



Greens of Virginia

Autumn
2006

Newsletter of the Greens of Virginia / Green Party of Virginia

Number 33

A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR VIRGINIA

Don Rouse, Arlington / Courthouse Greens

The Green Party of Virginia is opposed to any further highway construction or widening, until the Commonwealth (read State) of Virginia puts rules in place to preserve affordable housing, local infrastructure, and the environment. Contrary to the current view of our elected and appointed officials, the desires of multi-national corporations and developers do not come first. The public interest comes first – that was the founding purpose of the United States of America.

Building more roads and expanding roads is not the answer to congestion and gridlock, as everyone knows who sits on a highway attempting to reach a destination. The widened road will soon again fill up with cars, and that many more people will sit in traffic. A study has determined that added lane mileage induces significant additional travel. Every

1% increase in new lane miles generates a .9% increase in traffic in less than five years. Instead of contributing ever more to the destruction of our environment - the place where we live - our public officials should attempt to implement reasonable alternatives that will help target congestion. (Delegate Eisenberg introduced, then pulled for lack of support, a bill that would require full consideration of all alternatives before any highway widening in Northern Virginia).

The Federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia should observe a moratorium on any further road building (which is what road widening is) until public officials and jurisdictions address runaway development and sprawl. Since under present conditions no road widening will alleviate gridlock, the Virginia highway department should not just continue down that same old road.

Here are some of the potential alternatives that the Federal government, the state of Virginia, and the department of highways (VDOT) have steadfastly refused to consider, and have never studied, because doing so militates against using automobiles and using up oil:

- Designate the number of occupants per vehicle to increase the number of riders per vehicle (establish high occupancy vehicle lanes)
- Enforce the HOV designations
- Increase the hours of already designated HOV restrictions.
- Jump start the implementation of rail along major freeways in the state. Implement bus and rapid transit service everywhere, whether long or short distance.

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BRINGING REAL DEMOCRACY TO VIRGINIA

The time for Instant Runoff Voting is NOW!

Paul S. Hughes, Northern Virginia Greens

The duopoly of political control by the Democratic and Republican parties has increasingly led to stalemate and inaction on some of the most crucial issues of the day, at both the national level and here in Virginia. Most Virginians would agree with national polls that indicate a majority of Americans prefer to end the so-called, but never codified, “two-party system”.¹ In fact, the increase in negative campaigning and the sense that their “vote does not matter” has resulted in steadily lower turnout in elections at all levels of government, in Virginia and the nation.

What the nation does not need is another critical election where the winner receives less than a majority of the votes. Voters feel like only a few states or counties are battleground jurisdictions, and their vote does not matter. Voters feel like they are forced to cast their vote for the “lesser of two evils”, or that their preferred candidate will be tarred with charge of “spoiler” by pulling votes away from one of the two majority party candidates, resulting in the least desirable candidate winning. This is no way to encourage greater citizen participation in the political process or to bring greater democracy into our political system.

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Key Issues for Grass Roots Recruiting

James Blythe, Fredericksburg Greens

The fundamental importance of expanding the Green Party by recruiting new members cannot be overemphasized. Our ability to be heard in the public arena is directly related to the size of our party and our ability to communicate its message to the public.

Unfortunately, many times the message the public receives about our Party is projected by the mainstream corporate media, who never miss an opportunity to portray us as wild eyed fringe elements out of touch with the mainstream. This is unfortunate, because it makes growing our Party more difficult. Consequently, locals interested in growing their membership should concentrate on addressing issues of direct interest to the general population in their area. While local issues will vary, there are a number of statewide issues of general concern which all locals could capitalize upon.

For example, popular concern about global warming allows us to make the case for pollution reduction through adoption of mass transit, non fossil fuel burning vehicles, and non polluting power plants.

Rising fuel prices could allow us to make the case for alternative, cheaper and cleaner sources of energy, such as solar, wind or hydroelectric.

Growing public concern about the safety and quality of the food provided by large scale factory farming and imports allows us to make the case for supporting small local organic farms. (This also increases our appeal to the growing specialty farm population as well.). Affordable healthcare and retirement security concerns should translate into additional support for a local or statewide government healthcare system or expanded Social Security and Medicare benefits. (A side benefit of funding these programs would be the requirement for increased taxes on the wealthy and reduced government spending on the military and corporate sectors.)

Finally, the general public is beginning to realize that terrorism cannot be successfully addressed through military means alone. This realization should be used to build support for eliminating the injustices at the root of terrorism (such as our support of repressive Arab regimes, and our occupation of foreign nations).

Given our limited resources, it only makes sense to concentrate our efforts on those issues most likely to increase our membership. Current issues of concern to the general public fill the bill.

A Forgotten Nation

Michael Kotyk, At-Large Greens

It is curious to note that the international community has a double standard when it comes to enforcing its laws. Why is it that the world is willing to intervene in the countries of Haiti, Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo to prevent the killing of civilians trapped by war and yet do not lift a single finger to stop the Israelis from doing similar actions in Lebanon?

In the news today, air strikes conducted by the Israeli Air Force caused the death of 40 civilians. A few days before that, the Israelis conducted an artillery barrage upon a UN observation post, killing all 4 observers, and a day later, they destroyed ambulances run by the Red Cross. Another article introduced an American-Lebanese woman who was brutally beaten by Israeli border guards because she would not let an Israeli soldier manhandle her son. The media has been filled with images of what appears to be the deliberate targeting of Lebanese civilians by the Israeli government, and yet the world has doing nothing to stop it.

What have the world leaders given us? Pretty speeches, empty threats by the Secretary-General of the UN, and useless talks held by the US Secretary of State.

Silently, both the US and UK seem to be clandestinely approving of Israel's wholesale slaughter of the Lebanese. In fact, President Bush seems to be smirking throughout the entire ordeal. Why is it that the world is willing to interfere in countries like Bosnia but not in Lebanon?

If Lebanon were Kosovo, would NATO conduct air strikes on the Israelis like they did to the Serbs in 1998?

If Lebanon were Haiti, would the US invade and restore order?


If Lebanon were Somalia, would the UN ask the world to help restore order and to stop the bloodshed?

The point is this: Israel has broken the world's laws and its actions need to be put to an end.

It seems that Lebanon has become a forgotten nation, as well as a victim of a double standard when it comes to the enforcement of international law. We have abandoned the nation of Lebanon. We have left them to their own means as they are being systematically slaughtered by a more technologically and economically advantaged country.

