



GREEN HORIZON

Magazine

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY THE GREEN HORIZON FOUNDATION

Three Themes

CHIPPING AWAY AT THE POWER BLOC

Elizabeth May/Terry Fowler
Rob Richie
Howard Switzer

OUR GLOBAL SITUATION: CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

John Rensenbrink
Romi Elgnagar
Steven Schmidt

TEACHING OURSELVES WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW AND DO

Steve Welzer
Kate Culver
Christian Monö

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Shanty Town TV

With intent vacuity
They drink in the pale image
Of their rich cousins

Behind the glass
Beautiful faces
Come and go
Shimmering like goldfish

The shadow
of a picture
of an image
of an icon

*Food for a million eyes
Phosphorescent with hunger*

“You keep your wealth.
One day we’ll share our pain with you”.

—Richard Lawson 1997

[Richard is a leading member of the
Green Party of England and Wales. Eds.]

From Dee Berry:
*The Greens of Kansas City and the
Progressive Party of Missouri invite you
to a five-state Green Organizing
Meeting:*

TRANSFORMING POLITICS
ON THE PRAIRIE:
BUILDING THE GREEN PARTY
IN THE MIDWEST

Keynote speaker, Jill Stein

JUNE 13-15, 2014

To be held at
Heartland Conference Center
16965 NW 45 Highway
Parkville, Missouri
(Near KC, MO and KCI Airport)

For details contact Dee Berry
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LETTERS OF THE EDITOR CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 31 OF THIS ISSUE

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Introducing *Three* Themes

CHIPPING AWAY AT THE POWER BLOC

We lead with an article by Terry Fowler based on his interview with a specially honored guest, Elizabeth May. As Canada's Green member of Parliament in Ottawa and Leader of the Canadian Green Party, Elizabeth has made a strong and ingenious impact on Canada's "Power Bloc". You will be thrilled to read Terry's account of her dedication to altering the way business is done. Her success is obvious and we are delighted to have her once again in our pages. Terry Fowler of Toronto is a member of Green Horizon Foundation Board. We thank him for an outstanding interview.

We follow Elizabeth May's interview with Rob Richie's invigorating overview of action and successes on voter freedom of choice. Rob's work, going back to the mid-1990s, is replete with stubbornly creative action to change fundamentally the monopolistic voting patterns dictated by the Democratic and Republican party leaderships in all the states of the United States. The FairVote organization which he heads represents a sturdy example of steady chipping away at the power bloc in the United States.

Howard Switzer writes about money. I freely confess I don't know much about how money really works and also confess that I need to know much more about it. Howard's essay is a superb way in. He demonstrates the centrality of the money system in shoring up and perpetuating the power of the top elite, the 1%. The message is to know more about it, find ways to dilute and sidestep the money system's power, and thus chip away at a vulnerable part of the power bloc in the U.S.—with the implications of such action worldwide.

OUR GLOBAL SITUATION: CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

We open this theme with my article posing the deepening global challenge. Romi Elnagar follows with a case analysis of nuclear disruption and distress in Japan. She shows how the consequences of Fukushima threaten the world and demand a worldwide responsible response.

Steven Schmidt offers a way to think and act to meet the global challenge that is creative, strikingly simple, and very much a state of the art dimension of the communication revolution. His article, Part 2, follows the one in the 2013 Fall/Winter issue of *Green Horizon*, Number 28. Steven is considering a Part 3 for the next issue, 2014 Fall/Winter, Number 30.

TEACHING OURSELVES WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW AND DO

My fellow editor, Steve Welzer writes a powerful message for his grandchildren. In "our situation", we are, he writes, in the grip of grim forces that truly try our souls. Steve helps us understand the sheer gravity of our situation, not mincing words. But he also does not push us, as many do unwittingly, into feelings of helplessness. Not at all. This is the gift of his writing that I have always found so compelling and appealing at the same time. There is tenderness in how he writes and it helps shape what he writes. He thereby spurs us to take action even in the face of seemingly impossible odds.

Likewise, Kate Culver works with us, as she shows her own intellectual, spiritual, and political journey. How can we not go with her into feelings of frustration and doubt. How can we not then as well rejoice with her and learn from her the precious quality of steady-eyed resistance, self-awareness, hope, irrepressible confidence and political commitment. Kate was elected a year ago to the office of co-chair of the U.S. Green Party. She has thrown herself with characteristic energy and wisdom into that demanding task.

We are honored to introduce Christian Monö to our readers. He is a scholar/activist in Sweden. He writes about the much discussed but poorly understood question of leadership. His analysis of leadership and followership as an interactive process together is fresh and enlightening. His strong emphasis on collaborative leadership should fire up the reader's thoughts. It makes us realize how absent this kind and quality of leadership is in the halls and inter-relations of national governments. Greens are especially taken up with and caught up with issues of leadership, often personally very trying and knotted. Chris's work is a milestone on a rugged road to understanding. He offers a guide to effective leadership/followership practice. His father, Ralph Mono of Sweden played a key role in the early stages of the European Green Party Federation in the 1990's and, along with Niki Kortvelyessy of Hungary, his co-coordinator, reached out to give invaluable assistance to the formation of the U.S. Green Party at a critical juncture in the late 1990's.

—JR

Theme One:
CHIPPING AWAY AT THE POWER BLOC

Elizabeth May's First Term as a Green MP in Canada's Parliament

EDMUND P. FOWLER

"We can be totally honest and speak from our hearts. When we feel even one thing is good we can point it out."



Elizabeth May became Canada's first Green member of Parliament, for Saanich-Gulf Islands in British Columbia, in the federal elections of May 2011. Even though she had been elected leader of the Green Party of Canada (GPC) in 2006, the party did not make her candidacy a priority in two previous campaigns in 2006 and 2008. "All around the world," she is quoted as saying philosophically, "the Green Party has a grassroots culture of resisting the idea of leader as boss. It almost translates as an anti-leader culture. The leader is there as chief spokesperson but, without making it sound too harsh, the party has no tradition of putting the leader in a position superior to even the lowest person on staff."¹

She plunged into her work, leading the opposition parties in the campaign against Bill C-38, the ruling Conservative Party's omnibus bill, in June of 2012. May sponsored 400 out of 1000 amendments put forward. She has been widely praised as an example of the difference one MP can make, in these days of hyper-partisanship and centralized parliamentary parties. Even Tory backbenchers admit rather grudgingly that May's knowledge of budget rules and of the process of advancing amendments is impressive.

May was chosen Parliament's best parliamentarian overall in 2012 and the hardest working parliamentarian in 2013, in a vote taken not by a partisan group but by all members of Parliament. Her inspiring example prompted Chris Turner – a journalist and environmentalist – to run for Parliament in Calgary Centre, and Bruce Hyer, Independent MP from Thunder Bay/Superior North to become a Green and double the size of the Green caucus.

GREENS AREN'T JUST ABOUT CONSERVATION

One significant contribution made by May as a sitting member has been to define the Green position on policies that are not normally considered to be part of the Green Party's focus. Although the media haven't picked up on it, she has laid out the relevance of Green philosophy to such issues as immigration, jobs and the economy, social justice, income inequality, trade deals, urban development, and agriculture.

It's an uphill fight, because Greens are stereotyped as interested "only" in environmental issues, which are carefully separated from other issues by the media and politicians of other parties.

¹ Noah Richler, "How Elizabeth May, Canada's Green MP, is changing Ottawa," Vancouver Magazine, November 12, 2012

“The Green Party has a grassroots culture of resisting the idea of leader as boss.”

May had an impressive record of accomplishments before she got elected. She worked her way through law school and then used her degree to advocate for indigenous peoples, both in Canada and internationally. The author of seven books, mostly on environmental issues and political activism, she is presently – somehow – working on her eighth. She has received numerous awards for her activism, serving as an especially effective Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada from 1989 until 2006, when she became the GPC’s leader. She was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2005.

She was also Senior Policy Advisor to Tom McMillan when he was federal Environment Minister, from 1986-8; she resigned on principle when a series of dams in Saskatchewan were approved without an environmental assessment.

Her principles have been front and centre as an MP. She already has a reputation for holding the government to account on issues even the other opposition parties would prefer to ignore.

May told GHM that she started running for Parliament in 2006 because Stephen Harper and the Conservatives, even when they formed a minority government, “didn’t care what people thought,” and the Sierra Club and other NGOs had lost the ear of the government. Being nonpartisan didn’t give them influence on debates over important policy issues.

THE SOURCES OF MAY’S EFFECTIVENESS IN PARLIAMENT

As a sitting MP, she says, she gets more media coverage, noting that after the February 2014 Budget Speech, she was interviewed by the major television networks, including the CBC, and by important newspapers such as the Toronto *Globe and Mail*. Moreover, now she has been joined by Bruce Hyer she thinks it will be even harder to shut her out of the television debates during the next election. (After some considerable controversy, she took part in the 2008 debate, and many polls showed that she had been the most impressive of the speakers. She was shut out of the 2011 debates.) She also has gained influence by tabling and presenting arguments for amendments to bills, which, as difficult as it is, brings issues more into the open, even if those amendments are routinely defeated.

May’s role in Parliament contrasts with that of other MPs because she can say what she thinks and doesn’t have to toe the party line. She and Hyer “can both be totally honest and speak from our hearts. When we feel even one thing is good we can point it out,” she says. She gave the example of the conservative budget’s DNA data bank, which she strongly supports, even though she thinks most of the rest of the budget has got it wrong. She publicly thanked Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty for, at long last, moving to establish a database to cross-reference

crime scene data with an index for missing persons. (This measure is especially significant for many constituencies in B.C., where investigations of missing – and often murdered – aboriginal women have been shamefully half-hearted.)

When asked how much Canadian Greens should concentrate their energy on local elections and local issues, May remarked that such a strategy might work better in the United States than Canada. Both countries are saddled with single member electoral districts with plurality elections – in other words the candidate with the most votes wins, no matter how few votes he or she gets. This system encourages the formation of large, heterogeneous parties that seek to maximize their votes with vague platforms, at the expense of crisp, well-defined policy positions. It also usually underrepresents small parties; in Canada, large parties routinely win a majority of seats with less than forty percent of the popular vote.

The real solution is proportional representation. Elizabeth May has been very active in the campaign for PR in Canada. In the present context, however, U.S. major parties have an even stronger hammerlock on candidacies in most elections, except perhaps the most local ones. In Canada, it’s not quite so easy to exclude minor parties at the federal level. The U.S. has quite a number of elected Greens at the local level, in part because there are so many more elected positions than in Canada; but even many Green mayors have been elected in the U.S.. Canada has none. The other two elected Greens in Canada are Andrew Weaver, a member of British Columbia’s Legislative Assembly, and Vancouver City Councillor Adriane Carr. (What is it about B.C.?)

On Parliament Hill, the toxic partisanship of the Harper Conservatives had convinced May to leave off her distinguished role with the Sierra Club. In such an extreme atmosphere, she said, “the only way to be effective was to be in power.” She has proved her point.

Based in part on an interview with Elizabeth May, February 13, 2014.



EDMUND P. FOWLER

is Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Glendon College, York University, where he taught local politics, history of science, Green philosophy, and public policy. He is the author of *Building Cities That Work* (1992), *Cities, Culture, and Granite* (2004), and *From Galileo to the Greens: Our Escape from Mechanical Thinking* (forthcoming).

Ranked Choice Voting and the 2013 Elections U.S.

BY ROB RICHIE

Minneapolis voters overwhelmingly understood and preferred RCV [Ranked Choice Voting], according to an exit poll by Edison Research.

The bigger story [from Takoma Park] was it becoming the nation's first city to extend voting rights to residents after they turn 16.

Greens have worked closely with democracy activists in promoting ranked choice voting (RCV), both in its instant runoff form and as an alternative to winner-take-all in elections when electing multiple seats. International examples abound about the power of proportional representation for transforming elections and opportunities for Greens. City elections in 2013 showed just why RCV matters in the United States.

MINNEAPOLIS

The most prominent RCV election was in Minneapolis (MN), where Green Party councilor Cam Gordon has helped win and sustain RCV for 22 city offices. Easy ballot access led to 35 mayoral candidates and an unusually wide breadth of election choices. Had voters been restricted to backing only one candidate in one election, Minneapolis's mayor almost certainly would have won with a low plurality of the vote. In Boston's mayoral race, for example, the first place finisher in its preliminary election received only 18% of the vote – and while a November runoff elected a majority winner, the price was elimination of all six candidates of color before the higher turnout runoff.

Instead of a vote-for-one system, however, Minneapolis has RCV. Voters expressed not only which candidate was their favorite, but also their second-choice and third-choice candidates. Those rankings allowed a series of instant runoff elections, with the last-place finisher eliminated and their ballots added to the totals of the candidate ranked next until two candidates remained.

RCV led to the mayoral candidates competing seriously but also positively. Voters elected Betsy Hodges, who earned broad consensus support. Heavily outspent, Hodges didn't buy a single television ad, instead focusing on direct voter contact and coalition-building. Her inclusive outreach led to winning more than a third of first-choice rankings, a first, second or third choice ranking of more than 60% of voters, and a landslide win when matched against her better financed lead rival.

Among those elected to the city council's 13 seats by RCV are the city council's first Latino, Somali and Hmong Cambodian members. RCV was also used for a total of 22 offices, including five seats elected by the fair representation, multi-seat form of RCV.

