GREEN PARTY WINS IN HARTFORD

Horton Sheff Elected to City Council

By Mike DeRosa

In a critical step forward for the Green Party in Connecticut and the United States, Green Party candidate Elizabeth Horton Sheff was elected to the Hartford City Council on November 2, 1999. Horton Sheff is the national Green Party's first African American candidate to win running solely on a Green Party election line. Moreover, Hartford is by far the largest city on the east coast to elect a Green to a city council position.

Horton Sheff has been an activist and champion of the disenfranchised for over twenty years and joined the Hartford Green Party three years ago. Her distinctively urban and inner-city agenda is a direct result of her experiences as an activist and elected official.

Horton Sheff, a former Democratic Hartford council member (1991-95), and later independent candidate for mayor, says that she joined the Green Party because "its ten key values have been my values all my life." She added, "in Hartford the Democrats and Republicans have created a fusion party that no longer represents the people."

"The Voice Of The People" was the defining phrase Horton Sheff used to describe her campaign. The phrase accurately described the door-to-door campaign of Greens, municipal labor union activists, and grassroots people that ultimately elected her. Horton Sheff was elected with 2,089 votes knocking off three-term conservative Republican incumbent Michael McGarry by over 500 votes. In 1997, Horton Sheff, running for the first time as a Green, lost to McGarry Sheff Continued on page 4

10 Reasons to Dismantle the WTO

by Thomas Sevigny

The World Trade organization has been in existence for only five years, overseeing and enforcing trade accords that countries have signed on to. But as the recent events in Seattle have demonstrated, it has become a lighting rod for those organizations and individuals who are concerned about human rights, the environment, labor, and democracy. To understand why the WTO is so controversial, we need to step back and put it into context with the larger picture of economic globalization.

Over the past twenty-five years, transnational corporations and banks have forged a new global economy. Supporters contend that this is an act of nature, driven by revolutions in technology, communications and transportation. But markets are made by man, not brought unto mankind from God. The global market was constructed by and for transnational corporations, aided by state power. When conservatives seized power of the industrial world in the seventies and eighties--specifically Margaret Thatcher in Great Britain, Ronald Reagan in the United States, and Helmut Kohl in Germany--a new consensus formed on the issues of privatization, deregulation, and "free trade."

The WTO is the culmination of this...
1999 was an outstanding year for the Green Party of Connecticut.

Stadiums weren't the only things being stopped. The successful action of preventing New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft from moving his franchise to the proposed Adrien's Landing in Hartford was a major victory for the Green Party. It proved that a small group of concerned active citizens, with limited resources, can take on the corporate and political establishment and win.

A similar struggle took place in Storrs this year as the Purdue Corporation, Connecticut's largest polluter, was interested in trumping the scenic Horsebarn Hill for the construction of a building that would be devoted towards the testing of animal vaccines. It turned out that an overwhelming number of residents of Mansfield and the UConn community weren't going to stand for the usurpation of their prized land by a for-profit corporation.

Nineteen ninety-nine marked the time when the Green Party got a member elected to a major position in Connecticut. Current City Council member Elizabeth Horton Sheff. Sheff would not only be the first Third Party member elected to the council but would be the first African-American Green to be elected in the United States solely on the Green Party line. Persistence and hard work was the key for the Horton Sheff campaign team as they had an uphill battle with little funds and resources to work with during the drive to "get out the vote". Endorsed by many noteworthy people including a couple of former mayors, Ralph Nader, and a union, Elizabeth effectively kicked out an old, stodgy Republican and dramatically changed the nature of Hartford city politics.

Perhaps the last protest of the decade was the biggest of them all. Organized by Public Citizen's Michael Dolan, as many as 90,000 protestors peacefully marched in downtown Seattle to demonstrate their unwillingness to see the WTO, a secretive, undemocratic bureaucracy dictate the nature of free trade and in effect, globalization to hundreds of millions of people. Unfortunately, the police became unruly and pepper sprayed and arrested the protestors thereby denying the citizens their First Amendment rights. Disturbing reports have surfaced about the use of chemical neurological agents and other advanced crowd control weapons by the authorities. Yet the mass demonstration proved to be largely successful as the WTO talks were severely hampered. The opening and closing ceremonies were canceled and the agenda severely hampered.

In June, the Green Party of Connecticut was honored to host the annual Association of State Green Party (ASGP) national conference in Moodus. The weekend long event was attended by Greens from over twenty-five states along with Greens from Europe, Mexico, and Peru. The weekend ended with a question and answer period with Ralph Nader in which he discussed another run for President and the future of the Green Party in the United States. The business portion of the weekend was dedicated to items as diverse as fiscal policies for the ASGP and the creation of a national Green platform.

The meeting in Moodus was by far the largest ASGP national event of the five that have been held so far. The ASGP welcomed the participation of California, Minnesota, and Georgia for the first time and we were pleased to be informed that Greens in Delaware and Illinois may be joining soon.

This fall, in response to the continuing threats posed by the Millstone plant, attorney Nancy Burton started the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone (CCAM). Headquartered in Mystic, the new organization claims that the conference is the trademark of Green parties as it is a meeting place for the exchange of ideas and strategies.

The Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) will be holding the first official Green Presidential Nominating Convention from June 23-25, 2000 in Denver, Colorado. The CT Green Party will be officially choosing delegates to this nominating convention in January and February. If you would like to be considered as a delegate please contact Tom Sevigny immediately at capconn@rcn.com or 860-693-8344.