Perhaps it is politics that is the deciding factor in all of this? People are afraid to stand up to Israel because they do not wish to be looked upon as possibly 'anti-semitic' if they criticize them. And yet, is it worse to be labeled as anti-semitic or to stand by and watch civilians be targeted and killed by Israeli tanks and aircraft?

We walk around with blinders, futilely hoping that if we don't see it, it really doesn't exist. And for our ignorance, it is the people of Lebanon that suffer for it. What will our children think of us in the future? I hope to God that they will be ashamed of us for our double standards.



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The Greens of Virginia Newsletter is affiliated with the Green Party of Virginia. Neither this newsletter nor the GPVA are associated in any way with the Independent Greens of Virginia (IGV).

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Greens,

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

Here's what we're looking for:

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

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

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





Revolution, Remembrance and A Hope for Peace With Iran

Bob Petrusak, NOVA Greens

Those who want an American attack on Iran will never let us forget the 1979-81 hostage crisis in which religious fanatics, later sanctioned by their government, seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and its staff. However, the seminal event in today's abysmal American-Iranian relations is not the hostage crisis but rather the CIA-orchestrated military coup that deposed Iran's popularly-elected Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh in August, 1953 and restored the Shah of Iran to absolute authority. To be sure, the hostage-takers tormented the American diplomats they held captive, and committed an inexcusable crime against both the United States and international diplomacy. However, the coup of '53 had repercussions far beyond the killing of some 300 people in bitter street fighting, and the execution of many others excluding Mossadegh himself, who was imprisoned.

The coup reversed Mossadegh's effort to control Iran's vast oil resources for the benefit of its people.¹ It restored foreign dominance over this industry through a new consortium of multi-national corporations.² It brought Iran 25 years of repressive monarchy supported by the United States and defeated a largely peaceful, nationalist revolution that could have spread to other oil states. In so doing, it insured that religious extremism would replace secular democracy as the most dynamic force for change not only in Iran, but throughout the Middle East. Without the '53 coup, there never would have been a hostage crisis or an Islamic Revolution.³ In fact, the coup represented the second time within a half-century that foreign interests, greedy for Iran's resources, had destroyed a popular, secular revolution. As a result, many more Iranians would look toward religious militants to address the chronic problem of foreign domination through puppet-monarchs.

However, if hard-liners in Washington and Tehran move closer to war, Americans and Iranians should find mutual understanding in events of a century ago that should have brought enduring American-Iranian friendship. This year will mark the 100th anniversary of Iran's 1906 Constitutional Revolution. This momentous event brought the ideals of the American Revolution to the Middle East as the Iranian people struggled to impose a rule of law on a corrupt, repressive and foreign-dominated monarchy. Nearly a century before a neo-conservative cabal in the Bush administration proclaimed an American privilege to forcibly export "democracy," the Iranian people temporarily won their own fight for liberty and representative government. On August 5, 1906, Iran's Shah gave in to the popular will and allowed a constitution, a parliament or "Majlis," and a free press.

The revolution had been occasioned by the Shah's sale of national resources to foreign interests. To continue living like a Shah, he had generously granted concessions to foreigners in a variety of economic activity, from sturgeon-fishing to oil extraction. The British oil concession, established in 1901,⁴ and destined to become the giant British Petroleum, had yet to find sustainable oil reserves by 1906. However, the revolution was extremely

unsettling to all of the foreign concessions, as the new government was certain to investigate each and likely to cancel several.

The British and Russian Empires also viewed the spread of liberal ideas as a threat to their imperial ambitions throughout Asia. Britain and Russia therefore put aside a long and bitter rivalry to form a new alliance to stop the emergence of democracy in Iran. They divided Iran into geographic zones of influence, negotiated with local sheiks as if the new government did not exist, and resisted its attempts to raise revenue. The British concession struck oil on May 26, 1908, and it was probably no coincidence that during the following month, the foreign-dominated Shah instigated religious extremists to riot against the new constitution. The rioting sparked civil war between Constitutionalists and foreign-supported Monarchists. In December, 1911, Russian-led Monarchist forces effected a coup against Iran's parliament and thereby restored the despotism of the Shah, a tragedy that would be repeated 42 years later by soldiers and street mobs orchestrated by our C.I.A.

We Americans should be asking serious questions about our national role reversal because early 20th century America supported Iran's Constitutional Revolution. An American missionary named Howard Baskerville joined the Revolution and in 1909, lost his life leading an attack on a Monarchist force besieging Tabriz. Baskerville became known as the "American Lafayette," a personification of American friendship for Iran recognized even after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. In 1910, President Howard Taft sent to Tehran an American delegation headed by Morgan Shuster, an economist, banker and attorney. Their mission was to help the new government organize a modern system of revenue and end the commercial privileges of powerful foreigners. When Shuster called for enforcement of revenue laws in the Russian zone of influence, the foreign interests demanded his ouster and shortly thereafter, the Monarchists had their military triumph.

President Taft was not entirely altruistic in dispatching Shuster, whose mission was guided by American "dollar diplomacy." Yet something clearly changed in the American national character between 1910 and 1953. Apologists for the overthrow of Mossadegh would surely cite America's newly assumed "leadership of the free world" and need to protect Iran from Soviet subversion or the possibility that Mossadegh was unwittingly leading his country into the Soviet camp. However, this excuse looks shabbier with every passing year. If the "free world" had genuinely cared about Iran's vulnerability to Soviet subversion it would not have allowed a global, corporate boycott of Iranian oil that damaged Iran's economy and destabilized its government. The hypocrisy of our government's reluctance to use our anti-trust laws against American oil companies participating in the boycott would be reflected by the exemption from anti-trust prosecution granted oil companies that joined the consortium formed after the CIA's coup.⁵ In fact, statements by President Eisenhower and his national security advisor suggest more concern that Mossadegh would survive the boycott, and continue to

threaten Western oil interests, than that it would fall to a Soviet coup.⁶ Conservative historian John Lewis Gaddis also debunks the possibility of cooperation between Mossadegh and the Soviets in a fairly recent and definitive study, We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History.⁷

As the drums beat for an attack on Iran, Americans must ask themselves whether our professed love of freedom has long since turned into a love of consumption. We should also ask how we can morally claim a right to impose "regime change" in the name of "democracy" on a people who twice had their own democratic aspirations destroyed by foreign intervention. However, the realization that Iranians were struggling for their own democratic ideals long before any of today's neo-conservatives were even born may be just what we need to see us through the forthcoming war propaganda.