Minneapolis voters overwhelmingly understood and preferred RCV, according to an exit poll by Edison Research. Commentators noted that the political climate had changed from traditional "machine politics" to coalition politics, in which candidates talk to voters more about issues and policy. A local professor called the 2013 mayoral election a "game changer."

RCV IN ST. PAUL AND CAMBRIDGE

Similarly encouraging stories came from other cities using RCV. In neighboring St. Paul, incumbent mayor Chris Coleman easily defeated three challengers, with RCV allowing that election to take place in one round instead of two. A highly competitive special election led to the election of the city council's first Hmong American.

Instructively, two Hmong Americans were able to run without concern of splitting the vote—and the campaign was civil enough that the winner ultimately hired the African American candidate who finished second to work on his council staff.

Greens should pay particular attention to lessons in multi-seat RCV elections for nine city council seats and six school committee seats in Cambridge (MA). Candidates run at-large, and the share of vote necessary to win is just over 10% in council elections and about 14.5% for school committee seats, with more than 95% of voters typically ranking at least one winner among their top three choices. Despite comprising less than 20% of the city's population, African American candidates have won near-continuous representation on the council since the 1950's, and today hold four city council and school committee seats.

This year the council race resulted in four first-time winners, including the council's first Latino member and 29-year-old Arab American Muslim, Nadeem Mazen. A leader in the Occupy Boston movement and a first-time candidate, Mazen effectively worked with other candidates on the change-oriented "Clean Slate" that ultimately displaced two incumbents. But a simulation of winner-take-all voting indicates Mazen, his fellow Clean slate winner Dennis Carlone and Latino winner Dennis Benzan needed RCV to win.

FIRST EVER VOTING RIGHTS FOR 16-YEAR OLDS IN TAKOMA PARK!

Takoma Park (MD), my hometown, also elected its city offices with RCV, but races were lopsided. The bigger story was it becoming the nation's first city to extend voting rights to residents after they turn 16, a practice already done in national elections in several countries, including Argentina, Austria, and Brazil. Turnout of eligible voters who were 16 and 17 was nearly twice as high as the turnout rate of older residents.

RCV IN LOUISIANA AND ALABAMA

Last fall there were two special elections for U.S. Congress in which RCV ballots played a role, including a congressional election in Louisiana. In most Louisiana elections, all candidates run against each other in the first round. If no candidate earns a majority, there is a runoff election between the top two candidates a few weeks later - with this year's runoff between two Republicans. However, the time between voting rounds is too short for many military and

overseas voters to be able to vote in the runoff. Louisiana instead allows those voters to complete a RCV ballot before the first round. That way, their ballots can count in the runoff for whichever of their highest ranked candidates remains.

Alabama also held a special congressional election, with RCV ballots for overseas and military voters in the primary runoff. With a crowded field of competitors for the Republican nomination, a runoff election was a certainty - and again overseas voters would not have enough time to receive and return new ballots for the runoff. Because federal law requires that such voters not be disenfranchised, a federal court ordered that Alabama allow them to cast an RCV ballot.

The expansion of RCV is especially notable at a time when gridlock and dysfunction in Congress have made cynicism about the American democratic process increasingly pervasive. Many recent commentaries have focused on how RCV can increase opportunities for racial minorities and heal our partisan, ideological divide, with FairVote alone having pieces in the Washington Post, Newsday, San Jose Mercury News, Cleveland Plain Dealer and more than a dozen other publications.

THIS YEAR'S PROSPECTS

This year offers more important RCV elections in four California cities and cities like Takoma Park and Telluride (CO). More than 60 colleges and universities use RCV for student elections, and the Oscars use its multi-seat form to nominate nearly all categories and the one-winner form to choose best picture. Maine, New York City and Nebraska are among major cities and states with vibrant efforts to move to RCV, and we expect to see congressional legislation to establish RCV in multi-seat House seats in all states with at least two seats. If you have questions about bringing RCV to your community, be sure to contact our team at FairVote.



ROB RICHIE

is Executive Director of FairVote

(www.fairvote.org).

Many recent commentaries have focused on how RCV can increase opportunities for racial minorities and heal our partisan, ideological divide.

MONEY POWER

and the Green Future

HOWARD SWITZER

“Since the dawn of times, monetary systems have been shaping the flows of human activity in every realm of endeavor; food production, education, health, business etc., by determining how we value, apply and exchange our creativity, and the fruits of our labor. It is for this reason the most influential of all human-made systems.”

— *Bernhard Lietaer*

THE PROBLEM

Buckminster Fuller used to point out that the world’s problems were based on the fear of there not being enough to go around and he believed that through design we could prove that was not the case. This fear, “not enough to go around” is not a feature of indigenous native cultures but is unique to civilizations. Despite the massive production capabilities of our society this idea of scarcity remains a central feature, a belief that we don’t have enough time or money to fulfill people’s needs or to restore and protect our environment. In the new/old systems design science known as ‘permaculture’ there is a principle; ‘The problem is the solution,’ which suggests we look at the system from which any particular problem has emerged. It is easy for Greens to recognize that money is a problem in our culture and it is time we took a close look at how our money system works to create the problem of scarcity and how we might redesign it to accommodate the needs of humanity and the planet.

Money is an agreement within a community, be it city, state or nation, to use some item as a means of exchange. It came into existence to facilitate trade more efficiently than barter and became even more essential as a result of the division of labor. Once people focused on making one thing well, and then making many of them in order to trade them for the other things they needed to survive, money became the way to facilitate the many exchanges between people. Money has taken a number of different forms and been made with a variety of materials from sea shells, wood, clay, with smelting technology came metal money, with the printing press came paper money and with the computer, electronic money. Most the money in the world today, trillions of dollars, is just electronic bits and bytes in a computer accounting system.

History demonstrates that money works best when it is simply a means of exchange, rather than also being a store of wealth, as when precious metals were used for money problems of inequity soon arose. If money is a store of wealth it can be withheld from the economy creating scarcity and it is withheld massively today. It is often said there is not enough money for this or that but what we really lack is a better agreement about the issuing, distribution and characteristics of money. It is the same with food, there is plenty of food, half the food produced is wasted, so the problem is in the distribution and the way in which it is produced. The scarcity and misdistribution of money is built into our money system.

MUSICAL CHAIRS

By far the greatest generator of inequity and economic misery the world has ever known is our current monetary system. In this system money is created out of thin air, based on the promise to repay when an individual, business or government borrows money. However, while the principle is created the money needed to pay the interest is not. This means that the money to pay the interest needs to come from money created when someone else borrowed money. It does not take a mathematician to see that there is a problem with this kind of a system as it can never grow fast enough to pay all the interest and even more so when compounded, that is, interest paid on interest. This system can be likened to a game of musical chairs but with many fewer chairs than needed to seat everyone. The effect is to generate predatory competition, a demand for constant economic growth, short term thinking and a devastating concentration of wealth into the hands of only a few. This is because the interest paid to the banks goes to their largest depositors, often the bankers themselves, who then get to decide which loans are made, giving them a unique advantage in the market place and further exacerbating the problem. In the excellent movie, 'The Cradle Will Rock,' based on the 1937 musical by Marc Blitzstein, there is a scene where some industrial magnate is bragging at a party among clinking Champagne glasses and cigar smoke that, "You can't beat our system, we get paid to be rich."

The late Margaret Kennedy noted that interest is embedded in the cost of everything we buy, as much as 45% of the price we pay for goods and services is interest. If you look at a chart of interest flows across 10 income brackets you will see that 90% of us pay tribute to the top 10% via interest to use their money. Because big money translates into power it is not hard to see why the system has been difficult to change.

"Let me issue and control a nation's money and I care not who writes the laws."

— *Mayor Amschel Rothschild*

HOW WE GOT HERE

The story of how this Money Power came to be goes far back in history but the modern form of it began in the mid-1600s when those who had accumulated great sums of money began lending

money to nations to pursue wars. Such massive debts to the banks soon allowed them to gain control over governments. This began in Sweden, then England and progressed to envelop the world as it does today. However, the founding of our nation represented a brief but significant challenge to the Money Power.

From the beginning the colonies had severe money problems and the Crown refused to allow them a monetary system. Out of necessity the colonies became a laboratory for monetary solutions. The states devised many monetary systems and many failed but the successful ones created intense tensions with England. While some believe the relatively minor skirmishes at Concord and the Boston Tea Party were the cause of the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin and others have stated it was actually the Crown's suppression of the colonist's paper money systems, plunging them into economic misery that precipitated the war.

The primary purpose of writing our nation's Constitution was to devise a way to avoid authoritarian rule, which we had just fought a war to defeat. The Separation of Powers and the Bill of Rights seemed to do that but did not. The private financial interests of the day lobbied hard to prevent the nation from being able to issue its own paper money. This was strange since it was that very power, established by the first Continental Congress to issue the Continental currency, which was spent into the economy interest free that funded the revolution. In the end, by not clearly defining the nation's monetary system, a back door was created in the Constitution that allowed the private financial interests to enter and establish an authoritarian government. While the Founding Fathers had managed to keep authoritarianism out politically and religiously, they had allowed it to sneak in monetarily! James Madison joined Jefferson in opposing the actions of the first U.S Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, to charter a National Bank modeled after the privately owned Bank of England which gave good reason for Thomas Jefferson to say, "I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies."

"Bankers own the earth. Take it away from them, but leave them the power to create money and control credit, and with a flick of a pen they will create enough to buy it back."

— *Sir Josiah Stamp, former President, Bank of England*

"Despite the massive production capabilities of our society this idea of scarcity remains a central feature..."

“...the most successful money systems from history all shared a feature known as demurrage...”

THE CHALLENGES

Today there are proposals to amend the Constitution to eliminate ‘Corporate Personhood’ and ‘Money as Free Speech.’ Both of these are effects of what Martin Van Buren called ‘The Money Power’ being left in private hands. Thus it is critical that we address the problem of Money Power. The Need Act, HR2990, courageously introduced to Congress by Dennis Kucinich in 2010, contains all of the essential monetary measures proposed by the American Monetary Institute, also in the platform of the Green Party of the United States, which would do just that. This bill would return the Money Power to Congress, eliminate the FED and the national debt crisis, repair and update the nation’s infrastructure and the bankers would all be disempowered. While ignored by the press it was most likely the reason Kucinich lost his seat, as big money poured into Ohio to gerrymander his seat away from him, another effect of our government being in the grip of Money Power. Electing a Congress full of Greens to solve the problem seems politically unlikely at this point but big changes can happen fast when even a percentage as small as 3.5% of the people, intent on change, become politically engaged.

Our current money system is a ‘positive interest system’ and The NEED Act proposed an ‘interest free system’ but the most successful money systems from history all shared a feature known as demurrage, a ‘negative interest system.’ Egypt once had a thriving economy with broad based prosperity that lasted for 3000 years using a negative interest local money system. Another negative interest system was the silver “Bracteates” of central Europe between 1150 and 1350, which emerged during the Central Middle Ages, also known as the “Real Renaissance.” It produced a thriving prosperity that allowed all those wonderful Cathedrals named after women to be built. The idea did not reemerge until the 1930’s in response to the Great Depression.

One such money system was a complementary currency issued in Wörgl, Austria.

“Only money that goes out of date like a newspaper, rots like potatoes, rusts like iron, evaporates like ether, is capable of standing the test as an instrument for the exchange of potatoes, newspapers, iron and ether. For such money is not preferred to goods either by the purchaser or the seller. We then part with our goods for money only because we need the money as a means of exchange, not because we expect an advantage from possession of the money. So we must make money worse as a commodity if we wish to make it better as a medium of exchange.”

— *The Natural Economic Order, Silvio Gesell*

On July 31, 1932 the town mayor of Wörgl, who had been reading Silvio Gesell’s book, *The Natural Economic Order*, decided to implement Gesell’s ideas. He issued script money in the amount of 1,800 Schillings and used it to pay wages. The first wages paid out were returned to the community on almost the same day as people paid their back taxes and the money was paid out again. By the third day it was thought that the money was being counterfeited because the 1800 Schillings issued had already accounted for 5,100 Schillings in paid taxes. The mayor knew better, he knew the velocity of money had increased and the money was working as designed, continually circulating doing useful things for the community. The bill had 12 small boxes printed on one side and was only valid if a stamp for the current month was purchased and applied to the back of the note. This small 1% charge collected each month prevented hoarding of the currency.

Over the 13-month period the money was in circulation, the mayor carried out all his intended works projects, renovating city hall, paving the streets, putting up street lights, new sewers and planting trees along the streets. They built new houses, a new city reservoir, a ski jump, and a bridge. The people also used the currency to replant forests, in anticipation of the future cash flow they would receive from the trees. This miraculous phenomenon in the midst of the depression spread like wild-fire as hundreds of other towns began to issue similar money. At that point the central bank panicked and the government, enforcing the central banks monopoly on money, banned its use in 1933 plunging the towns back into severe depression with 30% unemployment.

Word of the phenomenon had even spread to the U.S. and soon there were some 400 emergency currencies proposed in cities and towns across the nation based on the system. Because the banks weren’t lending money, the only way our money is created, there was no money and communities needed money for business to continue and provide for people’s needs. However, instead of giving them the boost they deserved, FDR, at the behest of the FED, banned the emergency currencies as

happened in Austria. Had he allowed the currencies the depression might have ended in a few weeks, as Erving Fisher, a prominent economist of the day, predicted. Instead FDR was forced to borrow money from the banks at interest to try and spend us out of the depression which saddled the nation with huge debt and did not fix the economy. It took the war to end the depression as again Money Power strengthened its grip on the nation.

