from certain environmental laws "for reasons of national security."

"The Cheney-Rumsfeld-Ashcroft doctrine has been compared with the Mussolini definition of fascism as 'the merger of state and corporate power,'" said Nathalie Paravacini, secretary of the Green Party of the United States. "In the past three years, we've witnessed a power grab by the executive branch and military, to the benefit of favored corporate lobbies – a putsch with the blessing of Congress."

"But the Bush Administration's abuse of power differs from classic fascism in some essential ways," added Paravacini. "We do not hear outright racist comments, but witness jingoistic appeals to 'with us or against us' nationalism and post-9/11 insecurity, racial profiling, and

the targeting of Muslims and other immigrants for harassment. Instead of imprisonment, torture, and execution of political dissenters, the Bush Administration operates more efficiently by ignoring and marginalizing any dissenting voice, in collusion with media that act as distributors of propaganda instead of journalistic coverage of facts.”

Greens cite a list of recent attacks on U.S. democracy:

- The manipulated 2000 national election and Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist’s declaration that there is no guaranteed right to vote;
- Occupation of the White House by oil and defense industry operatives and execs;
- The ‘preemptive’ invasion of Iraq in defiance of the Nuremberg principles and U.N. Charter;
- Congress’ surrender of its power to declare war;
- The Homeland Security Department and Office of Information Awareness;
- Passage and possible expansion of the USA Patriot Act.

“The ‘Patriot II’ Act would gut the Constitution even further,” said Jake Schneider, treasurer of the Green Party of the United States. “All these measures have been used to distract Americans from domestic economic woes aggravated by President Bush’s tax cuts and gutting of social services. This ideology betrays the GOP’s own claim to be ‘the party of liberty, the party of equality of opportunity for all and favoritism for none.’” [see the Rules of the Republican Party at www.rnc.org/gopinforules]

Greens note that the Clinton legacy laid the groundwork for some of the Bush Administration’s worst excesses:

- The 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act;
- The 1996 Telecommunications Act, which concentrated the corporate ownership of media;
- Training of civilian police forces in military tactics;

- Mandatory sentencing and erosion of judicial discretion;
- Plan Colombia;
- Bombing raids against several small nations; and
- Establishment of U.S.-dominated international trade authorities with the power to veto environmental, labor, and human rights protections.

“Our only hope is the enormous resistance that’s building all over the U.S., from the refusal of some cities and towns to comply with the Patriot Act to the widespread protests against the invasion of Iraq,” said Green Party activist Deyva Arthur of Troy, New York. “But, with a few exceptions, Democrats have endorsed most of Mr. Rumsfeld’s and President Bush’s agenda. None of the Democratic candidates who hold a chance of winning the national nomination dares to criticize Rumsfeld or Bush on this basis or has called for the defeat of Rumsfeld’s defense legislation.”

“Without the Green Party, the 2004 campaign will be a contest between two pro-war parties, both with little regard for the rights, laws, and principles enshrined under the Constitution or the U.N.’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” Arthur added.

Prisoner Abuses

A July 7th, 2003 press release from US Greens also protested human rights abuses against prisoners in detention camps, such as Guantanamo Bay. This is based on an Amnesty International report that documented sleep deprivation, physical abuse and isolation being used against the so-called ‘unlawful combatants’, many of whom are being held anonymously, and without charges.

More Information

The Green Party of the United States national office is at 1314 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 202-296-7755. Phone (toll free) 1-866-41GREEN or visit their website at:

www.gp.org

“The Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act” Legislative proposal from the Department of Defense to Congress is available at:

www.afge.org/Documents/DoDLegislation.pdf

“Pay Raises and Rights of All Federal Employees At Risk As Congress Begins Debate on DoD Civil Service Overhaul” American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, April 24, 2003 is available at:

www.afge.org/Index.cfm?File=2003_04_24.htm

“Special Report: Justice Dept. Drafts Sweeping Expansion of Anti-Terrorism Act: Center Publishes Secret Draft of ‘Patriot II Legislation’” By Charles Lewis and Adam Mayle is available from The Center for Public Integrity at:

www.publicintegrity.org/dtaweb/report.asp?ReportID=502&L1=10&L2=10&L3=0&L4=0&L5=0

WANT TO HELP?

You can help the Alberta Greens in many different ways. You can run as a candidate, act as campaign manager or chief agent for a candidate, or simply drop off flyers, host a neighbourhood coffee party to introduce the candidate or get on the phone and call prospective voters.