In addition, all Greens who are not delegates are also welcome to attend the nominating convention. Featured speakers will include Jim Hightower, Manning Marable, and our own Elizabeth Horton Sheff. The ASGP has rented a hotel/convention center for the event. See reservations information below.

The convention only option covers two nights (Fri and Sat), while the ASGP meeting option adds Thursday night. Again, all meals are covered and will be vegetarian with option for vegan. Note that with triple occupancy, someone will need to sleep on a temporary bed or cot - this will depend on how many others want the same option.

If you want to come early or stay after, you can get a cheap rate at the hotel, but on a space available basis, since our contract isn't holding rooms for those days. Please contact the convention committee about this at asgp-convention@greens.org. And of course we can make recommendations for Denver and Boulder attractions and tours or trips into the mountains for any kind of activity. Rocky Mountain National Park is 1+ hour drive, Canyonlands and Arches National Parks in Utah are 6 hours drive. Grand Teton s are 9 hours, Yellowstone 11 hours, and the Grand Canyon much more.

The following rates are for the meeting option and cover meals:

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Please make checks payable to "ASGP" and send to the ASGP box, along with a note indicating exactly what you are paying for (how many people and which option). We are not yet able to accept credit cards.

ASGP
PMB 329
637B S. Broadway
Boulder, CO 80303
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zation is working with community groups across the state to shut down the Millstone plants, and most recently, it took legal action to block the expansion of Millstone’s spent fuel pool.

Connecticut Citizen’s Awareness Network, led by Green Party members Rosemary Bassilakis and Sal Mangiaglione sponsored and coordinated the annual Northeast Nuclear Action Camp. The week-long event was a huge success and brought together activists from across the region for training, planning, actions, and fun. There were several hundred participants at the event, and planning has already begun for next years event.

Rosemary and Sal also received media attention up and down the east coast when they drove their mock nuclear cask to Barnwell, South Carolina, the home of the nation’s only low level nuclear waste dump. Along the way they used the giant prop to highlight various environmental injustices.

Green Party member and host of WPKN’s “Counterpoint”, Scott Harris interviewed the brave Fairfield University student-organization Janitors for Justice. This organization led the way to reverse the growing trend of universities to use outside contractors to hire campus employees for internal work. With this action, janitors at the Jesuit school saw their pay checks cut and half and all their benefits erased. These injustices mobilized this loose-knit bunch into action. After negotiating with the Chancellor for several months and being told that change would take place, nothing came to fruition. It was only after several of the students and a professor sat in solidarity on a hunger strike, that the university officials did the right thing and dropped the outside contractor effectively granting the janitors a new contract and renewed benefits.

1999 proved to be a year for the underdog. The Connecticut Green Party would like to carry that energy into 2000 with more upset victories and a larger scale party building effort. They know it is a time in this nation’s history where dissatisfaction with both parties is at an all-time high. Therefore, the group is dedicated and redoubling their efforts for all future endeavors.

GREENS PLEASED WITH ELECTION RESULTS

The recent election results have proved one thing for the Green Party: our message resonates with citizens. In addition to the exciting victory by Elizabeth Horton-Shaffer, eight other Green candidates ran for local offices in November.

Tom Ethier’s run for Torrington City Council was a huge success. Running on the issues of urban sprawl, bringing power back to the neighborhood level, and the environment, Tom collected over 1,400 votes—a fantastic showing for his first campaign. Tom and the Members of the Northwest chapter will now use this momentum to build a local Green Party chapter in Torrington.

In Windham, Jean deSmet ran for First Selectman in a race that featured no Republican opposition. Running against a long-time machine Democrat, Jean was able to garner 25% of the vote on such issues as the livable wage and the environment. Her campaign also helped to make Green inroads into the large Hispanic community in the Windham/Willimantic area which the Northeast chapter will build on in the coming months.

Other races included Max Wentworth for the Library Board and Chris Demorat for the Conservation Commission in Chaplin; Ben Wojsan for West Hartford City Council; Elizabeth Kraemer for Board of Education and Glenn Cheney for Board of Finance in Sprague; and Amy Vas Nunes for Constable in Mansfield. Although we did not achieve any victories in these races, all of our candidates did exceptionally well (see website for all vote tallies); and perhaps more importantly, they helped to spread the word about the Green Party message.

The CT Green Party has been out in front in fighting for comprehensive, universal health care for all residents of Connecticut. Not only has it been a good fight, but excellent progress has been made. This is a fight that can be won.

The CT Green Party was the lead group working for the passage of the CT Health Care Insurance Act in the 1999 legislative session. The CT Health Care Insurance Act, sponsored by Representatives Chris Donovan and Nancy Beals, would have provided comprehensive health insurance for all residents of the state. It would have done away with managed care and created a not for profit health care trust under the control of citizens, health care providers, and to a lesser degree, public officials and the business community. The CT Office of Health Care Access predicted this bill would save 1 to 2 billion dollars a year, despite expanding benefits, as a result of decreased administrative expenses and purchasing medications and medical equipment in bulk. Comprehensive, universal health insurance for less money, no managed care, democratic decision making—who could be opposed to that?
Sheff Cont. from page 1
by 334 votes.