(The author is a retired government attorney who is now a graduate student focusing on the history of American foreign policy; he can be reached at RLPetrusak@AOL.com)

* * *

¹Iran's parliament or "Majlis" had increased its power and influence relative to the monarchy in the turbulent years after World War II, a period characterized by labor unrest and increased resentment of British ownership of Iranian oil reserves and facilities. In April, 1951, the Majlis elected Mossadegh Prime Minister and enacted a bill nationalizing the Iranian assets of Britain's state-controlled Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, later known as "British Petroleum." Among other things, the bill created the National Iranian Oil Company. The Shah signed the nationalization bill, in view of its overwhelming support from the people of Iran. Mossadegh had been a leader of the oil nationalization movement, which had been occasioned by Anglo-Iranian's efforts to deny Iran a fair share of oil revenue. Among other things, Anglo-Iranian had refused to open its books to inspection by Iranian auditors and had applied its own formulas to determining earnings and Iran's share of those earnings. An excellent secondary source of material on these events is All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror, 2003, by Stephen Kinzer, pp. 69-82.

²Technically, the coup did not completely undo the nationalization of oil reserves and facilities, as the National Iranian Oil Company would survive to exercise ownership over these assets. However, the new consortium of foreign oil companies would run the industry and the National Iranian Oil Company "could not tell the consortium what to do." Yergin, Daniel, The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power, p. 476. The consortium, of course, controlled the crucial factor of production rates and their effect on world oil prices.

³Fear that the United States would again restore the Shah enabled incendiaries to instigate the embassy seizure; such fear also undermined secularists in Iran's new, post-monarchy government, thus insuring the rise of theocracy. See Yergin, op. cit., pp. 700-701.

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Transportation Policy

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- Evaluate the use of HOT lanes on existing highways without widening the road, and with the toll revenue dedicated to implementing public transportation.

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

Telecommuting whenever and wherever possible;

Implementing "live where you work" zones to maintain affordable housing in each neighborhood for lower and middle income people, to include service personnel, military, teachers, police, fire personnel, and senior citizens, to reduce travel. Imposing at the state level a moratorium on all new building, to prevent the tear down of existing structures and the substitution of McMansions, gentrification, and high priced real estate. Legislate a moratorium on any further building, development, or removal of middle income people from rental homes until controls can be put in place to halt sprawl development.

Reversing government programs and tax policies that help create sprawl. Have developers pay for their projects, not taxpayers. End subsidies to developers who build sprawling developments and have developers pay impact fees to cover the costs of new roads, schools, water sewer lines and property tax impacts.

Targeting building toward town centers in high density urban areas to reduce the need to drive long distances and make multiple trips, and balance jobs, housing, shopping and services.

Reinvesting in existing communities to restore and improve these communities. Maintain walkable, traditional town centers, attract new businesses, reduce crime, improve schools; and revitalize vacant land, abandon storefronts, and huge parking lots.

Protecting open space in neighborhoods and in rural areas from sprawl by enacting growth boundaries and parks & open space protections; throw up green rings around urban communities to reduce urban encroachment into rural areas.

Currently, Virginia is not equipped to save itself. Neither our elected officials nor the state government infrastructure have any interest in attacking the gridlock and sprawl that engulf the rest of us. We can't call upon our government and our elected and appointed officials to take action. They can't, because they are constrained by their rigid ties to commercial interests. We *can* call upon the people of Virginia to wake up, understand that there has been no improvement, and that improvement won't come until they make their wishes known.

The way things are, with future huge increases in population and urban sprawl uncontrolled, and no alternative modes of transportation available, nothing will solve regional (or nationwide) traffic problems, or relieve gridlock; and the general public is going to have to face that reality. This sets in high

relief the fraud of continuous road building, and should generate among a wider public increased questioning of just who benefits from construction.

Our public officials ("our" is used here loosely) have followed a dismally cynical pattern preliminary to highway construction and widening. First, they announce a planned study of conditions and alternatives. Then they announce that the study will solicit public input. Then they put the study in the hands of public relations firms who need no knowledge of transportation issues. In Virginia this very same patterned ploy was used to address I-66 widening and I-81 widening. In Maryland, it was used to justify the interconnector highway. And so it goes throughout the United States. In every instance, a study was used to recommend just exactly what the government and large corporations wanted in the first place, and no alternatives were considered. And our public officials seem overly anxious to award huge contracts for this construction to large multinational corporations who recognize a bonanza, even if the construction helps not one commuter.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is not a transportation agency. It is an automobile and truck agency. That is its reason for existence. And its dealings are not always above board. (Some may remember before I-66 was built, when VDOT threatened homeowners on the right of way with eminent domain to get them to sell their property). VDOT studies are biased toward automobile traffic, and public hearings are something with which the Commonwealth of Virginia simply puts up.

We know we live in a backward state, where the privations that were good enough for daddy are good enough for us, provided we are not among the ruling elite. It's clearly not the commuter whose interests our public officials have at heart. It's a social/political question whether we have representative government, whether homeowners can be removed at will, whether the financially most powerful can just do whatever they want.

I-66

The Green Party of Virginia still opposes widening Interstate 66, as proposed by the Virginia Department of Transportation in a biased study recommending expansion of the road. The study mocked impartiality, and did nothing to question the realization that widening I-66 inside the beltway is unnecessary and ineffective. (Ironically, the study technical analysis itself admits that widening will not reduce congestion, even while recommending widening). Widening will not eliminate congestion and gridlock. We should expect that the widening described in the study is just the tip of the iceberg, and that multiple lane widening and construction inside and outside the Beltway, with the concomitant taking of land by eminent domain, is what our elected officials and their related business interests have in mind for us in the future.

The push to widen I-66 this time was generated by Congressman Frank Wolf, even though it will not help his constituents. Wolf obtained funding for a corrupted \$1 million study publicized as an unbiased study of widening with public input, while being quoted as saying that widening I-66 "is a done deal" even before the study was completed. Wolfe has accumulated a minimum \$87,000 of campaign contributions from building and transportation interests in 2005-6.

I-66 politics-as-usual is running our communities into the ground, when instead we could do this:

- Increase restrictions for highway use once again to HOV-3, and begin to enforce the restrictions.

- Increase the existing hours for HOV restrictions inside and outside the Beltway to reduce congestion.