“The money system we have today is a manifestation of the scarcity mentality that has dominated our civilization for centuries... it rests on a foundation of separation”

— Charles Eisenstein

CRITICAL FACTORS

Today there are a growing number of complementary currency systems, some 4000 being used around the world, a number of them in this country, and while they provide for some community needs their effect has been limited. There are many monetary models to choose from, however here is some critical criteria to be considered. The main limiting factor of many local currencies is revealed by Aristotle, “Money exists not by nature but by law.” The Wörgl’s incredible success demonstrated three important factors for a local monetary system to build community prosperity, resilience and sustainable long term thinking. (1) it was a function of democratic governance, issued and spent into the economy by local government and accepted for taxes, (2) it was negative interest to eliminate hoarding and generate high velocity circulation (3) it was complementary to the existing system making transition simple and smooth. Such a system would allow a decentralization of the economy and would, because “all politics are local,” decentralize power as well. It would also allow Green values to

come to the fore and build the local infrastructure for food and fuel production, closing the nutrient loops critical to maintaining a healthy natural ecosystem for a happy human presence on planet Earth.

As Greens become involved in local governance, being elected to city councils and mayor’s offices, they will be a position to create thriving local economies by implementing ecological money systems such as those described above. The urgency for more radical action to build parallel systems as the increasingly centralized and destructive systems of scarcity collapse is a logical and ethical necessity. We need a reunion of humanity and a reunion with nature. To do so we must change our money system, the key to changing society from one of scarcity to one of abundance, a challenge worth pursuing.

RESOURCES:

- ‘The Lost Science of Money’ by Stephen Zarlenga
- ‘New Money New World’ by Bernhard Lietaer
- ‘Sacred Economics’ by Charles Eisenstein
- ‘The Natural Economic Order’ by Silvio Gesell



HOWARD SWITZER

is an ecological architect, a Green Party activist and has been an advocate for nature and community for 40 years. He is a co-founder of the Green Party of Tennessee and has been its candidate for Governor of Tennessee twice and U.S. Congress once.

*“We need a reunion of humanity
and a reunion with nature.”*

Theme Two:
OUR GLOBAL SITUATION—CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE

The Deepening Global Challenge

JOHN RENSENBRINK

We can no longer just concentrate our more-than local eyes and actions on our national government as the major theater of operations for our thinking and activism. The challenge to Greens is especially poignant.

In the two previous issues of our magazine, we've pondered the absence of global governance on planet earth. A fact of stark world reality came home to me earlier this year in a quote from Zbigniew Brzezinski sent to me by Scott McLarty. Scott is the U.S. Green Party's media coordinator and frequent contributor to this magazine. Brzezinski was President Clinton's National Security Advisor. Before that, back in 1982, he wrote the following prophetic Orwellian words:

"The technotronic era involves the gradual appearance of a more controlled society. Such a society would be dominated by an elite, unrestrained by traditional values. Soon it will be possible to assert almost continuous surveillance over every citizen and maintain up-to-date complete files containing even the most personal information about the citizen. These files will be subject to instantaneous retrieval by authorities."

Sound familiar? Then Brzezinski goes on to say that "[The] nation-state as a fundamental unit of man's organized life has ceased to be the principal creative force: international banks and multinational corporations are acting and planning in terms that are far in advance of the political concepts on the nation-state." The quotes are from his *Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technotronic Era*.

What I draw from this is support for the proposition we've been making that the nation-state is on its way out as a central player in the world; second, that floods of international banks and corporations are criss- crossing the planet, largely uncontrolled and doing enormous damage to people and nature; and, third that the technology of surveillance far outruns efforts to control it or even regulate it.

These are stark facts that must be brought directly into our consciousness and our activism. They are facts that beg for a bigger and deeper way to think about our human situation on this planet. We can no longer just concentrate on our national government as the major theater of operations for our thinking and activism. The challenge to Greens is especially poignant. We know that all things are connected— that a holistic analysis is more necessary than ever. We know there are brother and sister Greens organizing and building Green Parties in over 100 countries. We know how deadly to nature is the continued rampage of international banks, of monster corporations, and of wildly out of whack governments run from the top by blind elites. And we know how devastating to our liberty and equality is the horrifying creep of ultimate surveillance.

Is there an antidote? Is there a way for the peoples of the nations to blunt, escape, deflect, and overcome the powers of political and personal surveillance and manipulative consumer-targeting by governments and international corporations and banks? As I mentioned in the first of my articles on global governance a year ago, there are now over 60,000 corporations doing business across nation-state lines, many, many more

I hear him [Steve Schmidt] saying: use fully the e-technology we have already at hand—which is developing by leaps and bounds in any case. Use it to achieve maximum communication, maximum participation, and thus also maximum accountability to the people of our planet.

than Brzezinski would have been able to know about or even imagine in 1982.

I recommend a look, first, at the article that follow this one by Romi Elnagar on Fukushima and then to give a careful read to Steve Schmidt's articulation of a bold way to envision and practice a people's grass roots response to the ruinous forces that threaten us.

Fukushima, we must realize and Romi eloquently reminds us, is far more than just a problem for Japan, or even for the surrounding region. Of itself it impacts the whole world. Furthermore, the inadequate, even perverse, response to it so far by the governments of the world, including of course Japan's, should tell us how perilous is the threat facing the planet and all its peoples.

Steve offers a way to think Green and to pursue best practices to meet the global challenge. His approach unites both concerns that have been raised in response to our initial query last spring. That query asked: "Global governance: Can we talk about it? Must we?" The answer we made to both questions was a definite "Yes!". The answer sought to weave together the need for global governance and the need for a strong grass roots foundation in the structure and practice of such governance. Yet both concerns, seemingly at odds with one another, invited more questions.

Steve, both in the last issue (Number 28) and in the present article, affirms that the planet needs a form of global governance. But he also looks to a decentralized, anti-autocratic, and anti-top-down approach. He looks to a decentralized system to achieve adequate global governance.

Read his eOS schemata with that in mind. Ponder it and ask yourself whether this does not indeed offer a way to think, one that serves well as a guide to Green action. I hear him saying: use fully the e-technology we have already at hand—which is developing by leaps and bounds in any case. Use it to achieve maximum communication, maximum participation, and thus also maximum accountability to the people of our planet. Use it

as a necessary and doable foundation for effective global decision making.

Sound like pie in sky? But don't be so quick to dismiss. What he is talking about is happening as if under our noses.

On the one hand we are wracked by accounts and accompanying pictures of wars, intrigues, brutal violence, hideous betrayals, mayhem and the like. People fleeing; people suffering terribly; people not getting along with one another at all, spawning hate, corporations on the loose destroying more of nature than can be replaced or redeemed. And seemingly puny efforts of thousands of Non-governmental Organizations to stem and overturn the tide; and with as yet sputtering efforts by a Global Greens organization. But turn that around in your mind—the NGOs and the Global Greens can be part of Schmidt's eOS. Many already are, whether they know it or not.

There are even some corporations that are doing the right thing, or trying. And even some governments are trying, though most continue to be in the hands of the 1% who dominate the world and want to be on top and stay on top—with their wealth and power intact of course. But they have a sorrowful future in store as the sources of their wealth and power disintegrate in the face of nature's mounting toll. As the world moves to an uncertain future, we must forge on to help the planet and its peoples.



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American Politics (1999). His forthcoming book is entitled, *The Big Change: Signs of a New Beginning*.

FUKUSHIMA

and the Future of Life on Earth

ROMI ELNAGAR

“American sailors on the USS Ronald Reagan at sea off the coast of Japan sailed into the plume of radiation emitted by the Fukushima Daiichi plant and then were ordered to help the Japanese with the disaster. They... are now suing the Government of Japan...”

“Since the federal government stopped monitoring radiation on the West Coast shortly after the Fukushima disaster (with the excuse that the monitors didn't work), Californians themselves are now watching the levels of radiation through such projects as Kelp Watch 2014, SafeCast.org and RadCast.”

The disaster at Fukushima is a symbol of the failures of “Western,” industrialized society: its abuse of the environment and the resulting contamination of food, water, soil and air; its abuse of labor; and perhaps most frightening, the domination of governments around the world by corporate interests, including “regulatory capture” by industries who abuse the public trust. It is the tragic but also predictable end of mechanistic science unregulated by conscience, and industry unregulated by any notion of the “public good.” Together with global warming, the pollution caused by the nuclear industry may create the “perfect storm” leading to a catastrophic extinction level event (ELE), if it has not already begun to do so. Scientists from U.S. intelligence agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the National Academies are now warning that abrupt climate change may lead to the end of most life on earth. Massive use of fossil fuels to create the nuclear industry's infrastructure and to mine and process uranium used in the “nuclear cycle” only contributes to this problem of global warming. Nuclear waste, the most highly radioactive and therefore the most dangerous component in the nuclear cycle, exacerbates the industry's devastating effects on the climate.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND TEPCO

It is not easy to know what is happening inside the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. Both the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) and the Japanese government have been less than candid about events both before and after the March 11, 2011 catastrophe.

The news media in Japan have a long history of being part of what Japanese call their “nuclear village,” the complex of government, industry, academia and the media that supports nuclear power. The media's pro-nuclear bias dates back to the post-war years when media tycoon Matsutarō Shoriki, used by the CIA as a trusted messenger, supported the nuclear industry in the US and Japan. Shoriki was as responsible as anyone for “selling” nuclear power to the people and in hiding its deleterious effects.

In December 2013, the Japanese government succeeded in passing a State Secrets law, effective next year. Observers outside Japan and Japan alike believe it will be used to silence information about Fukushima. Many of Japan's well-known scientists, including Nobel laureates, Toshihide Maskawa and Hideki Shirakawa, oppose this new legislation, declaring it a threat to “the pacifist principles and fundamental human rights established by the constitution.” The Japan Scientists' Association, Japan's mass media companies, citizens' associations, lawyers' organizations and some regional legislatures have joined them, and polls show the public also decidedly opposes this attack on democracy. The ruling parties remain adamant, though, citing “national security and fighting terrorism” as excuses.

Not only has the government failed to tell the Japanese people the truth about the radiation from Fukushima, but Japanese Prime Minister Abe and the International Atomic Energy Agency (the IAEA) have been trying to restart nearly 50 nuclear power plants in Japan that were shut down in the wake of the Fukushima disaster. Both Abe and the IAEA have told the Japanese people that the amounts of radiation to which they were exposed and are still being exposed by the disaster are not worrisome. At the

“There are fears that radiation from Fukushima will infect produce from California, a major source of fruits and vegetables nationwide, and countries to the west of Japan—Korea and China—are deeply concerned about the impacts of radiation on their own fishing industries.”

same time, Japanese schoolchildren are being told that cancer is a national disease in Japan, and that one in four of them will succumb to it. Claiming it did not want to create panic, the Japanese government did not distribute iodine pills to the most vulnerable segments of the population in March 2011, pills that would have prevented the uptake of the radioactive isotope of iodine emitted by the stricken plant. Iodine is used by the thyroid gland, and already Japanese children have much higher rates of cancer as a result of their exposure to Fukushima’s radioactive iodine.

RADIOACTIVITY FROM THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

In January, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, “Reactors 1-3 are so highly contaminated that no one, even in a protective suit, can enter the buildings. That means almost all the cleanup work at the three units will have to be undertaken by remote-controlled robots” (WSJ, 14 Jan 2014). One of the most serious problems workers have had to face has been leakage of the water used to cool the cores. It has become apparent that radioactive water is making its way to the Pacific Ocean.

To solve the problem, TEPCO is planning to build a massive, frozen wall around the plant, using liquid nitrogen to freeze the soil. This wall will have to be kept cold indefinitely; at Chernobyl, the plan to use liquid nitrogen was abandoned. Furthermore, groundwater is backing up, and TEPCO has put steel plates on the ground to shield workers from the radiation. Meanwhile, the temporary storage tanks are rusting, leaking well in advance of their 5-year rating, and making the ground nearby too radioactive to work. Russia has accused the Japanese government of not accepting help in this project, and Russian scientist Oleg Dvoynikov warns that even if the soil around the plant is totally frozen, the danger will not be completely eliminated.

Not only the Japanese people were exposed to high levels of radiation. American sailors on the USS Ronald Reagan at sea off the coast of Japan sailed into the plume of radiation emitted by the Fukushima Daiichi plant and then were ordered to help the Japanese with the disaster. They, too, were not issued iodine tablets, and are now suing the Government of Japan as they now suffer increases in thyroid cancer and other illnesses due to the radiation to which they were exposed. Harvey Wasserman, a longtime anti-nuclear activist and member of the Green Shadow Cabinet, is circulating a petition in support of the sailors.

ABUSE OF WORKERS AT FUKUSHIMA

The grievances of the American sailors are nearly as bad as those of the workers who are tasked with cleaning up Fukushima. As if risking their lives to work in the highly radioactive environment were not enough, these men, many of whom were homeless, are preyed upon by Japanese gangsters, the notorious Yakuza. The bonuses paid by the government for labor in the plants are skimmed off by the gangsters, and the workingmen suffer from poor housing, food, medical care, and, most importantly, in how they are protected (or rather, not protected) from the radiation which inevitably will cause them grave, even fatal, harm.