The campaign had five major issues:
education, the environment, police misconduct, economic justice, and charter revision. Elizabeth's educational plan included mandating that the state of Connecticut comply with the Sheff vs O'Neill ruling, a successful desegregation case in which her son was the main plaintiff. Horton Sheff also advocated the return of an elected school board to Hartford and supported equitable educational funding in a city with a child poverty level of over 42%.

Horton Sheff opposed any expansion of the city's landfill and opposed the siting of a medical waste plant in Hartford. She ran on a campaign of improving police accountability in response to a fatal shooting of young person in the back by a Hartford policeman.

The Green Party candidate supported a living wage for all workers, including a fair contract for municipal workers who were without a contract for many years. Horton Sheff supported expansion of childcare, health care and mass transit. Elizabeth advocated helping local business instead of subsidizing "out of town developers." She also advocated restructuring the tax system to encourage building improvements instead of the "burn and abandon" incentives that the current tax system encourages. Horton Sheff supported "owner-occupied housing" and endorsed "charter revision". The Green Party candidate supported the development of a Municipal Electric Utility District that will encourage green power production and conservation.

The campaign used a number of successful techniques that helped to get Elizabeth's message out to the community. The Greens put up thousands of posters and flyers (in English, Spanish, and Italian) on light poles starting five weeks before the election. This helped the campaign reach many of its natural constituants at a time when the campaign was being given short shrift by the local press. The Hartford Green Party brought in speakers from outside the city to endorse and give legitimacy to her campaign. These speakers, including Ralph Nader and Columbia professor and author Manning Marable, helped the campaign reach numerous voters and recruits for the campaign through Hartford's alternative media. The campaign also put pressure on the local mass media and in the last few weeks of the campaign coverage improved to the point where Elizabeth's name was appearing every other day in newspaper articles. She also received some favorable TV and Radio coverage. This culminated in an election endorsement for Horton Sheff's candidacy by the Hartford Courant.

On Election Day having people at the polls handing out palm cards, giving rides, and calling people made a significant difference in the outcome of the election. While the Green Party campaign and Elizabeth Horton Sheff made no major mistakes, the Republicans made many. These included fighting among themselves, and running too many candidates for the seats available for minority parties, in an election where all candidates run citywide. By focusing the campaign's limited financial and people resources on one candidate and focusing on Elizabeth's strongest areas, the Green campaign was able to maximize its vote.

As the only Green on the nine-member council, Horton Sheff expects to be in the middle of important policy making. Having served on the council in the past she knows how government works. The Hartford Green Party intends to support and help Councilwoman Horton Sheff on an ongoing basis to build the Green Party not only in Hartford, but to set the stage for new Green candidates in all the major cities and towns in Connecticut. As one of the new council members, Horton Sheff comes into power with a voter mandate for change and the opportunity to change the politics of Connecticut in the future.

Hartford Green Party member Mike DeRosa was Elizabeth Horton Sheff's campaign manager and he is an elected member of the CT Green Party's state steering committee.

Help Close Millstone
CAM Coalition Against Millstone
Call (860) 572-7551

Universal Health Care Cont. from page 3

Single payer universal health care bill that
Drs. Battista and McCabe had written with
a different name. Single payer was about
to get a public hearing in Connecticut.

The public hearing on single payer,
universal health care was held on March
18th. A rally before the hearing drew
about 150 people. During the hearing over
40 groups and individuals testified in favor
of the bill representing the Green Party,
labor, health care providers and a wide
variety of citizen action groups. There was
no testimony against the bill. In the end,
after considerable lobbying, the bill passed
out of committee by a vote of 9 to 5.

The bill was then sent to the steering
committee of the legislature to be voted on
by the General Assembly. Now the trouble
really began. The insurance industry
refused to debate the bill in public, but
instead, heavily lobbied the leadership of the
campaign behind closed doors. In the
end Moira Lyons, Speaker of the House,
the person who had appointed Mary
Eberle, and who has strong ties to the
insurance industry through CBIA, refused
to raise the bill for vote. She argued
because the bill did not detail the specific
amount of the taxes to be levied to pay for
the health insurance, the bill should not be
voted on. She took this position despite the
fact that the bill called for these tax
assessments to be developed during the
period after the bill was passed, and to be
returned to the legislature for approval.
Finally, a compromise was made in which
the legislature would pass a "study bill" to
study the costs and impact of the bill on
state. However, the governor refused to
sign any study bills and the study bill
was never raised for vote. That's how poli-
tics really works.

So what is happening now? The Green
Party of Connecticut has been working
with Senator Edith Prague to have a modified
version of the single payer, universal
health care bill introduced into the 2000
legislative session as the "Connecticut
Health Care Security Act." Senator
Prague's idea is to hold a triple public hear-
ing on the bill before the Labor, the Public
Health and the Appropriations commit-
tees. The CT State Medical Society has
promised to testify in support of the bill
this year.

This bill could pass this year. However,
your help is needed. We urge
to join the Green Party and the CT
Coalition For Universal Health Care to
fight this good fight. Tell your repre-
sentatives that you support this bill and encou-
gage them to sign on to the bill as cospon-
sors. Hand out leaflets to support the
cause.

You can get all the information as to how
to get involved from the CT Coalition
For Universal Health Care's web site
http://cethealth.server101.com, supported
by Green Party activist Chris Reilly, or call
the Coalition at 860-651-3989. Do it!
WTO Cont. from page 1

der worker, consumer, environmental, health, safety, human rights, animal protec-
tion or other non-commercial interests to be undertaken in the "least trade restrictive" fashion possible—almost never is trade sub-
donated to these non-commercial concerns.