- Implement "Reverse Commute" HOV for I-66 westbound.

- Concentrate on Metrorail capacity and operational issues, including upgrading Metrorail to 8-car trains.

- Preserve space in the I-66 median for at least four Metrorail tracks to accommodate future express rail service on I-66 and Dulles Corridor.

- Encourage better bike and pedestrian access to subway stations.

- Preserve space in the I-66 median for at least four Metrorail tracks to accommodate future express rail service in the I-66 and Dulles corridors.

- Evaluate value pricing options (i.e. HOT lanes) for the existing lanes, with toll revenue supporting public transportation.

- Promote and improve bus service to Tysons Corner and the Dulles Corridor, especially for "reverse-commute" travel. Expanding or enhancing bus access as necessary, possibly by creating a bus rapid transit (BRT) system. Eliminate wholesale sprawl development along the metro stations planned for the subway expansion (Fresh from Iraq, the Bechtel Corporation is scheduled to receive the windfall for the subway construction). This expanded sprawl development will fill up the subway cars and negate any freeing up of traffic on the Dulles Corridor through the use of alternative transportation. Right now, public officials with strong conflict-of-interest ties to developers, like Gerald Connolly of Fairfax County, are salivating at the thought of a subway line from D. C. to Dulles, because of all the housing developments they intend to build along the right-of-way.

It is wrong for the state to widen I-66 in segments and call each segment a "spot improvement", just to circumvent a public review of the need to widen, and to circumvent environmental laws. This deliberately makes major highway construction sound like fixing potholes, in an effort of a government agency to circumvent the law. Our public officials are going along with this scam, and one must ask whether they are doing this to benefit their corporate constituency. Even VDOT can't define "spot improvement". Since widening will only increase congestion (by increasing the traffic on I-66 and connecting highways), the State should pay attention to alternatives that will counter it: expanded reverse lane HOV; reversion to the stricter HOV requirement; toll lane initiatives that do not require widening; bolstering the orange line; and developing express bus service and enhanced car-pooling. Transportation initiatives are not supposed to negatively affect our quality of life. On I-66, reducing or eliminating safety shoulders, the taking of land, and eliminating amenities such as bike paths, simply serve to turn a spotlight on the untrustworthiness of public officials in ignoring their original agreement with the former US Secretary of Transportation : that the road would remain four lanes and not be

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Perceptions of Growth

Rick R. Johnson

Growth is good. Everyone knows that growth is good, right? Growth is what you want for your bank account balance and your garden. When your tomato plants grow (unlike mine) that's good. When your family grows that's good (although maybe not for your bank account balance). When your children grow – and mature – that's both natural and good. And perhaps because it is just natural for many things (like our vegetables and our children – no relationship implied) to grow, we have all been conditioned since birth to believe that growth is generally good. Growth is one of those things that we don't think much about; we just accept — somewhere in the back of our head — that it's good and move on to thinking about the things that require more immediate attention; like the daily chaos of our increasingly corporate-dominated lives.

When my family and I came to Virginia some 18 years ago Hampton Roads was growing. And I thought that was good. After five years of living on the cold and windy plains near Chicago the relatively mild climate of the Virginia Peninsula seemed like heaven. (And, sometimes, on days like today, with the cool smell of autumn in the air, it still does.)

But back in that day the Rand-McNally Places Rated Almanac rated Newport News within the top twenty of the best places to live in the United States. My morning five-minute drive to work from my home on the northern edge of the city took me past

the pleasant, if incongruous, sight of cows grazing next to an under-construction shopping mall. And even for a young, ambitious scientist who didn't (yet) know enough to stop and smell the roses, the pace of life was slower, the grass was greener, the air was cleaner, and life WAS sweeter here.

But somewhere along the path between then and now, something changed. Maybe it was my environment, maybe it was me, or maybe it was something of both. All I know is that after 18 years of unabated “growth” in Hampton Roads, with “progress” in all quarters, the chrome on my hometown isn't as shiny as my public officials and the television propagandists would have me believe.

What I've seen instead is a spreading melanoma of construction which has left behind dozens of abandoned buildings and devalued properties, acres of parking lots, persistent traffic problems (my former five-minute commute now takes twenty minutes on a good day), a ravaged environment, and a generally poorer community in terms of quality of life. I've seen the last operating farm in my city (yes, the one with the cows) get paved over for another shopping mall. I've seen the poor get poorer, thanks to a stagnant minimum wage, while the rich get richer, soaking up the tens of millions of public dollars allocated to “growth” projects, like the unnecessary King William reservoir or the seemingly endless highway construction in my region.

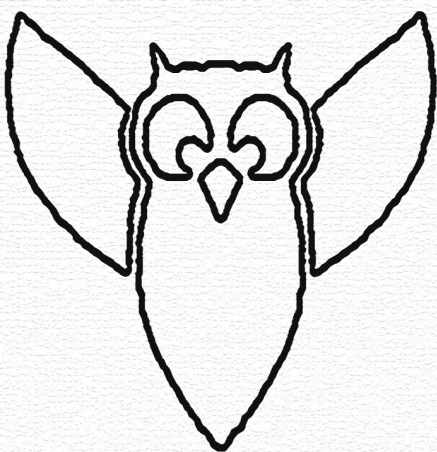
In that context, I'm not convinced that such “growth” is what we really want or need here in Hampton Roads. Yes, I understand that what drives those who drive the planners is a need for economic

growth and ever higher tax revenues (which creates a bigger pot for them to loot). But maybe what we need instead of ambitious plans for expansion is for our public officials to focus on building stability into our local economy, and on improving our quality of life. Maybe they should solve the traffic problems (instead of creating new ones), revitalize the run-down areas (with thought toward keeping something green and alive within city limits), put a little more money into aesthetics and culture, and just plain explore more ways of making Virginia a better place to live. If they did, they might just find that improving the quality of life for all is more rewarding than destroying it for the sake of short-term profits.

For more information about growth in Virginia, and to learn how your town is doing growth-wise, check out the latest U.S. Census data at

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

Rick Johnson is a retired physicist who spent much of his life involved with high-energy physics research at U.S. government facilities. An activist his entire life, and a Green since 1999, he is a veteran of several presidential campaigns; from George McGovern in 1972 to Ralph Nader in 2004. His current political activities include work with the Disability Caucus, and the Merchandise Committee, of the Green Party of the United States, as well as serving as GPVA Press Secretary. The rest of his free time he spends creating art; both fine and digital.