When an election is not on you can, of course, donate money to the party and receive much of it back in Alberta tax credits. You can help out in the development of policy, write articles for this newsletter, phone to expand and strengthen the membership or dream up your own way to help the party grow.

Massachusetts Greens Condemn Repeal of Clean Elections Law

On May 30th 2003 the Green-Rainbow Party condemned a vote by the State's Senate. The party was particularly incensed that this was done without a roll call, meaning that those who voted for the bill will not be definitely known. The Democrats hold a strong majority in the Massachusetts Senate, an indication that they are no more anxious than Republicans to eliminate morally indefensible and undemocratic election practices in the United States.

New Zealand Greens say No! to Fluoridation

*Michelle Brooker
The Press
May 30, 2003*

Fluoridating Christchurch's water supply would be unethical, and a form of mass medication, the New Zealand Green Party says.

The Green's health spokeswoman, Sue Kedgley, said yesterday a worldwide trend existed away from adding fluoride to water, and the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) was pursuing the wrong demon if they thought fluoridating Christchurch's water was the way to reduce tooth decay.

The Swiss city of Basel voted in April, 2003 to remove fluoride from its water supply after 41 years.

Tooth decay had doubled in Basel's children since 1996, and no evidence existed to show Basel had lower rates of tooth decay than other Swiss cities, she said.

The major cause of dental cavities among children was poor dental hygiene, and the consumption of excessive amounts of sugar in drinks and food, Ms Kedgley said.

"Instead of spending \$3 million on fluoridating the Christchurch water supply, the CDHB should fund a public health

education campaign about dental hygiene," she said.

Unanswered questions remained about the effectiveness of fluoridation, and possible adverse effects from long-term consumption of fluoride in water, Ms Kedgley said.

She also questioned the ethics of what was effectively a form of "mass medication."

School and Community dental health service head Martin Lee said the mass medication argument was nothing new.

"That is the spin they (anti-fluoride lobbyists) put on it," he said. "It (fluoride) reflects a natural phenomenon. In other parts of the world it is in the water naturally."

Water was fluoridated in South Africa, and in 75 per cent of Ireland's water supply, Mr. Lee said. It was also expanding in the United States. In California, water supply companies abided by mandates which said they had to put fluoride in the water, he said.

"As for the CDHB funding a publicity campaign, what are they going to fund it with?" he said. "In Christchurch, the CDHB is paying more (dental costs) because we don't have fluoride in the water."

It was not hard to find information supporting either side of the fluoride argument, Mr. Lee said. "It is really easy to pluck out isolated studies that support your point of view, with no great scientific fact.

"Just like with vaccination. But what happens when you take all of the evidence and weigh it up?" he said. "On balance, it shows that fluoride reduces tooth decay."

Christchurch Hospital dental service clinical director Gordon Carter said fluoride was a human rights issue, because people were forced to take it if it was in their water supply.

"But at the end of the day, it is still a public health measure," he said. "It [fluoridation] is only going to reduce dental disease."

West of the Blindman

The Central Alberta Historical Society and Central Alberta Regional Museums Network have just published *West of the Blindman: Observations of a Half-Century* by Fred Schutz.

This collection includes over two hundred articles from Fred Schutz's weekly column *West of the Blindman*, which appeared in the Rimbey Record between 1954 and 1997. Filled with enchanting observations of both natural and cultural history, the book reminds us of the beauty and diversity found in our own backyards. Schutz's gentle and witty writing allows the reader to transcend life's daily tribulations and remember the pleasure found in a walk in the wood, the softness of moss or the wisdom in an historic anecdote.

Fred Schutz has made a tremendous contribution to the preservation of Alberta's history for close to 50 years. Fred received the George Cadogan Memorial Award from the Cadogan Foundation and the Canadian Community Newspapers Association Award in 1989 for "Outstanding Columnist in a Canadian Weekly Newspaper". Fred Schutz was instrumental in establishing Rimbey's Museum in 1967, six years before the larger community of Red Deer opened its museum.

For over 30 years Fred has been involved with the Red Deer River Naturalists and appropriately his book will be launched at their Annual Banquet on September 25, 2003. The banquet will take place at the Club Café in Red Deer at 6:00 PM with Mr. Schutz speaking after dinner. Tickets will be available at Kerry Wood Nature Centre from September 1st. For more information about the Banquet contact the Red Deer River Naturalists at +1-403-347-8200.

To purchase *West of The Blindman: Observations of a Half-Century*, visit The Museum Shop at the Red Deer & District Museum or call +1-403-309-8446.