2. The WTO undermines democracy. Its rules drastically shrink the choices available
democratically controlled governments, with violations potentially punished with
harsh penalties. The WTO actually touts this overriding of domestic decisions as the way
economies should be organized and corpora-
tions controlled.

3. The WTO does not just regulate, it actively promotes, global trade. Its rules are
biased to facilitate global commerce at the
expense of efforts to promote local econom-
ic development and policies that move com-
munities, countries and regions in the direc-
tion of greater self-reliance.

4. The WTO hurts the Third World.
WTO rules force Third World countries to
open their markets to rich country multina-
tionals, and abandon efforts to protect infant
domestic industries. In agriculture, the open-
ing to foreign imports, soon to be imposed
on developing countries, will catalyze a
massive social dislocation of many millions
of rural people.

5. The WTO eviscerates the
Precautionary Principle. WTO rules general-
ly block countries from acting in response to
potential risk—requiring a probability before
governments can move to resolve harms to
human health or the environment.

6. The WTO squashes diversity. WTO
rules establish international health, environ-
mental and other standards as a global ceil-
ing through a process of "harmonization";
countries or even states and cities can only
exceed them by overcoming high hurdles.

The WTO operates in secrecy. Its tri-
unals rule on the "legality" of nations' laws,
but carry out their work behind closed doors.
8. The WTO limits governments' ability
to use their purchasing dollar on human
rights, environmental, worker rights and
other non-commercial purposes.

9. The WTO disallows bans on imports
of goods made with child labor. In general,
WTO rules do not allow countries to treat
products differently based on how they were
produced—irrespective of whether made
with brutalized child labor, with workers
exposed to toxics or with no regard for
species protection.

10. The WTO legitimizes life patents.
WTO rules permit and in some cases require
patents or similar exclusive protections for
life forms.

In conclusion, there is nothing inevitable
about the current corporate direction of
globalization. Yes, corporations have used
their tremendous power within government
to shape the rules to meet their own interests,
but the citizen's backlash against the corpo-
rate domination over our lives is just begin-
ing. Stay tuned!

1 VIEQUES LIBRE TODOS

Vieques is an island under ten square
miles in size off the cost of Puerto Rico.
The U.S. Military has used it as a firing
range since 1948 when they seized 3/4 of
the island from local farmers and fisher-
man. This past spring, an island civilian
was "accidentally" murdered and the
"friendly fire" of a 500-pound bomb
injured four others. For years there have
been many protests, here and in Puerto
Rico over the imperialist and militaristic
policies of the United States towards
Vieques. Since the deaths this spring,
islanders and others have been occupying
the firing ranges in civil disobedience
camps composed of religious groups,
union workers and every day people.

On December 3rd a number of
Connecticut Greens attended a talk at
Trinity College in Hartford led by island
civil disobedient camp resident Alexi
Guadeloupe. The audience witnessed a
horrific video and slide show of the
destruction of the lush tropical paradise
on the island. They learned of the immense
environmental damage from chemicals and
unexploded ordinance on land and sea!
Guadeloupe chronicled the use of depleted
uranium shells and the twenty-three per-
cent rise in island cancers. All this on a
land that remains an international tourist
spot with one of the most famous natural
clean bioluminescent harbors in the
world!

In early December, President Clinton
made a decision to continue the bombing
of Vieques. In light of the mass civil dis-
obedience in Seattle and fear of similar
occurrences again, a forty million-dollar
"buy off" was offered with a "promise" to
use inert weapons with renegotiations to
occur in five years. No Islanders were
included in the talks and no money was
specifically earmarked for environmental
remediation. The Association of Puerto
Rican Professional Engineers estimated
that the total cost of cleaning up Vieques
will be much much more than 40 million.

This is the first issue in Puerto Rican
political history that has united all sides.
The Governor declined the deal and was
backed by all parties across the political
spectrum including religious and union
leaders. Every person in Puerto Rico is
aware of this struggle and it is constantly
on the news. The number of camps has
increased by five since the refusal, includ-
ing the blocking of a military base.

Islanders have been working on erecting
permanent camps and are filing a legal suit
concerning the cancer rate. Alas, there has
been no mention of this in the United
States mainstream press.

It is thought that the protest campers
will be "quietly" removed by the Federal
agents in early spring. At this point it is
expected that massive civil disobedience
and unrest will break out in Puerto Rico
and in mainland cities with large Latino
populations such as Hartford. On
November 19th about one-hundred and
twenty people including a good showing of
Connecticut Greens protested US policy at
the Hartford Federal Building.

In response to these outrages, Todos
Connecticut con Vieques has been formed
by a number of Puerto Rican activists.
Already joining the coalition has been the
Connecticut Green Party, American
Friends Service Committee, War Resisters
League, the Cuba Coalition, the
Connecticut Peace Coalition and the
Hartford Catholic Worker. The coalition
vows to work, educate, train for civil dis-
obedience and will reach those goals by
actively fundraising and holding more
Continued on page 6
Millstone Watch

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, in Waterford, is still worrying neighbors and investors. The big issues to watch now are the decommissioning of Unit 1, how deregulation affects the operation of Units 2 and 3, and whether the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will allow the storage of more fuel rods in the Unit 2 spent fuel pool.