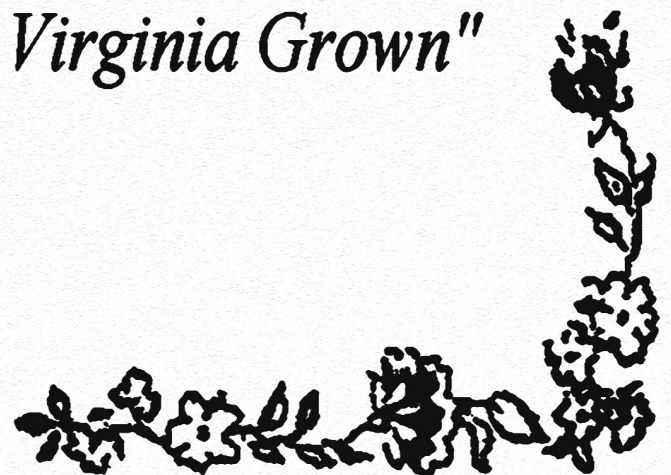
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| Issue | Green Party | Republicans | Democrats |
|--|--|---|---|
| Pro-Choice | Support Greens support full access to abortion , with funding, for all women in the U.S. and around the world. | Oppose Republicans: Bush opposes abortion, ordered a ban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





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





Democracy *continued from p.1*

Fortunately, there is a solution. Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) addresses all of these issues while opening up more choices for voters, expanding the range



of ideas among the candidates, and guaranteeing the ultimate winner receives a majority vote from the electorate. The remainder of this article describes IRV, how it works, its advantages, and how the concept can be advanced in Virginia.

What is Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)?

IRV is a simple voting method used to select a single winner from a list of two or more candidates. By collecting more meaningful information from voters, it gives them a greater power of choice and measures their will more accurately. Invented in the United States, this method has been used in Australia and Ireland for many decades. IRV is a reform that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, so that in cases where there is no initial majority winner, a runoff recount can be conducted without a new election to determine which candidate is actually preferred by a majority of voters.

How does IRV work?

IRV allows voters to rank the candidates they find acceptable. Instead of just casting one vote for their favorite candidate, voters rank the candidates: 1,2,3, etc. (hence, the motto, "it's as easy as 1-2-3.")² After the polls close, the ballots are counted in the following way: At first, only the number one rankings on each ballot are counted. If a candidate receives a majority of first rankings, he or she wins, which is exactly the way we do it now. If no candidate receives a majority of first rankings, then the candidate with the least total of first rankings is eliminated and a runoff round of counting occurs immediately. In this round the second choice votes from the eliminated candidate's ballots are then transferred to the other remaining candidates. The ballots are recounted, and candidates are eliminated in this fashion until one winner emerges with a majority of the vote. In three of our last four presidential elections, the winning candidate did not have over 50% of the national popular vote.³ Since 2000, governors in 15 states have won without a popular majority, including the last two California governors.⁴



What are IRV's advantages?⁵

- When there are more than two candidates, it **ensures the winner has a majority**. Without IRV, the winner can win with less than 50% of the vote. How do we really know they have a mandate?
- It will **allow more candidates**, including independents and third parties, to get involved in a race, **without being accused of "spoiling" the elections**. Even if your favorite candidate comes in last, at least IRV allows your next favorite candidate to be counted. No more wasting your vote, and no more spoilers.
- It will **decrease negative campaigning**. To win, candidates need to get some second and third place votes, as well as first place votes. They'll be less likely to "go negative" if they need their opponent's voters, too. The incentives are to find common ground and build coalitions. Like-minded candidates from different parties can form coalitions either conscious or implied.
- IRV **saves money**. Some states and local elections hold runoffs weeks later to pick the winner. IRV holds the runoff all in one election -- saving taxpayers millions of dollars.



What is IRV's experience outside Virginia?

IRV is a nonpartisan reform, neither liberal nor conservative, that makes our elections more democratic and efficient. In Utah, for instance, the Republican Party has used IRV to nominate its candidates for Congress and governor.⁶ Louisiana uses IRV for overseas voters because Louisiana has a two-round runoff system and has insufficient time to mail a second ballot between voting rounds.⁷ Arkansas recently began using IRV for its overseas military voters.⁸ IRV also is used to elect the president of Ireland, the mayor of London, and Australia's national House of Representatives.⁹

In November 2006 more than 1.6 million voters in Minnesota, California, and Washington state will decide whether to use IRV in future elections.¹⁰ IRV has the support of the League of Women Voters and is already in use in San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley, California, as well as Burlington, Vermont, and Ferndale, Michigan. In July North Carolina enacted a law making it the first state to make use of IRV in statewide elections.¹¹ It will begin to use instant runoff voting for statewide

elections for judicial office vacancies and to let 10 cities and 10 counties try IRV starting in 2007. By a margin of 12 to 1, the Minneapolis City Council voted confirmed its decision in May to use IRV for city elections by putting instant runoff voting on the ballot in November 2006 for voters to approve.

The principal misperception of IRV is that it is too complicated for voters.¹² However, it is used by children in Ireland and Australia to elect their school governments, and in 2004 nearly 8,000 high school students in San Francisco used the system to elect a student representative to the school board of education. During San Francisco's first IRV election in November 2004, a poll conducted by the Public Research Institute at San Francisco State University found that 87% of voters (including all racial and ethnic groups) said they understood how IRV works.

IRV can be used in nonprofit organization elections. For instance, the International Olympic Committee used a form of IRV to choose its 2012 host city for the XXX Olympiad.¹³ Ranked-ballot methods already are used to elect student governments at many universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Duke, MIT, Princeton, UCLA, and UC-Berkeley. The Academy Awards uses a ranked-ballot method to nominate the finalists in all the major categories of the Oscars. The American Political Science Association uses IRV to elect its president. The largest accounting firm in the world, PricewaterhouseCoopers, uses a ranked ballot method to elect its international board of directors.