The effort to clean up Fukushima is complicated by the fact that workers have a maximum allowable dose of radiation each year. To get around this, supervisors routinely tell employees to take off their dosimeters. Laborers from the poorest of society are called “nuclear gypsies” (*genpatsu jipusii*), because they move from job to job, which also enables TEPCO to evade restrictions on the amount of radiation workers can accumulate.

Abuse of personnel adds to the many problems TEPCO has in controlling the radiation at Fukushima, not the least of which is slipshod work, such as the use of duct tape to provide barriers to radiation. More importantly, though, exploitation of workers adds to low morale, already a problem. There is increasingly a shortage of skilled labor in the plant.

But even as Fukushima continues to spew radiation, Prime Minister Abe has been seeking to export nuclear technology. A proposed India-Japan nuclear deal, though, is controversial in Japan, as the Japanese, mindful of their heritage as the only nation to have suffered nuclear warfare, want to restrict testing of nuclear weapons, which India possesses.

And in spite of all the problems it faced at Fukushima, the Japanese government successfully bid for the 2020 Olympics, with Abe blandly assuring the world that everything was under control in Fukushima. Nevertheless, there are some influential voices in Japan who are speaking out against nuclear power plants. Japan’s popular former Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro is one of them. Koizumi is far from alone, and it seems that many of Japan’s former prime ministers support his stance.

IMPACTS OF RADIATION FROM FUKUSHIMA

Concern about radiation from Fukushima has been growing on the West Coast of North America. Last fall, three California

cities, Fairfax, Ukiah and Berkeley, passed resolutions expressing the growing alarm over the disaster, and officials in two coastal counties (Marin and Mendocino) have also taken action. Over 150,000 people have signed a petition to the UN asking for an international expert team independent of the nuclear industry and the IAEA to deal with the disaster. (In September, more than a dozen experts had written to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, asking for international intervention.) Everything from a massive, unexplained die-off of starfish to observations by ocean travelers that the Pacific seems devoid of life has been blamed on radiation from Fukushima. Scientists have documented unusual thyroid cancers among Alaskan sea mammals. There are fears that radiation from Fukushima will infect produce from California, a major source of fruits and vegetables nationwide, and countries to the west of Japan—Korea and China—are deeply concerned about the impacts of radiation on their own fishing industries.

As the anticipated wave of radiation from Fukushima draws ever closer, Californians are concerned for the health of sea life, and themselves. It is expected that radiation levels will rise sometime in 2014, and issues such as the health of the kelp forest offshore have led biologists such as Cal State Long Beach's Professor Steven Manley, an expert in marine biology, to warn, "The California kelp forest is a highly productive and complex ecosystem... It is imperative that we monitor this coastal forest for any radioactive contaminants that will be arriving this year in the ocean currents from Fukushima disaster."

Some Californians are taking matters into their own hands. Since the federal government stopped monitoring radiation on the West Coast shortly after the Fukushima disaster (with the excuse that the monitors didn't work), Californians themselves are now watching the levels of radiation through such projects as Kelp Watch 2014, SafeCast.org and RadCast.

At the same time, experts Arnie Gundersen and Ken Buesseler, whose previous statements raised public concerns about Fukushima, have tried to quell fears about the magnitude of the threat to people on the West Coast. These scientists now say that swimming in the ocean and running along the beach pose little risk at present, and Gundersen has pointed out that no place on Earth is free of threats posed by radiation as well as other hazards. This seems to be in answer to a widely reported comment by Dr. Helen Caldicott that if the spent fuel pools in Reactor Number Four at Fukushima collapse, she would move to the Southern Hemisphere.

Few scientists in the relevant fields are independent from the government, and able to comment freely in public on radiation's effects, but it is clear that the magnitude of the disaster at Fukushima equals the disaster at Chernobyl. Despite desperate and heroic efforts by thousands of Soviet workers, many of whom later died, Chernobyl irradiated the soil of Ukraine, and the atmosphere in Europe and the entire Northern Hemisphere; Fukushima is on track to pollute the Pacific Ocean. The hastily

built, poorly constructed water storage tanks at Fukushima are not a permanent solution, and a frozen wall may prove too costly, so the Japanese government and TEPCO have openly discussed discharging their contents into the ocean. Claims that the Pacific Ocean will dilute the radioactive substances in the water have been countered by scientists who point out that any level of radioactivity is harmful to living organisms. "Apologists say it's a large ocean and dilution is the solution to pollution," said Daniel Hirsch of UC Santa Cruz, who studied cancer among nuclear-power workers in the 1990s. "Dilution actually does nothing except expose a larger population."

According to Gundersen, the Pacific is becoming more and more contaminated from Fukushima. As Dr. Chris Busby, an authority on the negative impacts of low-dose radiation, says, "I don't think there's much more [Tepco] can do, to be honest. I think the thing is out of control... The material in those reactors is now in the ground somewhere, and there's no way they can get at it. The more water they pump in there, and the continuous water that comes down into the groundwater there, will just wash the uranium out into the sea — and continue to pollute the Pacific Ocean, more or less forever."

Does Japan have the money and political will to stop that?

SOURCES:

Excellent information continues to be published out of the public eye and in spite of government (American and Japanese) obfuscation. Cecile Paneda's *Devil's Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step by Step* is a great read, and lists more sources for this evolving tragedy. Brian Covert's article in Project Censored, "Fukushima: An Update from Japan," is an excellent source on Matsutaro Shoriki. "Nuclear Ginza," old but still valid and accessible on YouTube, exposed the plight of the workers in the Japanese nuclear power industry. The petition to Ban Ki-Moon is at <http://www.nirs.org/fukushima/expert-ltr-bankimoon-09-2013.pdf>. Other sources included the *Asia-Pacific Journal*, *ENE News*, washingtonsblog.com, commondreams.org and Fukushima Response-Bay Area. Many thanks are due to the latter for their valuable input. Any errors are mine.



ROMI ELNAGAR,

a retired teacher-librarian in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has written about Fukushima previously for *Green Horizon*. She is active in Fukushima Response-Bay Area in California, which has been lobbying UN delegates to take action at

Fukushima. Contact her at monterepinegreen@yahoo.com for more information.

eOS: *Part Two*

ECO OPERATING SYSTEM CHALLENGES

Ed. Note: In the first part of the eOS proposal (*Green Horizon*, Fall/Winter 2013 # 28), Steven Schmidt presented a vision of the developing worldwide social internet landscape and how Greens, both Greens within Green political parties, and greens in the larger green movement can ‘step up’ and utilize the ‘tools and tool kit’ that are ideal for reaching, engaging and organizing to achieve Green/green values and goals via ‘best practices’ distributed and shared over the world wide web.

This followup continues Schmidt’s proposal, looking at challenges and opportunities, and further examining the existing GreenPolicy360 platform, which he has suggested could be extended and brought to all connected corners of the globe. Green best practices take individual, coordinated actions and form a multiplier effect when done in concert.

A Green strategy of action to “join local actions together into a rippling, powerful global wave.”

Of the approximate 200 countries in the world, the Green Party has organized in approximately one half.

STEVE SCHMIDT

[http://greenpolicy360.net/images/GreenParties_global_list_11.2013_orig.pdf]

The Green Party is unique among political formations in its international reach and standing with a deeply embedded green set of values and ideas. Although Green capabilities are limited in traditional political terms, Green resources are unique in capacity to form alliances across a shared political spectrum, from conservative to liberal, green values advocating quality of life, conserving resources, well-being of communities, clear air and water, healthy children, good education, peace, social justice, sustainable prosperity.

Greens are a contrast to the current world of money and politics, the products of political barter, *quid pro quo* results that are shortsighted, expedient and narrow in their interest.

Greens argue for the concept of “singularity”, politics that works best when done at the appropriate level, local ‘grassroots’ politics is the better process if local decision-making is possible but for larger issues, coordinated politics and action is necessary.

The times demand Greens to face the larger questions that cut across political boundaries, local politics. Security issues that cannot be defined in traditional terms within conventional mindsets must shift toward new definitions of security, national security, regional and global security. If the polar ice cap, northern and southern glaciers melt, all shorelines will be affected as sea levels rise. As climate change impacts hit, weather patterns shift, and droughts take their toll, decertification will follow, water tables will fall, aquifers will dry up and agricultural crisis will ensue. Hunger, disease, regional dissension, natural disasters and devastation, biodiversity loss will be endemic. Even the atmosphere and oceans are threatened. No one is immune and a green voice needs to be heard loudly, widely, consequentially.

In the field of economics, we speak of ‘eco-nomics’, we’ve introduced ‘true cost pricing’ in our analyses and writing, we have focused on the term ‘externalities’ as those costs to society, to health, well-being and quality of life resulting from pollution, degrading of environments resulting from industrial production. We look at costs that are hidden or subsidized or long term – ‘blowback’ costs, lost ‘opportunity costs’, military budgets, trillions spent, wasted on war, the costs to families, victims, veterans and the loss of war, all of us, paying the price over decades.

Is there any chance to change the larger dynamic of politics-as-usual, apart from changes at the margins, issue by issue incrementally? The green movement clearly

Greens are capable of changing the world in ways that were never available before. Each of us can connect over borders, within borders, across borders in common causes, in ways where a few years ago change wasn't possible or envisioned...

believes so. The question is how, how do we go about change without becoming cynical, frustrated, fatalistic even? How do we maintain a Green spirit, our connections, hope and belief in better possible outcomes?

I believe that Greens are in the initial phases of a time when larger change is possible and the Greens and the hundreds of millions who think of themselves as “green”, environmentalist in effect, of all shades and colors, those who care for the world, a better life, clean air, water, and sustainable practices can effect change at every level, local to global, national to international.

An eOS toolkit can be utilized by ‘netizens’ who take the new interactive tool kit and employ these tools for change.

Green opportunities are myriad. The current Internet has hundreds of millions of nodes. There is more computing power in a simple smartphone than the operating computer in the Apollo spaceship that took astronauts to the moon (and sent back to us the “Earthrise” photo that has been called “the most influential environmental photograph ever taken” - <http://www.youtube.com/embed/dE-vOscpiNc>. Using the tools we have access to, Greens are capable of changing the world in ways that were never available before. Each of us can connect over borders, within borders, across borders in common causes, in ways where a few years ago change wasn't possible or envisioned.

Social networks are enabling popular causes throughout many regions, whether the ‘green revolution’ in Iran or ‘democracy awakening movements’ in the Mideast, mobile exchanges in Africa and actions across to South America, Latin America, North America, Japan, China, the Southeast, Australia, the Near East up to Russia and across Europe. No part of the globe is off limits to the web today or in the near future as the wireless connectivity spreads country by country. Social media platforms connect billions of earth *netizens*.

Now with connectivity and the world wide web, with mobile phones available among the poorest economically, and smartphones with best-in-class applications, with mobile internet devices, PCs and tablets, networked systems and with high speed media imminently rolling out what is the responsibility of green advocates? It certainly isn't neo-Luddite retreat. Remember that the counter-culture movement, especially in California, gave rise to the Internet.

The current world of communications is a challenge to us in the best sense of the word, a democratic challenge, an opportunity to

deliver green best practices and, to use a green metaphor, to sow the seeds of green values, ideas, and change agent politics.

An eOS would be an operating system designed as a diverse, multi-dimensional network. The eOS platform could enable global work on behalf of the earth. The eOS will offer solutions, practical solutions to be shared, to achieve healthy living and quality of life in our global community and each of our local communities. We will, individually and together, speak up and say, worldwide, environmental, social, political problems will not overwhelm us, we will take action... If not the greens, who will speak for the planet, for breathable air, available, drinkable water, no ozone holes, no nuclear catastrophes. Greens around the globe as green netizens engaging in local action together in coordinated appropriate action can say yes to a healthy and secure future for all.

THE CHALLENGE OF PRIVACY OVER THE WEB

Existing networks and social networking sites provide access for connecting, organizing, and messaging. The upside is their ubiquity. For the most part they are free to use. The downside is their ubiquity and related costs that come with their use.

Government surveillance of Internet communications is growing in intrusiveness. Those who engage in politics can expect, at some time, to be the subject of government intelligence operations. As Greens believe in and practice non-violence as a key value, one would assume Greens would not often be the subject of government agency actions. This would be assuming too much.

In the real world, governments as a matter of course go too far. The history is there to consider, the multibillions spent on intel agencies is a fact. Provocateurs ply their trade, extremists exist, bad actors act. The world is a complex theater to sort out and the use of the Internet will be problematic as greens get caught up in what is being called in the U.S. ‘incidental’ or ‘metadata’ spying. Often direct action work against polluters can bring undue but to-be-expected surveillance and attention. Even lobbying, rallying, peaceful actions can come under suspicion and attack by opponents and this can be foreseen as greens look to effectively use the Internet. It can be said that the more effective green politics becomes, the more targeted greens will become.

Some wise discretion is called for going forward and greens in their diverse approaches can be expected to rise to the occasion. Beyond public ‘tapped’ platforms like Facebook, Google, et al.,

mobile phone communications, etc., the array of greens in their multiple, diverse ways will undoubtedly use more secure communications when they choose, server-to-server connections if appropriate. Some activists will look to solutions like Meshnet, Tor, Ghostery, etc. Others will worry not and carry on. However the Internet is utilized, there are potential privacy issues that no doubt will be taken into consideration as a matter of course. The web is a powerful tool for organizing, even when governments attempt to limit it, monitor its use, or otherwise attempt to stop effective communication and organizing.