Decommissioning

Millstone Units 1, 2 and 3 were shut down for repairs a few years ago. Northeast Utilities, the principal owner, had allowed them to deteriorate so much that it took two years to get the newer two units back on line, and Unit 1 was declared beyond repair at any reasonable cost. The decision on Unit 1 was quite a shock to local citizens and investors, who had been told repeatedly that the Millstone plant was a finely tuned machine with no problems, that there was nothing to worry about, that the NRC was scrutinizing the plant in search of flaws.

The issue now is to decommission - i.e. tear down and dispose of - Unit 1. Much of it is highly radioactive. To dismantle something that big without any particles escaping into the atmosphere is a tremendous, if not impossible, challenge. Trouble is, there are no rules, regulations, guidelines or standards for the process. As it stands now, NU, notorious for putting profits ahead of safety, will simply be allowed to handle the decommissioning as it sees fit. Neighbors are worried that it NU tears down a nuclear reactor as well as it operates it, the results could be dangerous. According to one industry analyst who works at Millstone, the NRC is not likely to complete a set of regulations until well after the plant has been decommissioned.

Deregulation

No one knows yet how deregulation of the power industry will affect operations at Millstone. NU wants to sell the plant, presumably to some suck of a company that thinks it can squeeze profit from it - something NU obviously thinks is not possible. The only way to make the units profitable in a competitive environment is to cut back on operating costs.

The cutbacks will have an effect even before the units are sold. NU is going to have to cut several hundred jobs in order to minimize costs and demonstrate that the units can be run profitably. Insiders report that morale is already low as about one in four workers face not only unemployment but a probable need to change careers entirely due to the general decline of the industry.

Spent Fuel Pool

The fuel inside a nuclear reactor is secured inside 16-foot rods. Every 18 months or so, about a third of these rods must be replaced. The old rods, which are much more radioactive and dangerous than fresh rods, are transferred to an adjacent pool of water. Here they stand upright under water that is constantly circulated and cooled. The rods must be a certain minimum distance from each other or a chain reaction could begin.

The Unit 3 pool is certified to hold 756 rods, but Millstone says it was built to hold all the fuel from the unit's 40-year life cycle, a total of just over 1,800. To hold that many rods, however, they will have to install special high-density racks that will hold the rods closer together. Millstone needs NRC approval to do this. The expanded capacity would also make it technologically possible for Millstone to transfer rods from Unit 2 to Unit 3 in order to allow Unit 2 to operate longer.

The change in capacity isn't so bad as long as nothing goes wrong between now and whenever the rods are removed from the pool. The pool was never intended to serve as a long-term storage unit.

Unfortunately, no one has found a safe place to leave fuel for hundreds of thousands of years. Industry experts doubt that a suitable facility will be built before the end of this century. Until it's built, the fuel stays in Waterford.

All three fuel pools at Millstone hold many times more radioactive fuel than was released at Chernobyl. The fuel is not in a containment structure. A serious earthquake could cause fuels rods to fall over and hit other rods. An accident could allow a fuel rod to fall into the pool during the refueling operation. Something could go wrong with the water cooling system. A problem with the reactor could cause the pool to breach and drain. Sabotage is not impossible. Sheer stupidity could drain the pool, as almost happened a couple of years ago.

Increasing the capacity of the Unit 3 pool is a dumb move. Until the government finds a way to remove the existing fuel, it should not allow the creation of more spent fuel.

Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone

Several organizations have united to form the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone. The organization has an office on Water Street in Mystic. The phone number is (860) 572-7551. The Green Party supports the Coalition, which can always use more volunteer help to keep the office open and work on projects. If you would like to help or visit or learn more about the Coalition, please call them.

Vieques Cont. from page 5

Events like the one at Trinity. The coalition will hold a musical fundraisers on Jan. 27, 8:00PM at Corvo's Restaurant, Franklin Avenue in Hartford and on February 19 7:30 PM at Criollísimo Restaurant, 340 Arch St, in New Britain. Contact Green Party Co-chair Amy Vas Nunes for more details at (860) 487-1197 or amyvasnunes@snet.net. This is an excellent way to network and increase the Greens ranks, especially in the Hispanic community. For more Vieques info check out http://www.viequeslibre.org. If you would like to make a donation now, money can be sent to: C.P.R.D.V., Apartado 854, Vieques, Puerto Rico, 00765, bank account#112-868231 Banco Popular de Puerto Rico.
the mainstream media, participating in all the Presidential debates and even tackling many of the issues he is not necessarily associated with.

What could this announcement mean for the Green Party of Connecticut? For one, it could invigorate much of the Connecticut voting public to vote Green, many of whom feel alienated from the system. Voter dissatisfaction is at an all time high for the current batch of presidential nominees. Even though Nader finished fourth in 1996, the campaign accomplished its main goal: building state Green Parties. This time, there will be even more new faces joining the Greens (i.e. more disaffected Democrats and Reform Party folk), many of whom charge their political batteries once every four years.

What will this mean for the existing politicians already in the race like Al Gore and Bill Bradley? It could place them between a rock and hard place. A robust and effective Nader camp could attack them from the left especially on their stances on the WTO, environmental issues, and allegiance to Wall Street.

Some of the plans that the newly-formed Connecticut Draft Nader for President Committee include establishing The 169 Nader Raider Team comprised of one activist per town or city. The Nader Raiders would act as "ambassadors" to their fellow town citizens keeping them abreast of the campaign. Simply put, a Connecticut Nader Raider would be any Connecticut citizen, regardless of political affiliation who would answer "yes" to the following questions.