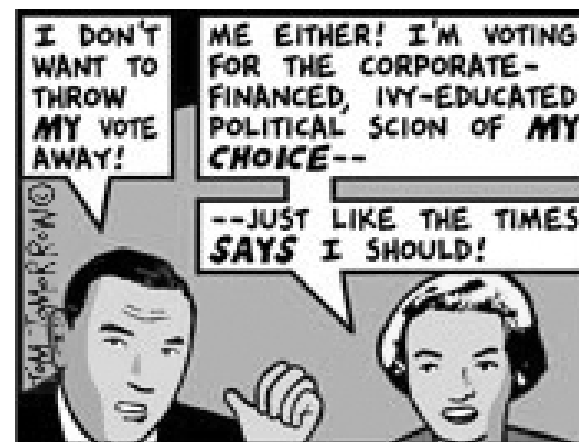
How can IRV be advanced in Virginia?

The key to bringing IRV to Virginia is giving elected officials and the public experience with it. Because it is a "voting method" it can be used in all sorts of settings, not just for public elections.¹⁴ School elections were cited above, but its uses can include such occasions as (1) selecting a local restaurant or movie among friends, (2) electing officers on nonprofit or private organization boards of directors, (3) endorsing candidates or ballot measures by organizations, (4) filling vacancies in special elections, (5) online polls in which the Web user interface is easily adapted for an online ranked ballot, and (6) local races for mayor, county executive, and lesser public agency commissioners (e.g. Soil and Water Conservation Districts).

Conclusion

From the standpoint of the Green Party of Virginia, IRV offers several benefits for party building. First, it would attract more people to the Green Party,

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Democracy

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since third party support would become more politically acceptable, thus increasing our prospects of being able to sign up enough supporters to qualify for a party ballot line. Second, by giving the Green Party more chance to be considered, voters would no longer feel that they were "wasting their vote" or playing the role of "spoilers." In short, they would feel freer to "vote their conscience" among a larger candidate field and "send a message" without having their vote result in the least desirable candidate being elected. In this way, IRV can be seen as part of the solution, along with public financing of elections, free media for candidates, and proportional representation, that can bring real democracy to Virginia.

The author has drawn extensively from 10 Steps to Repair American Democracy (2006) by Steven Hill as well as the websites of the references listed below.

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FairVote, www.fairvote.org, 301/270-4616
FairVote Minnesota, www.fairvotemn.org,
763/807-2550
Midwest Democracy Center,
www.midwestdemocracy.org, 312/587-7060
The Reform Institute,
www.reforminstitute.org, 703/535-6897

Footnotes

¹Hill, Steven, *10 Steps to Repair American Democracy*, Polipoint Press, 2006, p.52.

²Center for Voting & Democracy, www.instantrunoff.com, IRV page, "What is IRV?"

³*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 54.

⁴*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 54.

⁵Center for Voting & Democracy, www.instantrunoff.com, IRV page, "What is IRV?"

⁶*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 57.

⁷*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 57.

⁸*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 58.

⁹*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 58.

¹⁰Yes! magazine, Fall 2006, Issue 39, p.7.

¹¹Press release, Associated Press, July 27, 2006.

¹²*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 58.

¹³*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 59.

¹⁴*Op. cit.*, Hill, p. 59-61.

To Love Justice More

Michael Kotyk, At-Large Greens

Albert Camus, the famous 20th Century French philosopher, once wrote, "There are means that cannot be excused". I should like to be able to love my country and still love justice. These words have particular meaning when I think back to what I feel are crimes committed by my own government against its own people. This puts me in a strange dilemma in today's politically sensitive society. The questions this quote brings to mind are: "If I speak out concerning what I feel is wrong am I betraying my own country? Am I displaying disloyalty?"

The answers are no, both in the mind of Camus and my own. There is nothing wrong with loving the land or the people that gave you birth and sustenance and who raised and infused you with the mores and values that you hold true to yourself. In my opinion, that is perhaps the greatest love you can return. However, sometimes even those in whom you trust can misuse that love and respect and twist it for their own ends.

People in this country elect their own representatives to government. They are supposed to be our voice. They represent, to repeat the phrase used by countless politicians, the 'will of the people'. Elected representatives, however, are as fallible as the rest of us and can be easily swayed both by money and the promises of power.

In January 2001, George W. Bush was sworn in as the 43rd President of the United States. He promised the nation that he would uphold the Constitution of the United States and to do his best to improve the state of our economy, education and Medicare. Since the attacks upon the United States on September 11, 2001, none of these promises, including upholding the Constitution, have been kept. Politicians are well known for not keeping their promises and I can easily blame partisanship for failing to improve the economy, education and Medicare. However, there is one promise which I cannot forgive, and that is the promise not to violate the Constitution.

It is George Bush and his administration that have pushed the so-called "Patriot Act", the biggest trav-

esty in American government since the Alien and Sedition Acts. This act alone, which was authorized by Congress and signed by the President, allows the Bill of Rights, the basis for our freedoms in this country to be superceded in the name of 'national security'.

Under this and its follow up document, The Homeland Security Act, the federal government can now spy upon its own citizens, including intercepting e-mails and tapping our phone conversations. We can be arrested and detained without bail or consult of a lawyer if we are even *suspected* of any 'conspiracy' against the government.

The Bush Administration has gone farther to violate the Constitution than any presidential administration before. America has become the world's bully. We have invaded two sovereign nations and overthrown two governments. We have kidnapped people from other countries and tortured them to obtain information. And we have done these things in clear violation of not only our laws but the internationally recognized Geneva Accords.

Perhaps more shocking than the Bush Administration policies themselves is the public's apparent acceptance of them, even when they fall outside the bounds of Congressional authorization. Is the land of the free slowly accepting the idea of a dictatorship? Any form of dissent at all is looked upon by the conservatives in power, and even some segments of the media, as being 'unpatriotic' if not 'treasonous'. Anyone who speaks out against the post 9/11 world, from senators in Congress to the mothers of slain soldiers, is looked upon with disgust and intolerance. How can the people stand by while our Constitution, the very fabric of our laws and society, is stepped upon and shredded by this Administration?

Sadly, it comes to this : Every citizen of this country must ask him- or herself the same question Albert Camus did — Do I love my country more than I love justice? The answer to this is that you can love your country but you have to love justice just a bit more if our government is to be kept honest. Governments serve the people; people do not serve the government. Are we willing to sacrifice all we grew up to believe in for a small dose of false security? I sincerely hope we are not.

Iran

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⁴The concession would be canceled, revised, and reenacted during the 1930's, supposedly to give Iran a greater share of revenue while reducing the concession's geographic limits. However, limiting the concession to areas that were already yielding large quantities of oil hardly prejudiced the British oil company, which remained free to deny Iran its fair share of revenue as long as it did not have to open its books to Iranian audits.