THE EOS OPPORTUNITY

Within the digital, interactive world the arena of database marketing has become the go-to sector. Parallel to government interest in data collection and analyses of vast troves of data on individuals, patterns and contexts, the private sector has been for years advancing data collection. The marketing industry is booming with data services, tracking personal information on individuals, companies, sectors, identified categories in an effort to target and direct one-to-one marketing campaigns, interactive marketing, event marketing, promotional marketing, all of which build on data bases of private data gleaned from the web and online behaviors.

Successful digital platforms in the business world are highly valued and successful case studies and best practices drive decisions in the field of business intelligence (BI). The non-profit world needs to learn from the for profit world.

Take, for example, the model of ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. For several years now, the work of ALEC has been opened to public scrutiny. Bill Moyers recently featured ALEC as the vanguard of a multi-state, corporate-funded political agenda. ALEC uses a platform, a database platform, and case studies, model legislation their sponsors choose to be 'shared.'

The result of the ALEC database approach has been a profoundly successful series of legislative initiatives throughout the U.S. Many of their legislative bills are in opposition to positions advocated by the Green Party and, for that matter, many political independents, liberals and conservatives. But they should be seen for what they have accomplished. The ALEC approach is smart, they put together a coordinated network of model bills and via their dbase platform they make them and accompanying information available to all the state, and other, legislative bodies in the U.S. They identify supporters, and manage these database lists, as their legislative supporters carry the agenda of bills state-by-state. The legislation is arranged by subject and the template bills can be quickly amended for each state/jurisdiction. The result has been a coordinated national campaign of laws, on message and in concert. It's worked.

The online green network that we are looking at here is, in a limited sense, a version of what ALEC does. The point is – database networking can be powerful. When we add in the

language of Wikimedia/MediaWiki to make a platform democratic and affordable, scalable and global, we are looking at a challenge project that could be worth the time, energy and effort. Potentially, the current model of www.GreenPolicy360.net can be employed as a phase one foundation for eOS. In an agile development structure, a GreenPolicy360/eOS envisions a future of networked development and expansion over time.

A robust GP360 platform can be scaled up, for example, with semantic mediawiki [<http://semantic-mediawiki.org/>], with extensions, maps, added data and information, graphics, charts, threads, e-vids, news and coordinated campaigns. As you can see on review, the current GlobalPolicy360 platform has expanded with maps of successful green practices in a number of countries/regions and this can continue to be extended nation-by-nation to build a database of global green best practices that is shareable and easily 'sent around' to achieve green goals with climate change work at the top of green work-to-do.

An interactive platform is set up to enable uploading/downloading of new green best practices, initiatives, projects, proposals and passed legislation, as well as related organizing information. For example, a coordinated campaign at the city level might be to plant trees. We can provide a kit of information to neighborhood groups including planning docs, city regs and applications, how-to guides, watering info and online resources with maps, PDFs, and messaging/blogs for neighbor-to-neighbor communication.

MediaWiki tools, augmented with additional design, apps, plug-ins, graphic user interface, metrics and social media, offer much potential. A coordinating group can provide guidance and expertise, invitations sent out to tech savvy greens especially to develop new apps, an evolving user interface (UI), content management system (CMS), an effective front-end 'uploader' to make it simpler and user-friendly. The mapping can expand to include multiple capabilities. Resources can be added, for example, the domain Greentill.com was obtained in July 2013 for GreenPolicy360's potential fundraising (apropos 'tilling' the soil.) Riseup resources and other crowdfunding sites can be utilized as needed, for example Fundraise, CauseVox, Fundly and Kickstarter, Indiegogo, or Crowdrise.

The range of Green opportunities to grow a rich garden of global green best practices is ripe via the web, a bandwidth, a palette of tools. It is multi-frequency, multi-shaded, multi-dimensional. It is the best of diversity in practice (that cannot be easily tracked or blocked.) It can begin small and be scaled-up. It can be a grid that's multiple points, a multi-node grouping, a powerful distribution sharing system. It can be a platform for delivering content 'how you want it, when you want it, anyway you want it.' Recent innovations make it possible to format content so that an eOS platform can deliver messaging reaching across the globe to billions of linked Internet devices – wherever you are, there we can be – connected, together....

Welcome to eOS, a new green world.

POTENTIAL EOS STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS

Bill McKibben (former adviser at the Green Institute) and 350.org “Global Power Shift” coordinated international campaign to confront the climate crisis

Recruit high profile advisers like Lawrence Lessig and his Read/Only, Read/Write Culture ¹¹

“Spreadable Media” which promotes open-ended participation across multiple channels by users/participants/readers... sharing is the key that opens doors in a networked culture... spreadable media text is the rippling effect, the dynamic physics of exponential growth, individual decisions that combine to become a powerful wave ¹²

Link up with Appropedia (pending with GreenPolicy360) ¹³

Launch a Water campaign offering practical clean water and water saving solutions

Expand with the Permaculture community which is worldwide, offering practical, sustainable eco-solutions – add to the database, develop a “Little Green Online Book” with the best of alternative ag, add Permadesign and Harvest the Rain data ¹⁴

Add David Suzuki and Natural Capital movement ¹⁵

Add the Bioneers and Resilient communities as associates (noting an international, online strategic plan I drafted for them) ⁷

Add CELDF/Community empowerment tools ¹⁶

Hire social media agency, bring on board press/media distribution

Tie-in with educational institutions

Link to Riseup.net - Develop GreenTill.com

RESOURCES / LINKS [continued from Part 1]

11. Lawrence Lessig

-<http://www.reinventors.net/roundtables/reinvent-money-in-politics>

12. Spreadable Media... realizing the potentials of a participatory culture to increase democratic citizenship

-<http://www.deepmediaonline.com/deepmedia/2013/01/henry-jenkins-on-spreadable-media.html>

13. Appropriate Technology

-http://www.appropedia.org/Welcome_to_Appropedia

14. Permaculture

-<http://www.amazon.com/Permaculture-Designers-Manual-Bill-Mollison/dp/0908228015>

-<http://www.permadesign.com>

15. Natural Capital

- <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/issues/wildlife-habitat/projects/natural-capital/what-is-natural-capital/>

- <http://www.unep.org/maweb/en/index.aspx>

- <http://www.teebweb.org/>

16. - CELDF ‘Hometown Democracy-HomeRule’ Community rights movement

- <http://www.celdf.org/>

- <http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/a-resilient-community/table-of-contents>

Population / Internet data

Global human population / 7 billion – 2012.... 11 billion by 2100
-<http://www.census.gov/popclock/>
-<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2341084/Global-population-soar-11-billion-2100-African-population-quadruples.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Internet population / 2.4 billion users – 2012

Mobile subscriptions / 6 billion – 2012

Social Media – over 2 billion users – 2012

-<http://news.cyberjournalist.net/post/55341325046/a-stunning-visual-history-of-social-media>

Internet Surveillance

<http://blog.sfgate.com/bookmarks/2013/07/01/interview-with-nsa-expert-james-bamford/>

Exaflop — one quintillion operations a second... next goal will be zettaflop and yottaflop... beyond yottaflop, names have not yet been invented. Project Meshnet - <http://projectmeshnet.org/>

Fundraising/Online Resources

Crowdfunding - mashable.com/2011/09/15/crowdfunding-history

Riseup - <https://help.riseup.net/en/about-us>

The (Counter)Culture That Gave Birth to the Personal Computer - <https://medium.com/medium-long/e50f65132b55>



STEVEN SCHMIDT

founded Global Policy 360 and Green Institute online. He is co-author, with Roger Morris, of *Strategic Demands of the 21st Century: A New Vision for a New World* <http://bit.ly/12DWYAB>, the Green Institute’s initial policy paper and organized the Surviving Victory conference in Washington DC

with the Institute <http://bit.ly/1277ZiX>. A key drafter of the founding national Green Party Platform <http://www.gp.org/platform2000.shtml>, Schmidt chaired the original platform committee, serving from 1995 to 2001. He initiated the first Common Ground platform between the Association of State Green Parties and European Federation of Green Parties and assisted in the proposal to draft the first Green Global Charter. In 1994 he ran for Lt. Governor on the Green ticket in New Mexico with Roberto Mondragon, achieving major party status for the New Mexico Green Party, and over the course of the 1990’s worked to organize a legally recognized U.S. Green Party http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Schmidt. From 1995-1999, he served with distinction on the New Mexico State Board of Education. Recently president of a leading interactive firm, he established M Channel to set up a forward-looking online media company <http://www.mchannelonline.com/>. Steven can be followed at Facebook, Google+, Twitter

THOUGHTS For My Grandchildren

...on *What You'll be Facing*

This is the fourth in a planned series of articles by Steve Welzer

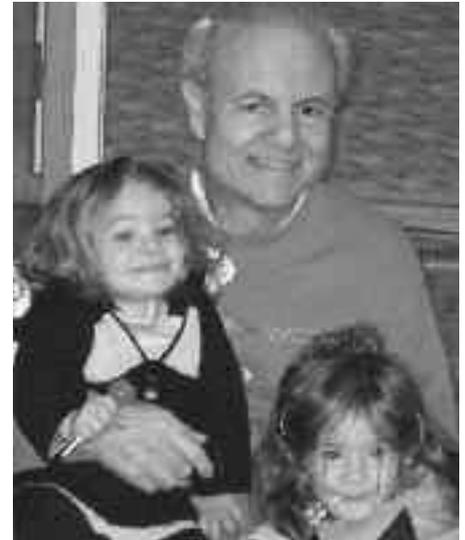
STEVE WELZER

DEAR GRANDCHILDREN:

The question of “what you’ll be facing” would have been easily answered for ninety-nine percent of our species existence, during which human lifeways were relatively stable from generation to generation. Stable, though not static. People did have to accommodate to climate and other environmental/ecological changes. But those kinds of changes occurred over the course of tens or hundreds of thousands of years, so incremental lifestyle modifications sufficed.

There has been less generation-to-generation stability during the last one percent or so of our species existence—and considerably less during recent centuries. “What you’ll be facing” is now a function of two pivotal inflection points of human history. As we’ve detailed in prior notebook entries, the first was associated with the Neolithic Revolution and the ascent into civilization. To review, briefly: As rising population densities became an issue, most human groups proactively controlled their numbers; but some, instead, turned to an intensive form of agriculture in an effort to support further population growth. The latter groups soon became dependent upon self-production of food. New issues then arose having to do with productivity, ownership of the produce, labor allocation, and exploitation—and those, in short order, had the effect of radically altering lifeways. Groups adopting the New Ways (or having the New Ways imposed upon them) tended to become aggressive, patriarchal, and urban-centric. Whereas human social reality had always, heretofore, been based in familiar, self-sufficient, relatively egalitarian local communities (tribes or villages), adoption of the New Ways was characterized by the emergence of entirely new phenomena: (a) institutions which are large, centralized, remote, opaque, and impersonal—epitomized by the state; (b) complex economies involving an extensive, hierarchical division of labor; and (c) imperial-scale expansionism, oppression and subordination.

The New Ways came to predominate over a period of five millennia, leading to a second, very recent, historical inflection point. It was associated with the transition based on industrial development and globalized commerce. With this Second Great Transformation the accelerating trajectories of human population, production, consumption, depletion, and pollution went parabolic.



[Laura, happy fifth birthday. I promise I'll be done writing these notebooks in time for your fifteenth!]

Technology has replaced the natural landscape with the suffocating surfaces of the modern Technopolis.

HYPER-URBANIZATION

Grandchildren, this is what you'll be facing. And making sense of it (no less dealing with it) will be an unprecedented challenge. Just 200 years ago ninety-seven percent of people still lived in tribes, villages, or very small towns. Life for the vast majority was an amalgam of the Old Ways and the New Ways. Activities and aspirations were still mostly local and immediate. But life was not stable as had been the case under the Old Ways. Village life was regularly threatened by disruption to the extent that it was subject to the vagaries of the statist, imperial and historical forces that loomed, menacingly, "above" and could wreak havoc at any time (via conscription and taxation; border, trade, and administrative shifts; the dislocations of wars and conquests).

Since the ascent into civilization cities have been the locus of statism and history, of aggrandizement and imperialism. Nonetheless, until very recently even cities were relatively human-scaled. In 1790 there were 30,000 people in New York. No city in the world had a population of a million. By 1950 there were 83 cities with populations exceeding one million. By 2007 the number had risen to 468 and fifty percent of all people lived in cities. During your lifetime, by 2030, that figure will be sixty percent and there will be over 30 megacities (metropolitan areas with a total population in excess of ten million people).

Hyper-urbanization is not reflective of a trend toward urbanity and high culture, but rather toward a social reality characterized by teeming masses, automobile congestion, air, water, and noise pollution; by 2030 three billion people in the world will be living in slums or shantytowns.

RISE OF THE TECHNOPSIS

Since the industrial revolution, hypertrophy has come to characterize one sphere of human existence after another. But the monumental expansion of what Barry Commoner termed

the "technosphere" in relation to the ecosphere is arguably the most dramatic and problematic issue of our times.

It's more than a question of the proliferation of machinery. Physical machines and the machine mentality have been central aspects of civilization since its inception. Lewis Mumford pointed out how ancient Sumer and Egypt organized society itself into a vast "social megamachine." Only in that way could pyramids and empires get built.

David Watson notes that with industrialism we witness the rise of "the first global megamachine. . . The scientific and the industrial revolutions occurring in production and later in culture and consumption have managed to internalize the empire, wire it into subjectivity, in a way no previous form could. . . For the first time in history, the instrumental and economic transformation of the world has become the central cultural motive.