1. Are they interested in the Nader for President Campaign?
2. Do they have the time and/or energy to actively participate?
3. Would they feel comfortable to pass out literature in their town and actively recruit other citizens in the community to volunteer for the campaign?
4. Would they willingly be a contact for the local media in their town or city?
5. Would they solicit citizens in their communities to run for local office on the Green Party ticket?

The Draft Nader Committee has already begun its fundraising efforts before the February announcement as well. Certainly in 1996, the limited funds did prohibit the Green Party from reaching vast numbers of citizens. As a matter of fact, some polls have shown that only 7-10% of the voting public even knew Ralph Nader was on the ballot. In an effort to raise sufficient funds for the 2000 presidential effort, the Green Party is attempting to qualify for matching funds from the FEC. In order to receive these matching funds we need 20 individuals in of at least 20 states to pledge $250 or more. This would equal $5,000 per state x 20 states for a grand total of $100,000. The FEC would then match this with an additional $100,000. That's $200,000 for the next Green Party presidential campaign! The Connecticut Green Party has already received pledges from over 14 people, but we need more. If you are interested in pledging $250 to the next Green Party presidential campaign, please read the following details and contact Connecticut Draft Nader for President chair Aaron Tabackman. You need not write a check now. A simple pledge is all we are asking for at this time.

Each individual pledge donor must be a resident of the state from which the donation will be made. Married couples are eligible to give two separate $250 contributions, but the husband must sign one check and the wife must sign the other. Donors send no money now but must also supply the following information:

Name:
Job Title:
Resident Address:
Donation:

If anyone is interested in joining the Draft Nader for President Committee, becoming a Nader Raider or making a 250 dollar pledge to the next Green Party presidential campaign please call the Chair of the Ralph Nader for President Committee, Aaron Tabackman at the toll-free hotline at (888) 877-8607 or aaront@greens.org.

This campaign will draw enthusiasm and invigorate a Presidential contest already deemed by many as choice of the evil of two lessors. Certainly, neither Bradley or Gore can represent the view of progressives. According to Jim Hightower, Bradley receives more campaign funds from Wall Street than any other candidate. Did somebody say "Campaign Finance Reform"?

Hopefully you can join us on this remarkable journey as we work towards electing Ralph Nader to President of the United States of America.

Election Review

By Thomas Ethier, Northwest Chapter
Green Party Candidate for Torrington City Council, 1999

Is it really almost three months since Election Day and Night? Can it be that long since I stood in the City Clerk's office collecting the numbers of votes and realizing my candidacy on the Green party would not prevail? I was initially disappointed by not winning a seat on the City Council but upon reflection, I am very proud of the results of the efforts of the Green Party and it's many supporters within Torrington. The 1400 votes I received were among the highest of any third party, city-council candidate - let alone a candidate who was running on a virtually unknown political party. When analyzed realistically I feel the Green Party made a good showing. The Green Party is here to stay in Torrington. The ideas raised were good and people related to them. We were also able to stick to a strategy that helped make it a successful though not a winning campaign.

The election strategy revolved around three concepts that adhered to Green Party values and could easily be adopted to a local campaign: Neighborhood Focus, Ecological Balance and Managed Growth. These ideas were never discussed before in a Torrington election and signaled to the voters that this was not going to be politics as usual. When I announced my candidacy in a city hall press conference, I promised that my campaign would not be more of the "same old, same old." During the campaign, I tried to come out with an issue or position a week, whether through a press release or a letter in the local paper. It should be noted that here in northwest Connecticut we have an excellent free paper that will publish anything. I took advantage of that with six different articles.

During the election season I articulated a few positions that demonstrated my themes. I called for the immediate release of funds for the local volunteer fire departments and for control to remain outside the Board of Public Safety. I positioned these ideas as an example of neighborhood focus. I recommended dramatically increasing the police on bikes program to help invigorate the downtown area and to
The Case For Universal Health Care In Connecticut
John R. Battista, M.D. and Justine A. McCabe, Ph.D.

1. **Our current health care system has failed**
   - The number of uninsured in Connecticut has increased by 83% since 1990 to 12.6% of our population in 1998. Over 16% of the US lacks health insurance.
   - Health care costs are the number one cause of bankruptcy in Connecticut. 25% of the population would be bankrupted by an major medical illness.
   - Despite spending the most per capita of any country, having the best trained doctors and the best medical infrastructure, the United States ranks 23rd in infant mortality, ranks 21st in life expectancy, and 67th in immunizations.
   - Costs in the United States have risen faster than any industrialized nation since 1990, all of whom have universal health care, despite managed care.
   - For profit managed care programs are less efficient, deliver poorer quality health care, and result in less satisfaction than not for profit health care systems in addition to destroying patient confidentiality, limiting patient choice of providers, and shifting medical decision making from health care providers to for-profit corporations.
   - 30% of moderate income CT residents who receive health insurance through their employers are locked in unwanted jobs because of health care benefits.