⁵Yergin, *op. cit.*, pp.472-475 discusses U.S. government anti-trust policy regarding combinations of oil companies outside the United States.

⁶In a March 11, 1953 meeting of the National Security Council, President Eisenhower expressed doubts about the possibility of a successful deal with Mossadegh, stating that "it might not be worth the paper it was written on, and the example might have grave effects on United States oil concessions

in other parts of the world." It is of great significance that Eisenhower's statement followed remarks by Robert Cutler, his special assistant for national security, who raised the possibility: "if the Iranian government as it easily could, should determine to slash the price of Iranian oil [because] [t] here were plenty of tankers available to carry it, the effect would be chaotic on the world price of oil." Such statements made some three months before the June, 1953 meeting which gave final approval to covert action against Mossadegh strongly suggest that Mossadegh's survival as a nationalist was a threat to American interests. Such survival could have resulted in a wave of nationalization throughout the world's oil producing nations or a precipitous drop in world oil prices, either of which could have been disastrous for American companies. Statements of Eisenhower and Cutler can be found in *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1952-54*, Vol. X, pp. 712-14, Doc. No. 318.

⁷Gaddis, John L., *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*, pp. 166-67.

The Fredericksburg Green Party
meets on the
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
at 4pm
in Meeting Room #2 of the
Main Branch
Central Rappahannock
Regional Library
1201 Caroline St.



Transportation

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widened.

We have heard time and time again that building and widening I-66 will alleviate parallel neighborhood road traffic. Over the past several years, the source of this prediction has been the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, which is funded by Associated Builders and Contractors, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, the Northern Virginia Board of Realtors and the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association. These people, folks, want to pave us over. It is their bottom line.

Historically, the relief of traffic on side roads has never happened. Authorities just can't bring that off even when they want to. No road construction will decrease traffic. Traffic only continues to increase, even with ever-expanding road systems and decreases in allowable occupancy on the roads. There is good reason why car paradise won't happen. The population of Northern Virginia is going to double in our lifetime. And there is good reason for that, in addition to the fact that the human population is increasing worldwide. Continued sprawl, and continued building in Northern Virginia is creating the traffic problem that is gobbling us up. If you like what you see in the New York metropolitan area, it is heading your way, courtesy of the good folks listed above.

Widening the Beltway (I-495)

The impending widening of the Washington, D. C. Beltway in Virginia to a ridiculous 12 lanes will have no impact on alleviating current beltway gridlock. This ploy will simply fill up the additional lanes with more cars, which in turn will simply negate the effect of HOT lane limitations on the same section of road.

The increased traffic will flow on to other roadways, like I-66, where, at the chokepoints, it will simply add to the current gridlock. No types of mass transit were ever considered as alternatives; no thought to land-use planning. (The Woodrow Wilson beltway bridge over the Potomac is being widened, taking a major swath out of the environment, with never a thought for possible alternatives.)

Virginia government officials were in a big hurry to award the contract for this pork barrel to Fluor Daniel. This is the friendly international corporation, also operating in Iraq, which owns the Massey Corporation, whose work contributed to floods that led to the demise of many West Virginians.

Intercounty Connector

If you are a Maryland politician, just to spread money among the wealthy, announce an unneeded highway through Montgomery County. Plan the destruction of communities, streams, wetlands, and forests. Do this instead of constructing a subway or rapid rail line. If you are Congressman Wolf, link to Montgomery County an unneeded, destructive "Techway" in Northern Virginia. Call it good. We would not be the first to point out that the Intercounty Connector conveniently morphs into the "Techway", and ultimately into an outer, or second beltway around metropolitan Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

I-81

The U.S. Congress and VDOT have been hell bent on mega-widening I-81 with added truck lanes and/or turning it into a truck highway only. Never mind that it is a truck highway now, the trucks making the road unsafe at any speed for other vehicles. Public officials were only too ready to provide Halliburton, direct from Iraq (through its subsidiary KBR, your friendly asbestos company), with the pot of gold

contract, including collecting truck tolls. (Another potential contractor, Parsons-Brinckerhoff, earned its reputation as part of the flawed "Big Dig" tunnel construction in Boston)

This is all the opposite of what needs to be done, which is to maintain a passenger vehicle roadway and allow freight transport by rail. Traditionally, here, as elsewhere, VDOT has refused to consider the obvious optional alternative of rail, even though rail right of way already exists in the corridor. Not much thought has been given to related connector transportation, either. I-81 already contributes heavily to severe river and bank erosion, toxic runoff into local streams and wetlands, smog in valleys, and the current violation of clean air standards with corresponding respiratory illness.

Opponents have pointed out that the proposed widening will increase truck traffic, accidents, deaths, and air pollution, and safety hazards, including the use of Longer Combination Vehicles (LCV or triple-trailer trucks). It will also suck up remaining green space like what it is – going out of style – for industrialization and sprawl (but certainly not to alleviate gridlock. The money is to be made in development).

I-73

Despite opposition, Virginia is barreling ahead to construct new I-73. The lure of sprawl and industrial development is so great that the State is willing to build an interstate swath through vast green areas to bring it about. Ironically, VDOT maintains that there are safety reasons for despoiling where we live. Although VDOT has announced it will be paying "fair market value" to grab the land, if the past is prologue, it will use eminent domain to take what it will not be given. VDOT has the gall to state that this destruction of the environment will promote tourism.

Robert Correll Addresses Virginia Conservation Network Assembly

Audrey Clement—Arlington/Courthouse Greens

On September 30, the Virginia Conservation Network (VEC), an umbrella group of Virginia environmental organizations, held its 2006 General Assembly in Falls Church. The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Correll, head of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), a panel of international climatology experts that published a report in 2004 evaluating the impact of recent dramatic changes in Arctic climate on the region and the world. Funding for the project was provided by the National Science Foundation and NASA.

Correll presented a slide show demonstrating the link between greenhouse gas emissions and recent rapid increases in average annual Arctic temperature. The key statistic is that global CO2 emissions measure 390 parts per million (ppm), higher than at any time in the past 400,000 years. The increase in CO2 emissions is a consequence of fossil fuel energy consumption rather than natural causes. CO2 emissions, which persist in the upper atmosphere, trap the sun's heat, causing atmospheric temperatures to rise. Arctic temperatures have risen 3 or 4 degrees Centigrade, twice as much as the rest of the world over the past few decades. Alaska's temperature has risen ten times as much.