"Technology has replaced the natural landscape with the suffocating surfaces of the modern Technopolis [permeated by] a culture which tends toward the destruction of local communities and technics and toward the penetration of the megamachine into every aspect of life. . . It has been confused with machines and tools, when it is in reality a complex of social relations, a 'web of instrumentality.' The automobile, for example, was seen as simply a replacement for the horse and carriage, but mass production techniques combined with Ford's new conception of mass distribution gave the automobile a significance that no one foresaw.

"Ford's revolution actually came at the end of a long period of technical preparation. Mass assembly line production and interchangeability of parts dated back to the end of the eighteenth century. The expanding role of the state was also significant, since it was only the state which would have the means to create a transportation system based on the auto.

What is important is the overall process of massification by which simple, organic activities are wrested from the community and the household and appropriated by the megamachine. Under its auspices the green world in which we evolved is being shredded by our instruments, our way of life, our very rationality.

“Taking the automobile as an example, who can deny that technology creates its own inertia, its own direction, its own cultural milieu? Think how the automobile has transformed our world, our thoughts, images, dreams, our forms of association, in just the span of a few generations. The automobile has uprooted our communities, undermined our farmlands, polluted our air, created a generalized ritual of sacrifice on the oppressive assembly lines and on the congested roadways. But the automobile is only one invention of thousands. Who would have thought that within just a few decades of the invention of television [and personal computing devices] millions of human beings would spend more time staring into electronic screens than in any other activity?”

“What is important is not a specific moment in the transformation of techniques, or that specific forms of technology were employed, but the overall process of massification by which simple, organic activities are wrested from the community and the household and appropriated by the megamachine. [Under its auspices] the green world in which we evolved is being shredded by our instruments, our way of life, our very rationality.” [quotes taken from David Watson’s essays, “Against the Megamachine” (1981) and “Catching Fish in Chaotic Waters” (1995), both of which appeared in *Fifth Estate*]

BUT LAST YEAR WAS “THE BEST”!

Overall it’s a disconcerting reality. Humanity has built up to this aberration over time—very gradually at first, at a quickening pace after the Neolithic Revolution, and then at breakneck speed after the industrial revolution. Yet, despite an underlying disquiet in the elite centers, despite misery and breakdown at the periphery, the mystique of progress generally continues to prevail. Dislocations, discontents, and technological exaspera-

tions are tolerated as statistics seem to indicate that life for a majority of people is getting better. Last December Zack Beauchamp published an essay, “Five Reasons Why 2013 Was the Best Year in Human History.” People are living longer; there is (proportionately) less poverty; recently less war and violent crime.

This perspective can be confusing. First of all, some of the improvement in poverty, hygiene, health, and conflict data is only relative to the deplorable conditions of the early-civilizational period. It indicates that, in some respects—after millennia!—humanity is finally coming to terms with and learning to cope with the trauma of the transition to the New Ways. This is all to the good. Yet, while progress has been made in certain areas, the human experience and impact in other areas has gotten more problematic. How “progressive” are the circumstances where increases in consumption come at the expense of accelerated ecological disruption? where transportation and communication advances expand our “domain of experience” to the point where we lose our grounding and complexity becomes overwhelming? where anomie and atomization escalate with increasing urbanism? where institutions tend to become ever larger and the successful economic enterprises become ever more dominant?

It stands to reason that at the point where rising trajectories are peaking there might be a sense that “things have never been better.” But it should be understood that this is the viewpoint looking backward from the precipice. If growth and development are unsustainable, some year in the near future will be the ultimate “best ever” from the standpoint of the misguided values of hypermodernity. The folly of parabolic historical trajectories will soon after (at long last) become widely recognized.

Grandchildren, the third inflection point of our species history will be an unprecedented occurrence. The appropriate response will involve some kind of radical reorientation of our lifeways. It’s easy enough to talk about “the greening of society” or “transition to the Simpler Way,” but the implementation of those good ideas is not so easy. Unprecedented challenges await you.

... to be continued

Humanity has built up to this aberration over time—very gradually at first, at a quickening pace after the Neolithic Revolution, and then at breakneck speed after the industrial revolution.



STEVE WELZER,

a co-editor of this magazine, has been a Green movement activist for over twenty years. He was a founding member of the Green Party of New Jersey in 1997 and recently served on the Steering Committee of the Green Party of the United States. Steve holds a Masters degree in Economics from Rutgers University. He lives in East Windsor, New Jersey, and is pursuing a project to establish an ecovillage in that state.

My Journey Through Green

KATE CULVER

The new story is the Story of Relation.

Here we stand, on the edge of a new world, a world of possibilities. It's an exciting time, wouldn't you say? Not all of it longed for, yet much in transition. A metamorphosis is upon us with a shift from a head-intensive to a heart-focused approach to problem solving. Solutions based in natural systems thinking are changing the paradigm. As a Permaculture designer I am revitalized by exploring the regenerative paths addressing our ecological and social plights.

One of the repeating themes emerging for me is "we need a new story". As we make our way through the collapse of the old story, the Story of Separation, we rethink the vision to be proactive and result-oriented. In order to do that, and create a culture of caring, we need to find and de-story the myths we operate under. Open up to seeing our unchallenged assumptions about money, power, authority. When we remove the cultural lenses of their 'problem' status we slowly see the light of the new story. We can feel the benefits in our bodies, as well as our minds, of a more collaborative way of being. It's more grounded, supportive. The new story is the Story of Relation.

Looking back I see the evolution of 3 key archetypes playing major roles in my life and in my chosen community. Even in politics. They are the Earth Mother, the Rebel and the Magician. You know archetypes, they are a collection of predictable behaviors with both light and dark aspects. Examining our own can show us the incongruous aspects of ourselves and those we know, exposing a paradox of life. The 3 archetypes in our story are found in cultures around the world, indigenous and civilized, and offer a framework with which to view the world.

I've heard people say in reference to notable happenings, "it's a sign of the times." But is it? Or is it a particular archetype emerging more prominently in our own psyche and the cultural psyche? Whatever struggles we face they have been faced by others before us under different circumstances. Archetypal tendencies and characteristics have a constancy which become unique when applied to the moment.

The Earth Mother, or Great Mother, archetype ensures everything is cared for and everything is respected for its intrinsic value. Its sacredness. Her domain is not to be viewed for what it offers humanity, just for what it is- itself.

As a child I spent my time in the creeks and woods. Finding a place in nature where I was with myself, and everything else at the same time, was foundational. I felt connected to all things. This archetype expressed herself in ways like, leaving the house early for my walk to school on mornings after a rain so I could pick the worms off the road and place them safely in the grass. Raising a baby Robin one summer and noting it's return the next spring through it's unique song.

Seeds were planted culturally as well. In the '60's the Earth Mother was expressing herself in the culture through Rachel Carson, Joanna Macy, hippies, the Berrigans, Pete Seeger. This was a new way of being political: to come from love. The new feeling was quickly sucked up by the devastation of the planet and by seeing our friends and

I noticed a pattern: Planetary crises arises. Mobilize defensive tactics to stop it. Witness greater destruction.

beloved leaders shot before our eyes. Love turned to fear, anger and hate.

The Rebel steps forward. The Rebel desires to replace what isn't working, break the rules. She's ready for upheaval. The planet is still the *raison d'être* but the energy has changed. Rebel's strategy is disrupt and destroy. And her greatest fear is to be powerless and ineffectual.

CAN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

For years I carried the world on my shoulders feeling a responsibility for its healing. I spent much of my time confronting the problems and those people who I felt were responsible for them. Marching in the streets, writing letters to legislators and newspapers, working in non-profits, engaging politically; all while donating every spare penny to others doing healing work. But nothing seemed to change.

And, I noticed a pattern. Planetary crises arises. Mobilize defensive tactics to stop it. Witness greater destruction. Repeat. Juggling life as a single mother, working multiple jobs and barely keeping afloat, the added stress of a bleak future weighed heavy on me pushing my Rebel harder.

Then I found Permaculture, a design science based on natural systems, and my approach made a dramatic shift. I could see as complementary what before had been divisive. There were healthy, natural solutions to the unexamined systems that were making us sick. Stacking functions is one of the key principles. It asks us to build relationships between activities making them work better as part of a whole. An example is using constructed wetlands with cattails to clean sewage. Without chemical inputs waste water is cleaned by the cattails (fulfilling the dream of cattails) producing vibrant water. The cattails are removed at the end of their cycle and now we have a good feed source for making ethanol fuel. The next process results in further benefits, and around we go. Seeing this harmony in natural systems saved my life. I went from deep despair to giddy with possibilities. It seemed clear to me that this was the way the change could happen! Fast forward 15 years and nothing much had changed. Solutions in hand I still had the same attitude of the Rebel, I wanted to take the system down. My Permie friends didn't want

to engage in a political solution. I and fellow Greens argued relentlessly. Often talking past each other expressing the Rebel's fear of powerlessness. None of us seeing the forest for the trees.

THE HOPE OF THE GREEN PARTY

Greens had their own vision of governance and created a platform to stand on. From the beginning it was something quite tribal. It came from that seed planted at an earlier time, emerging as the new thinking, the new ecological way of being. It was percolating up. As enticing a concept as it is: saving the planet & empowering the people, the GP has yet to build the party to the level of a major contender in electoral politics.

For some there is a tendency to view this lack of having 'arrived' as a failure. There have been successes in local races, which is the most powerful place one can act when they are a minority viewpoint. And we know a good way to reach big goals is to honor the small successes along the way. But the overall feeling is that we are doing something wrong and it should have been easier to build around an idea so compelling.

WE GET WHAT WE GIVE

New Science tells us we create our world. The work of Dr. Bruce Lipton, described in his book *Biology of Belief*, shows how our subconscious "lives" in every cell of our body, containing our beliefs and habits. At a cellular level, not just in our brain. Cells, identical outside their environment whether muscle, tissue or organ, perform as required, exquisitely doing their respective tasks. They have an understanding of what to do, how to make more of themselves and mentor the next ones to do the same. They do it habitually, "subconsciously". In that light we might say it was the Rebel's attitude that has kept us from reaching our goal. In pushing resistance we repeatedly found it being reciprocated.

What if those years are exactly as they were supposed to be? A time of experimentation, trial and error, molding our organization to prepare it for mass market. What if we've been getting knocked down, licking our wounds, and going at it again because it was about building our resilience, building our reputation for tenacity, for reliability. If that version of the past

Cultivating feelings of gratitude in every area of your life, even when it is challenging, is an effective way to stimulate your heart muscle.

couple decades is possible I postulate that now is the time for the Green Party to emerge as a more accepted idea for moving forward.

"IT'S OVER" IS THE SAME AS "IT'S BEGINNING"

And perhaps the Magician is the best one to take us there with the motto: I make things happen. She understands the fundamental laws of the universe and wants to make dreams come true. She develops a vision and lives by it, finding win-win solutions.

Fostering and nurturing an attitude that does not fix ideas as right or wrong is the Magician's way forward. The world can be viewed without the labels of good or bad, just what can be. I'm not saying ignore or deny the facts. I'm not saying there is no Monsanto. I'm saying don't make Monsanto, or any other rabid corporation, the Boogie man. Hold on to the sacred.

WE CAN'T GIVE WHAT WE DON'T HAVE

We're made up of those flexible, malleable cells. We can perform the required tasks. If we want love and joy everywhere in the world we start with it in our own heart. A way to change the world is to change ourselves, our consciousness. Trying to force change on others has never worked. The more we say we want gun control the more freaked out those who don't want gun control get. The more we try to stop factory farming the more horrendous factory farms get pushing regulation that allows for ever greater horrors.

Instead let's seek happiness, in and with ourselves. By embracing a world of love and joy we live life in a meaningful and desirable way. It makes us better able to manifest for ourselves and others. It's not easy. It's not easy to shed the judgments and preconceptions so deeply ingrained. Personally, I have worked for years rooting out old patterns and replacing them with something workable. I still struggle at times. One of

the best, initial tools is Gratitude. Cultivating feelings of gratitude in every area of your life, even when it is challenging, is an effective way to stimulate your heart muscle. Challenges are great teaching moments, learn to embrace them. Another tool is to find a "sit spot" in your backyard or a nearby park. It's your place to sit and observe, to reflect and take note. It is amazing how when you get silent and still your heart feels so big.

Whatever tools we use, the goal is to get to that subconscious where our beliefs reside. Root out the beliefs that judge things as bad -- or that we are helpless victims and oppressed. We've seen pictures, particularly of other cultures, with expressions of pure joy and light coming from people living in what would be described as deplorable conditions, like having no running water, or plumbing of any kind, even amongst bombed out rubble. Yet you look in their face and see the utter joy and magic of life. As Gandhi said, "Nobody can hurt me without my permission".

Everything is a choice. Even when we fail to take action we have made a choice. Everyone else is also making choices. We make them collectively as well, in families and in communities. New York City has the archetype of the Sovereign, or King. It's The Big Apple, the ultimate city. This is a collective sense that is of the city and its people, even those with few possessions or security.

Consciousness is energy and we are drawn into the energy around us. To change your energy tap into the energy of the beings you want to emulate. Walk in their shoes. If we don't want to be oppressed work to assume the attitude of non-oppression and spend time with those who feel the same. Live in the world you want as much as you can even if it is only in your mind.