2. **A Connecticut universal health care system would**
   - Save 1 to 2 billion dollars a year from current health care expenses despite covering all residents and expanding coverage to include all medications, all medical care, and all long term nursing care. Savings would result from reductions in administrative expenses and purchasing medications and medical equipment in bulk.
   - Allow residents free choice of any licensed health care provider
   - Return health care decisions to health care providers and patients
   - Insure patient confidentiality
   - Be democratically managed by a board of citizens, health care providers, elected officials and labor/business representatives.
   - Avoid rationing or lines for medical services due to the oversupply of physicians and medical infrastructure in Connecticut.
   - Not be socialized medicine. Private practice would continue. This is a insurance payment system, not a health care delivery system.
   - Reduce health care costs for 4/5 Connecticut residents.
   - Pay for medical care from a sliding scale health care state tax, a payroll tax, and excise taxes on activities detrimental to health, including industrial pollution, in addition to utilizing current CT and federal health care funds for the poor, elderly and disabled.

3. **Universal Health Care is passable in Connecticut**
   - A universal health care bill passed out of committee and reached the floor of the house in Connecticut in 1999 where it was tabled due to vested interests.
   - The last poll of Connecticut residents in 1991 showed 60% in favor of this type of universal health care. A 1999 US poll shows 85% of US citizens believe universal health insurance should be the number one priority for government action.
   - *Tell your state representative and state senator you want universal health care in CT. Join the Connecticut Coalition For Universal Health Care today.*

4. **Join The Connecticut Coalition For Universal Health Care**
I would like to get involved in the fight to make Universal Health Care a reality in Connecticut.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
Phone: ______________________________
email: ______________________________

Mailing Address:  
CT Coalition For Universal Health Care  
PO Box 771  
Simsbury, CT 06070
Web page:http://cthealth.server101.com/  
Phone: 860-651-3989

[Check the box for the following options]

- [ ] Contact me at key times to send letters and make calls to legislators.
- [ ] Let me know about upcoming events, public meetings and hearings.
- [ ] I would like to serve as the coordinator for the coalition in my area, and work to turn out citizens for a major public rally in 2000.
- [ ] I have encased a contribution to the cause (see below*).
- [ ] I am willing to hand out materials at public events and in public places. Contact me.
- [ ] I would like to have a speaker make a presentation to a group or organization that I belong to. Contact me.
- [ ] Other. Please explain. ____________________________

*The Connecticut Coalition For Universal Health Care is a non-profit political action committee (PAC). Contributions are not tax deductible.
REVIEW Cont. from page 7
increase safety. The idea had wide support from people who saw the simple logic in it. I also called for better-marked and foot-friendly crosswalks downtown to improve the safety for all our city residents. These were issues that people cared about but most candidates refused to discuss them even when an elderly man was killed by an automobile in a new "concurrent" crosswalk.

During the campaign I also spoke of a need for an ecological balance. I called for better recycling programs and for incentives to reduce our solid waste. I proposed that we use organic products on our city fields to minimize chemical run-off and to protect the health of our children. I openly attacked the development machine and claimed an incestuous relationship between developers and city hall. In a twist of fate, during the campaign a wetlands enforcement officer, a committed environmentalist, was fired for doing his job and the administration seemed more intent on accommodating the needs of developers than protecting the environmental health of the community. The majority of the people are concerned about a clean environment. Talking about an ecological balance was something that resonated with voters.

During the campaign I was able to appeal to working people and unions. I was the only city council candidate to take part in a multi union rally for workers of the Torrington Housing Authority. I was also able to speak to about 40 workers in the union hall after the rally. The housing authority workers had voted in a union 3 years ago but had still not obtained a contract with management (they still don’t as of today). In addition management was paying large amounts of money to union busting attorneys intent on delaying the agreement. I am convinced that my support of their cause helped me to gather votes on Election Day.

I believe there is a large segment of the population that is not being served by politics as usual and that people are actively looking for a method to express their frustration with the existing "One party" System. Along with other members of the Northwest Chapter, I will be holding a Green Party organizational meeting in Torrington. We need to build on the momentum we gathered in the November election. By building a local party we will offer an alternative and will become a more formidable opponent to the status quo in the next election.

Campaign Finance Reform Rally
Feb. 8 5-7pm
Elizabeth Park, West Hartford
March to the Governor’s mansion.
Call Rebecca Malberg, Connecticut Citizen Action Group 860-947-2202

NEW FOCUS
The Best In Alternative Broadcasting
Hosted by Green Mike DeRosa
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Fri 5PM WHUS-FM 91.7 FM
http://www.hartford.edu/wwuh/ra.html (Real Audio)
email: smderosa@erols.com phone: (203) 836-3400

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HELP ELECT RALPH NADER PRESIDENT

We need your pledge to the Nader Presidential campaign.
Send NO MONEY NOW!
We need to receive pledges from 20 citizens of Connecticut for $250. All across the country people like you are pledging $250 each to raise $100,000 in order to receive federal matching funds from the FEC. This will make the Green Campaign highly competitive. Do your part!

Call: 1-888-877-8607 and make your pledge today.

Connecticut Energy Co-op

The Connecticut Energy Co-op is now accepting memberships. For a one-time fee of $30 ($20 for Green Party members), consumers will have access to CEC as their supplier of electricity as well as heating oil, propane, and other services. Residents of 24 Connecticut towns, including Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport, can now buy electricity through CEC instead of UI or CL&P; the rest of CT will have this choice starting in July 2000.

CEC is a consumer co-op owned and controlled by its members. Its goals include the provision of energy-efficient products and services and "Green-E" certified electricity from renewable sources.