The change in Arctic climate is having a dramatic impact not only on the region but on the rest of the earth, primarily because of the massive snow melt it has precipitated. An immediate effect is the likely extinction of species dependent on the Arctic ice pack for their survival, such as polar bears and seals.

In addition to threatening coastal communities, rising sea levels will dilute the salinity of the oceans, redirect warmer ocean currents further north, and spawn the migration of marine life into Arctic waters. Thawing permafrost will release large quantities of methane, another greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere, canceling the CO2-absorbing effect of the advance of the Arctic tree line towards the North Pole. Meanwhile, higher atmospheric temperatures are already super-heating the ocean near the Equator, increasing the variability and extremity of weather conditions.

What makes global warming so insidious is that it fosters a self-perpetuating system of ever rising temperatures, also known as a positive feedback loop. Once glaciers start to melt the process is hard to reverse, because the ice, which once reflected much of the sun's heat, has been replaced by water, which absorbs this same heat. Also atmospheric CO2 is

persistent, causing heat to accumulate rather than dissipate in the atmosphere.

Despite these ominous developments, Correll says he's guardedly optimistic, because he believes that the major corporations have finally realized that global warming is not a myth. He said that at a recent meeting of big-name CEO's he attended, only three out of 275 attendees denied the linkage between human activity and global warming. Correll believes that "If we get aggressive about combating global warming, we can slow it down." What is needed is a massive recapitalization of the world's energy base, the cost of which is estimated as the loss of one percent of global GDP over one hundred years. Those who subscribe to Correll's research believe that that is a small price to pay to stop global warming. Yet some corporate naysayers scoff at the significance of an average annual global rise in temperature of one degree in comparison with a typical fifty degree overnight drop in desert temperatures. Correll says that comparing daily regional temperature fluctuations with average annual global temperatures is like comparing apples with oranges. They are two different statistics, and global warming statistics ought to be taken seriously. For more information on the ACIA visit: www.acia.uaf.edu and www.ipcc.ch.





Solving the Lebanese Crisis

James Blythe, Fredericksburg Greens

The recent outbreak of war between Israel and Lebanon has once again highlighted the disastrous foreign policy of the Bush Administration. The national Green Party has rightly condemned the ongoing Israeli air strikes as a violation of the Geneva Convention and has called for an immediate U.N. sponsored ceasefire by both sides.

Unfortunately, our government refused to support such a ceasefire, on the ostensible grounds that a comprehensive ceasefire agreement must be negotiated first. However, since the President's so-called "war on terror" prevents us from negotiating directly with the key players in this crisis (Iran and Syria), such an agreement could not be negotiated. It is likely that the Administration's refusal to support an immediate ceasefire was an effort to give Israel more time to eliminate Hezbollah (an unlikely prospect). The net effect of this delay was to give Israel the green light to continue military operations inside Lebanon.

These operations were not in our national interest. The continued fighting irritated the major Arab oil producing states, upon whose oil our economy depends. Unsettled markets reacted to the ongoing crisis by driving oil prices higher. Worse, our support of Israel associated us with the ongoing killing of innocents and eliminated any possibility of our being accepted as an impartial mediator in future negotiations. Finally, the Administration's refusal to support an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon worsened our relations with key European and Asian nations whose support will be necessary in dealing with Iran and North Korea.

It is important to remember that the cause of the current Mideastern crisis was not the recent kidnapping of Israeli soldiers but rather the original seizure of Palestinian lands to establish Israel in the 1940's. Until this fundamental injustice is resolved, no lasting peace will be possible in the region. Our Party understands this, and supports a just and balanced solution to the current crisis.

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

- *The Green Party is the only party fully committed to peace!*
- *Opposition to the "Patriot" Act.*
- *Opposition to the Mattaponi River Dam / Prince William Reservoir*
- *Health Care*
- *Traffic Reduction/Rail/Anti-Sprawl*
- *Affordable Housing*
- *Living Wage*
- *Identification of the Worst Local Polluters*

GET INVOLVED !

Ruebner Challenges Status Quo in Arlington

Kirit Mookerjee—Arlington/Courthouse Greens

In a month of debates and campaign events, Josh Ruebner (Green Party of Virginia candidate for County Board) has aggressively challenged the incumbent Chris Zimmerman (D) on lack of progress in saving affordable housing, and on gentrification plans for Columbia Pike.

Entrenched Democrats have been stung by this criticism and urged Ruebner and his campaign workers to "pull back" for the sake of the progressive vote. However, many other Arlington residents have thanked Ruebner for pointing out that the County is in midst of a crisis.

Ruebner's campaign has focused on the thousands of affordable housing units lost in the last five years through development which has forced out low-income wage earners in favor of those who can afford higher-priced condos. One example is Buckingham—a historic apartment in Ballston which will be remade into luxury apartments. The County Board has failed to support a moratorium on projects indicating that it is not empowered to do so;

additionally they have followed a policy of "roundtable" cooperation with the business interests. Ruebner has indicated support for a moratorium and called attention to the loss of ethnic diversity resulting from relocation of lower-wage earners countywide.

Another issue central to Ruebner's campaign is the direct gentrification policies of the County Board. He has pointed to the Columbia Pike Revitalization Project and their call for a trolley system costing \$150 million to be erected on the Pike, calling it a "boondoggle" since an adequate public bus system already exists there. The private Columbia Pike group charges a membership fee and is essentially not open to the public. In effect, the County is citing the recommendations of these private groups to back up its development and gentrification schemes.

For the first time in years, Northern Virginia has a progressive and articulate Green candidate for major office (Arlington is one of Virginia's most populous counties). Please see www.voteruebner.com for more info including volunteer opportunities, and don't forget to vote on November 7. *Go Green!*

The Green Party needs YOU to run for office !

Run for local office —

- Most of the battles over sprawl are fought at the local level.
- It's a great way to get involved in your community.
- It's easy to get on the ballot for school board and town and city council elections.
- Greens have won local offices. In 2004, Don Langrehr won a seat on the Blacksburg town council!

Run for Congress —

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

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

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



Don't forget to
VOTE
 Tuesday
 November 7th



Greens' 10 Key Values

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<http://www.gp.org>

Membership

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

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

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

County _____

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

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

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

Unlike the Democrats and Republicans, the Green Party accepts no corporate contributions. We rely on the generous support of citizens like you. Please consider contributing \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 to help us work for community-based democracy.

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

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

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