This attitude infuses the new story. We see with love. In this way everyone and everything that is with us on the planet has intrinsic value just in themselves. No evil. There are things that are painful to witness. I am reminded that when we observe the

Our culture is inundated with images of horrors beyond our control. These are mind games which only work to undermine us if we remain a believer in their good versus evil facade.

Everything is a choice. Even when we fail to take action we have made a choice.

pain of others in a framework where we are helpless, like watching bombs drop on a village on TV news, it can be very agonizing for us as an observer. There is nothing we can do. That is not the experience of those involved in the situation however. Think about a time when you were in a life threatening situation. You have tools at your disposal, you can draw on your character, you can draw on your friends and those with you, you can draw on your faith. Living it is different than being a helpless witness. Our culture is inundated with images of horrors beyond our control. These are mind games which only work to undermine us if we remain a believer in their good versus evil labels.

When we embrace the Magician we can explore our options from a healthy, visionary perspective. What are the possibilities? Where can we go with them? How can we do this through love?

THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE, BECAUSE LOVE KNOWS NO OTHER WAY

“Active Hope is not wishful thinking. Active Hope is not waiting to be rescued. Active Hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf we can act.” -Joanna Macy

Open to the reality of what is. Accept the moment. Make a plan, a choice, to move in the direction you desire. Energy flows in patterns and we affect the patterns with our thoughts and actions. Energy builds or dissipates in relation to what is around it. Make good choices in what you offer.

Do you think I'm crazy? I heard crazy was doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome. The tools we've been using thus far have been unable to halt the abuse. Resistance begets resistance. I'm suggesting a sane option with a track record. We can take the advice and emulate the masters of walking the talk of love, Gandhi, King and Mandela. Be the Bodhisattva. Express Satyagraha. People are sensing a better way, it is ready to spread like wildfire.

INCLUDE AND TRANSCEND

It is the combined effort of everyone which brings us to this opportunity in time. Evolution works through cooperation to include and transcend. Let's build on all that's been done to bring about change on a monumental and ecological scale. Excitement is a crucial step toward happiness.

No need to be afraid of any potential collapse. That is part of the old story. The old story is not working for us anymore. We can step into something that feeds us along the way.

Remember to be kind to yourselves, we are figuring out something that has yet to be figured out under today's circumstances. A seed is tenacious and has everything it needs right there within its shell. Once it sprouts and enters the world it needs outside input for survival and actively seeks what it needs. It is also at its most fragile state, when it is most easily destroyed. Be gentle with yourselves, fellow Greens. Be gentle with yourselves and each other as our sprout takes on the new life full of possibilities, filled with gratitude, expressed through joy.



KATE CULVER

is a Permaculture designer and teacher, an edge-dweller and mentor. Active in Green politics since 2000 she is co-founder of her state party and a current Co-chair of the GPUS. She lives off the grid in a straw bale house on the banks of the scenic

Buffalo River in the Western Highland Rim region of Middle Tennessee with her husband, their dog Hashi, 3 cats, 9 chickens and 2 Haflinger draft horses. Her work can be found at www.earthandstraw.com and www.songtogaia.com.

*It is the combined effort of everyone which brings us to this opportunity in time.
Evolution works through cooperation to include and transcend.*

Moving Beyond Leadership and Followership

CHRISTIAN MONÖ

“The idea that leaders are omnipotent and the key to success, is so widespread that few ever question it.”

Our local safari guide looked me in the eye through the rear view mirror. “We have bad leaders. That’s the problem!” he said gloomily.

We were bouncing about on a small dirt road, heading back to Mombasa after a two-day safari in Tsavo, Kenya’s largest natural park.

I used to live in Kenya as a child. Now I was back to show my own children this beautiful country.

Although it felt like most of my organs were hopelessly entangled somewhere below my ankles, I was happy. This is the Kenya I remembered - rough dirt roads, small clay buildings, and a savannah that seems to go on forever.

In every little village we passed, children came running out to greet us. They waved in anticipation, shouting at us to throw them some candy.

Much has changed since I lived here in the 1980’s. As our guide pointed out, children back then would call out for pencils, not candy.

I guess that’s a sign of improvement. It means more children have access to pencils and notebooks than they did when I lived here. Unfortunately, many people in Kenya still suffer from poverty, and it was this fact that led our guide to make his comment about bad leaders.

FOCUSING ON LEADERS

When people, like our guide, talk about the state of a country (or a company/organization for that matter), leadership is often concluded to be the key factor explaining either development success or failure. Typically, followers are hardly mentioned at all.

The idea that leaders are omnipotent and the key to success, is so widespread that few ever question it. As a consequence, billions of dollars are spent every year on leadership development.

In the US alone, companies spend somewhere between 13.6 to 170 billion dollars annually on developing their “leaders” (depending on who conducted the research and what is defined as ‘leadership development’). Add to that all the revenues from book sales, university courses and membership fees etc., and leadership undoubtedly becomes one of the largest industries in the world.

On the other hand, most people have never heard of “followership” (the art of following a leader) and many couldn’t care less about the people who are supposed to be led.

This attitude strikes me as peculiar. I thought the whole point of leadership development was to get these “non-leaders” to follow. Wouldn’t it therefore make sense to pay them a little more attention?

“Scholars and researchers haven’t been able to agree on what differentiates a leader from a non-leader.”

ASKING THE UNTHINKABLE QUESTION: ARE LEADERS REALLY IMPORTANT?

The lack of interest in followers and the extreme focus on leaders can only mean one thing – people believe that investing in leaders gives far better results than investing in followers. If that’s true, then it makes sense to assume that with all the investments made in leadership development, we should over time see some astonishing results. Particularly in fields such as employer engagement or the public’s trust in their government – areas said to be greatly affected by leadership.

In 2011-2012, the internationally renowned public opinion research company, Gallup, conducted a survey of more than 230,000 employees in 142 countries. This survey concluded that 87 percent of workers around the world are either “disengaged” or “actively disengaged” in their work. In America, the number has been more or less stable at 70 - 74 percent since year 2000.

Looking at the Americans’ trust in their government, surveys show a continuous decrease in trust. In 1958, 73 percent of Americans trusted their government. In 2013 only 19 percent did.

If leadership is as important as many people believe, and considering the amount of money spent on improving people’s leadership skills, why is there so little evidence of its impact?

The answer can partly be found in an interesting fact that is rarely mentioned by experts and leadership gurus, namely: scholars and researchers haven’t been able to agree on what differentiates a leader from a non-leader.

If we don’t know what a leader is, how do we know that leaders are more important than followers? And what exactly are we spending our money on when investing in leadership development?

These are important questions because they help us reevaluate our obsession with leaders. And it’s about time. Albert Einstein is known to have said that “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” Focusing on leadership is obviously not giving us the results we want. It’s time to move on.

FOCUSING ON THE RIGHT THINGS

So, what’s your point, you may ask. Should we focus on followers instead of leaders? No, I don’t think so, and here’s why:

Imagine that you want to build a house. What will be your main focus? Will you spend 90 percent of your time focusing on getting the perfect tools? Probably not. Instead I’m sure your main focus will be on the end result – the house. The tools are simply there to help you reach your goal.

The same goes for leadership and followership. They are just tools we use to build something I’ve come to call collaborationship.

To explain collaborationship, a good place to start is to identify the origin of true leadership and followership.

COLLABORATIONSHIP

Modern Man (sic) first appear in Africa about 200,000 years ago. Since then, more than 90% of our history has been spent living as hunters and gatherers in small, so called band societies.

These highly egalitarian societies were made up of no more than 20 – 40 individuals. Contrary to popular beliefs, these societies functioned without chiefs or formal headmen. There was no hierarchy, no one ruled the others. Instead, society was structured around cooperation and any sign of dominance was unacceptable and quickly smothered by the members of the group.

These egalitarian band societies have been called leaderless societies but that’s not actually true. There were leaders and followers, but not in the sense we are used to define them.

Today people think of leaders as one or more persons leading others for a specified period of time. They also tend to equate leaders with decision makers, i.e. individuals who have the power to make decisions on behalf of others. For example, if someone talks about leaders in a company, they usually refer to managers not subordinates. If they talk about political leaders they mean political decision makers not voters.

The problem with these two assumptions is that they don’t take true followership into consideration. They instead assume that followers are just sheep that need to be guided and controlled. But this is not the case.

Our foraging ancestors had an ingenious way of leading and following without involving dominance and hierarchy. For example, when a group of men decided to hunt, they would begin by discussing their different options. During these discussions, successful hunters would take a more prominent role. They would do so, not by telling the others what to do, but simply by presenting their opinions and experiences. Because they were good hunters, the others would be more likely to listen to their advice. In other words, it was the group that decided who they would follow.

By following a successful hunter, the group would maximize its chances of success. It’s this process, in which people who share a common vision or goal unite in order to build synergies, that I call collaborationship.

“Our foraging ancestors had an ingenious way of leading and following without involving dominance and hierarchy.”

“Followers choose their leaders, not the other way around.”

LEADERSHIP IS BASED ON A ROLE – NOT A PERSON

Few things are more powerful than strong collaboration. It has made human beings able to travel around the world, fight diseases, overthrow dictators, fly into space, and so on. When a group of people are able to build strong collaboration, few things can stop them.

An important part of building strong collaboration is something I call shifting leadership.

Our foraging ancestors fiercely rejected dominance and hierarchy. Why? Because they knew that having just one person rule the others was less effective than opening up for everyone to share the leader role.

Because different people excel in different areas, our ancestors chose to follow different people at different times.

Even today, people use shifting leadership to maximize success. A simple example is if I decide to lose some weight I might go to a gym and get a personal trainer. I don't hire a taxi driver or a librarian because they wouldn't be able to help me. Of course, if I want to make a difference in society, then I'll join a political party or organization. I don't join a gym.

This may probably seem logical but that's just because shifting leadership and collaboration are part of our natural behavior.

Leadership is the means to an end, not the end itself. Along with followership, it's a tool used to build strong collaboration. So, people are not born either leaders or followers – we have different roles at different times, depending on our particular usefulness at any given time.

THE NEXT STEP

Heading down the dirt road towards Mombasa, passing those small, poor villages, I thought about what our guide had said – that poverty exists because of bad leadership. I don't think it's that simple.

Yes, there are many bad decision makers and leaders in the world, but far more serious is our traditional obsession with leadership.

If we want to eradicate poverty, save the environment or improve human rights etc., then the answer isn't leadership. And although there is much work to be done in improving people's follower skills, our primary focus shouldn't be on followers either. It should be on building strong collaboration.

It's not uncommon that people who are supposed to collaborate towards a common goal or vision will spend more energy and money on power struggles and leadership training than on the actual vision. I'm sure you can think of a few examples where you've seen this occur.

One reason this happens is because of the belief that leadership is about making or manipulating others to obey orders. As a result, if you're not in a decision-making position, then you're the one being dominated. Because people generally don't like to be dominated or controlled, one way out of this dilemma is to become a decision maker yourself.

This, along with all the perks that follow a decision maker role, encourages people to strive for power. As a result, power struggles appear along with an obsession with leadership development. Meanwhile, the very reason a group of people cooperate (or should cooperate) is all but forgotten.

Our ancestors knew that power, hierarchy, dominance and control aren't part of a successful collaboration. They seem to have instinctively understood that to maximize the potential of a group, one needs to maximize the potential of each individual.

Therefore, they chose who and when to follow, a choice they didn't just do once or twice in their lives. They did it every day, in all aspects of society. It was their recipe for success.

If we want to move beyond the old leadership myth, I believe this is a good place to start – by understanding that followers choose their leaders, not the other way around.

As followers we have far more power and responsibility than most of us understand.



CHRISTIAN MONÖ

is an accomplished speaker and the author of *Beyond the Leadership Myth: Why we follow leaders and lead followers*. You can read the first chapters of his book at www.collaborationship.se. Christian has worked at the UNDP in Serbia, where he led

trainings in conflict management for NGOs, amongst other responsibilities. Since his return to Sweden in 2006 Monö has studied the art of followership and its relationship with leadership, while simultaneously testing his theories in practice - both as a subordinate and a manager.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

On a day last December, I sat down for dinner with a stuffed baked sweet potato and had my first opportunity to take a look at the Fall/Winter edition of *Green Horizon* (2013-14).

There I learned that after 92 years the commanding presence of Lloyd Wells had moved to a different universe.

During my three months in Maine working on the National Initiative For Democracy in 2002, Lloyd Wells was the most helpful, charismatic, and fun leader with whom I was blessed to spend several hours working, learning, and smiling.

When I first met him he was on the floor with some tools assembling a desk in our off-the-beaten path rental office. He was the one that gave me a pamphlet full of Maine contacts, and he knew and would school me on every one of them. The mere mention of his name to those contacts opened doors. When he got serious from his towering frame and gazed at you, you paid attention. When he took you for a Maine lobster and beer, he wanted you to know the proper way to enjoy both.

At his home, since his computer consultant wasn't available, he asked this ever dangerous computer tinkerer to help him with some communication problems between his computers and printing gear. Luckily, I didn't break anything. But on that occasion he gave me another smiling lesson...

The phone kept ringing and he just let it ring, while I fiddled with his computer and he went off to find a sweater.

I knew he was supposed to go to a fundraising event with the Rockefellers. In a few minutes he came back with a couple sweaters, seemingly trying to decide between one and the other. As the phones started ringing again, I asked him, "Don't you want to get the phone? It could be the Rockefeller family."

He looked at me and said something like: "Dwayne, let me give you a little lesson about class and money. When class and money wants you at a party, it's a good policy to let them wait for a while. I know who's calling. I'll get there soon. I'll get there on my terms."

When he finally answered the phone, it was an anxious Rockefeller awaiting his towering presence.

Lloyd Wells made me smile. More than Maine will miss him. The world could use a lot more Lloyd Wells.

Dwayne Hunn

Mill Valley, California

American World Service Corps & Peoples Lobby

TO THE EDITOR:

I was reading a UN document. It featured a report entitled "A New Global Partnership". This came from a group called the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post--2015 Development Agenda. On page 5, I saw the following quote, "Without ending poverty, we cannot build prosperity; too many people get left behind. Without building prosperity, we cannot tackle environmental challenges; we need to mobilize massive investments in new technologies to reduce the footprint of unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Without environmental sustainability, we cannot end poverty; the poor are too deeply affected by natural disasters and too dependent on deteriorating oceans, forests and soils."

I like this quote, it intimately links the health of human communities to the health of planetary ecosystems. It also points out the relationship between inequality and ecological destruction. What it also did was remind me of a tag line I have been using in my work for many years, that I think says the same thing only in language the UN cannot use because it is straight forward. "You can not heal ecosystems without ending poverty, you can not end poverty without healing ecosystems." Depending upon the circumstances I often add a third line (which the UN is not quite ready to state, even though it was founded for that purpose), "And if we do not shut down the military industrial complex we shall not be able to do any of it."

I and thousands of others have been saying these things for a generation and yet the situation continues to slide towards the cliff. Even the UN conferences 20 years ago had people speaking these truths. One would hope that statements like this from the UN would do some good, lead to real action. But as long as Washington DC is mostly inhabited by the most empire addicted government money can buy, the road to a sustainable peaceful planet might just lead over a cliff rather than into the peaceful valley.

Greg Gerritt
Providence RI

TO THE EDITOR:

Before commenting on the Fall/Winter issue, I want to congratulate the staff of *Green Horizon* on ten wonderful years of production. I was a supporter from its inception, and I'm very pleased with the success of the magazine. Much of the credit goes to John for his vision and tenacity through some very rough patches.

Regarding the content of the current issue, I am encouraged by Maynard Kaufman's article and the "Upsurge" piece which follows. He and many others are finding ways to raise food without fossil fuels and without releasing carbon to the air. He talks about adding organic matter to the soil to sequester carbon. And since tilling the soil allows carbon to oxidize and escape into the atmosphere, no-till growing allows carbon to remain in the soil. No-till drills and planters are feasible on large fields, whereas mulching is the "way to go" on the garden scale.

Kaufman advocates planting trees to keep carbon in the soil and considers using biochar, which is made by the burning of wood. I completely endorse the planting of trees, turning lawns into woods, for instance. (My own yard is trees and palmetto.) But the biochar should be used mostly by small-scale growers under carefully regulated conditions, I think.

Kaufman is a small-scale organic farmer and gardener who believes that, as human labor replaces fossil-fueled machinery, earth-centered spirituality will have a chance to emerge.

The "Upsurge" piece, citing an upsurge of small-scale farming in Maine where produce goes directly from the farmers to the consumers, reveals a trend, in my opinion. I first was introduced to this concept by Ben Kjelshus in Kansas City, Missouri. My own county in Florida now has a sort of co-op where consumers contract with growers to buy their produce whenever it becomes available. The transformation of our economy is beginning at the local level.

Having attempted to work in the Green Party at the national level, I can sympathize with Wes Rolley's frustration in his efforts as Co-Chair of the EcoAction Committee. It is often a challenge to get Greens to agree on an action plan and a greater challenge to get them to follow through. I hope Rolley stays with the Green Party, because I believe, as he does, that the path to a comprehensive climate solution demands political action.

In visualizing a truly Green Economy, Rolley says there are at least two threads of thought: the Eco-socialist and Brian Czech's "Steady State Economy." The Eco-socialists would seem to believe the present economy must totally collapse before a new Green economy can be ushered in. The proponents of the Steady State Economy begin with the premise that "everything is driven by the ecology and limitations of the physical world in which we live." Rolley promises to work on an in-depth comparison of the two. I am looking forward to reading his treatise.

I live in Florida, so the effects of global warming will be seen in my own backyard, as it were. But throughout the planet, all living things will be impacted. Peoples and wildlife will lose

their habitat, and many species will not survive. As critical as this issue is, there is another issue that is of equal importance to me. Although I am now living in Florida, I was born and reached adulthood in Alabama, the Deep South. So I know about racism. Everything Carl Romanelli says in his essay about the murder of Trayvon Martin is true. Racism is endemic to our culture. It is a problem that Greens dare not ignore. And Tokenism is not the answer.

I have read with much interest the articles on Global Governance. However, I do not have the experience that would qualify me to offer solutions -- other than to agree with John Rensenbrink that the governance structure must be both transnational and locally rooted.

I like the word "subsidiarity"!

Barbara Rodgers-Hendricks
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

TO THE EDITOR,

The following letter was sent to a despondent friend by Romi Elnagar, author of "Fukushima, Nuclear Power and the Future of Life on Earth" (page 14). She responds to his concerns about conducting an informational picket about Fukushima. — Eds.

DEAR STEVE,

You have a valid concern about whether this action, or any action about the disaster, will change what is happening there.

I think in the end, though, it doesn't matter if your action produces an immediate effect, and you still need to do it, for two reasons.

The first reason is that in the long run the *cumulative* effect of individuals and small groups acting, "raging against the machine," adds up. When I began protesting the war in Vietnam in the early sixties, many people to whom I handed leaflets about it were surprised to learn we had a war there. Some didn't even know there was a country called Vietnam. Ten years later, I stood at a corner on Van Ness in San Francisco and looked down Geary at the sea of marchers that spread all the way to the Park. A quarter of a million people were in that demonstration against the war, one of many that eventually helped to end it.

I am convinced the same thing can happen again.

The second reason is that there is a *personal* gain in acting. When you *do* something to create the change you want to see in the world, it empowers *you* and changes your perception of the problem. It gives you the strength to deal with the despair you feel when you realize how desperate the situation is.

Of course, there may be other reasons as well, but these are the two reasons I give to myself and to anyone who cares to listen about why we cannot despair, even though I fear the long-term

effects of radiation may be disastrous for the human race, and all life on this planet. We have to "die with our boots on." We cannot give up. If a thousand years from now, alien visitors from another galaxy find the ashes of human civilization on this planet, I hope that they will also discover that there were many who in the final hours resisted the tyranny of nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Dylan Thomas said it best, "Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

*In struggle,
Romi*

TO THE EDITOR:

FORESTS SLAUGHTERED NEEDLESSLY

Reflect on the times you have shopped at the neighborhood supermarket and observed row upon row of slick magazines displayed at the checkout counter, and often as well in a separate magazine aisle. Have you ever bought one? Have you ever seen anyone buy one? Possibly once or twice in 3 years?

Every month, tons of new magazines are brought into these stores and stacked 6-10 deep for each of the many dozens of individual magazines, and at the end of the month, nearly the same number remains. This observation of mine that nearly all are returned is confirmed by my discussing the matter with a magazine stock clerk on two or three occasions. They told me that at least 75% are returned every month, unsold. I suspect it is more like 85%, except for a very few popular ones like People or Time.

This means that nationally, millions of unsold, unread magazines show up and then are gone in the dead of night (usually). What happens to them we can only imagine. From a consumer's perspective, why should we buy a magazine for \$3-\$5 that consists mostly of advertising? Who wants to pay to be the object of this avalanche of promotion?

One might wonder: why does not the law of supply and demand reduce the numbers that appear? How can magazine producers make any money if their product does not sell? The answer lies in that fact that it is just this sort of advertising that provides the profit. These advertisers are under the illusion that their ads are being "consumed." Furthermore, they can write off the advertising as a business expense. Prudent business practice would dictate, however, that useless expense ought to be avoided.

What's the solution? I would *not* propose governmental regulation, along with a bureaucracy to enforce it. Rather, I would advocate that environmental organizations assign a researcher to confirm and quantify the broad perspective that I have discussed here and then launch a nationwide campaign to barrage advertisers with this information--namely that they are wasting their money and our trees!

But let's not assume that "somebody" will do it, or it is likely that "nobody" will do it. We can tell advertisers that as long as their ads are in such magazines, it will be counter-productive for them, since not only will we personally boycott their products, but will encourage others to do so as well. Once they have stopped, we can rescind our campaign against them and give them accolades. Meanwhile, we can pressure stores to discontinue any magazine that has not sold any over a period of, say 3 months, and to significantly reduce the numbers being stocked to whatever the past month has sold, plus two copies. Gradually, the total volume will drop and that number multiplied by the thousands of stores in the U.S. amounts to a great deal of saving of trees. All in favor, say "Aye!"

*Jon Olsen
Jefferson, Maine*

TO THE EDITOR:

Your readers will be interested in this recent news about the Green Party in England and Wales. I am particularly excited about the way in which the Green Party there meets the challenge of effective leadership.

Natalie Bennett has been elected as the new leader of the Green Party for England and Wales.

In her acceptance address, she said Green Party offers a 'different kind of economy.'

The Australian-born journalist beat three other candidates to the position in a poll of Green Party members.

The new leader takes over from Caroline Lucas who was elected as the Greens' first MP in 2010 and remains the most high-profile figure in the party.

Ms Lucas stood down to focus on her duties as an MP and "give other people the opportunity to get well known."

Ms Bennett has worked for a number of publications and is a former editor of *Guardian Weekly*, which she left to focus on writing and politics.

She defeated three other candidates - Peter Cranie, Romaine Phoenix and Pippa Bartolotti - in a vote of just over 3,000 English and Welsh Green Party members.

In her acceptance speech, she said she was "deeply honoured" to be given the responsibility to lead the party and stood because she believed in its "radical vision" for Britain's future.

"It offers, I think, the only viable way forward for British people, for the world."

She said she wanted to see a more localised economy with more UK manufacturing and support for farmers, adding that the financial industry needed to be "reined in" to avoid another crash.

"We need to not have the disastrous, economically illiterate cuts that we're seeing now. What we need to have is investment in the future.

...continued on bottom of next page

Film Review: *100 Signatures*

NEW DOCUMENTARY FOCUSES ON BARRIERS TO ACCESS IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

STEVE WELZER

Six years ago Dean and Nicole Greco of Raritan Township, NJ wanted to urge “just folks” to actively participate in the electoral process. They decided to make a documentary film showing how an independent campaign can be run without an inordinate commitment of time or money. Dean set out to obtain the 100 signatures needed to get his name on the ballot to run for the House of Representatives in his district as the “nominee” of his own Breakfast-All-Day Party. This might sound frivolous, but the filmmakers wanted to avoid association with any existing party, group, or issue, feeling they might limit the usefulness of the documentary if it was suspected that they had a particular axe to grind. They wanted to portray a “generic” experience...and also mix in a little humor and fun for the sake of audience appeal.

“We started out intending to simply document an independent campaign as a how-to guide—here’s a look at how the system works,” says Nicole. “But over the course of our research we had the opportunity to understand that, while it may be simple enough for a school teacher in New Jersey to get on the ballot with 100 signatures, it’s very, very different across the country. In Georgia, for example, you need tens of thousands of signatures. In New Jersey there’s a very low filing fee, but in other states it can be many thousands of dollars. People went to jail in 2007 in Oklahoma for petitioning to get someone on the ballot as an independent candidate. If we are in a representative

democracy, why do voters get to have more choice in one state than another?”

So after starting the film as a local project they wound up going coast to coast, interviewing other candidates and election law experts (including Green-friendly activists Theresa Amato and Richard Winger). The ultimate message conveyed is that the two dominant parties have deliberately passed exclusionary laws and established idiosyncratic rules to limit access to the electoral system. Such barriers to entry would never be condoned in the world of commerce; they certainly should not be tolerated in the electoral arena.

Third-party and independent candidates would be well-advised to make the screening of this professional, engrossing, and entertaining documentary a staple of their campaigns. The imperative message to open up our electoral system must be expressed in every possible media...and now it’s the focus of an excellent new film.

100 Signatures was shown at the Downbeach Film Festival in Atlantic City in October, 2013 and will be submitted to other festivals.

Written and directed by: Dean Greco, Nicole Lieb Greco

Production Company: Focus On The Good

Runtime: 91 min

<http://www.100signatures.com>

...*Letters, continued from previous page*

"We need investment in homes, investment in jobs, investment in energy conservation, renewable energy and public transport."

Ms. Bennett said the party needed to grow its number of councillors and MEPs and secure "many, many more MPs" in Parliament.

She has unsuccessfully stood twice for council seats in north London and got 2.7% of the vote when she contested Holborn and St Pancras at the 2010 general election.

Ms. Bennett will get the opportunity to address grassroots members at the party's conference this weekend in Bristol.

The party has elections every two years for the leader and deputy leader roles. The new deputy, who under party rules must be a different gender to the leader, is Will Duckworth.

In 2012, Mr. Duckworth became the party's first councillor in Dudley.

This is the third election since the party decided to switch from having principal speakers to having a leader and deputy leader.

Here are the vote totals:
<http://greenparty.org.uk/news/2012/09/03/new-leader-and-deputy-leader-announcement/>

See the video at this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-19462474>

Mike Feinstein
Green Party California



GREEN HORIZON

Green Horizon Sustainers for 2013 and 2014

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