For more information, visit www.ctco-op.com, call 860-586-2380, or e-mail jgutshall@ctco-op.com. The Ct.Energy Co-op is holding a meeting on Restructuring and Deregulation on Sat. Jan.29, 10AM to 12Noon at 311 Temple St. behind the New Haven Public Library (corner Temple and Elm). It's the Parish House of the Center Church on the Green.

WE NEED YOUR MONEY

Donations are critically needed to continue our important political work in Connecticut. Your money will help support our Legislative Agenda for the next Connecticut General Assembly:

- Universal health care
- Exposing the Truth about Electric deregulation and Restructuring
- Close all nuclear power plants in Connecticut
- Making our representatives accountable for their actions
- Campaign finance reform and much much more

Please give what you can.
Mail to and make checks payable to:
Green Party of Connecticut
P.O. Box 231214
Hartford, CT 06123-1214
FAIRFIELD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Fairfield County chapter of the Green Party was successful in their efforts combating the Filthy Five. They successfully appealed the Norwalk City Council to pass a resolution calling upon the coal plants to be brought up to current pollution standards. The chapter are in the midst of asking the Bridgeport City Council the same question.

Other activities include planning for an open space symposium in March, establishing the chapter web page and recruiting potential candidates for the 2000 campaign. If you would like to help with the above activities or suggest your own, please attend the next chapter meeting on January 19th at the Bridgeport Cable Station on 211 State Street in Bridgeport at 7 PM. For further information contact Adam Shapis at shapis@soundviewtv.org

NEW HAVEN COUNTY CHAPTER
Update by Aaron Tabackman

The New Haven chapter was quite active during 1999. Although, nobody ran for office during the year, chapter members expressed interest and possibly two or more members are committed to running for State Representative come 2000.

The issue that caught the attention of the New Haven Greens was the Filthy Five, specifically the continuing problem of toxic emissions stemming from the United Illuminating plant on the East Shore neighborhood. According to the Boston-based Toxie Action Center, "the five plants are responsible for the vast majority of statewide industrial air pollution, contributing emissions equivalent to those of 800,000 cars.” The chapter members led by Peter Ellner and Aaron Tabackman organized petition signings at several local food markets in New Haven and Hamden during much of the fall season.

1999 also marked a synergy of forces as the New Haven Greens joined with the Yale Green Corps to help stop pollution in New Haven. This fine collaboration culminated with a December 9th Community Meeting at the Nathan Hale Elementary School with East Shore residents to discuss the ill affects the power plant is posing to their community and what action is necessary to reduce emissions considerably.

Green Party member and East Shore resident Robert Mega hosted the event and discussed just what the facts are like on the ground.

Mega, quoting an actual Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection automotive guide, stated that the child asthma rate in New Haven was at twenty-five percent and provided some of the background of the issue. He informed the audience that five coal and oil burning plants received an advantageous loophole in 1977 that grandfathered their pollution levels when the other standard Connecticut plants had to abide by new federal standards. According to Mega, the reasoning behind the convoluted decision was that lawmakers thought the Filthy Five would fall into obsolescence because of modern technological improvements. It never happened.

Twenty-two years later these plants still burn not only into the tiny lungs of New Haven youngsters but must also into the hearts and consciences of Governor Rowland and DEP Commissioner Rocque, who have not done much in the way of protecting the people of New Haven.

Next to speak was Yale School of Nursing Professor and New Haven Green, Jane Dixon. Dixon presented a slide show about dirty air. She informed the audience about Connecticut statistics that when read are very similar to California’s air especially when one considers that there is thirty-three days where the ozone is considered unhealthy and that nitrogen dioxide, which is the compound that actually hurts the lungs, increased thirty percent in 1999.

Next to speak was epidemiologist Dr. Mark Mitchell of Hartford Hospital. Dr. Mitchell eloquently stated that even his hospital’s emergency room always sees an increase of asthma related patients especially during the humid summer months. Mitchell, who also is a member of Hartford’s Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, included the major point that New Haven was the site of the greatest number of hospitalizations for asthma (by residents) in the state and that because most of the victims are poor and non-white and that at least half the residents of New Haven are non-white, that made this an issue of environmental racism and injustice. In the question and answer period, Mitchell added that just because the horrific public health facts are known, inside and outside of the medical community, nothing would change without direct political action.

The New Haven chapter encourages all concerned New Haven residents to join us at our next chapter meeting. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month and will be at 7 PM at Dwight Hall or the Booktrader Cafe. Call the Green Party hotline for details. 2000 will prove to be a fabulous year as we plan on running candidates and fighting for economic, social and environmental justice.

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

The Northeast Connecticut Greens have monthly meetings the second Monday of every month at Main Street Cafe/Willimantic Brewery in downtown Willimantic, 5:30 socializing, 6pm meeting begins. We also have an action committee, which we formed to plan direct action events. It meets every Wednesday, 6pm at Paradise Eatery and Market, also in downtown Willimantic. In addition, we are working on a brochure for our chapter. For more info call Jean at (860)456-2188.

Updates Continued on next page
NORTHWEST CHAPTER

The Northwest chapter was pleased with results of Tom Ethier's campaign for Torrington City Council. His nearly 1,400 votes was an outstanding total for his first foray into the political scene and has given us a foundation from which to work on building the chapter in the Torrington area.

The issue of PCB pollution in the Housatonic River is coming to a head. General Electric, which dumped PCBs into the river for over forty years in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, has signed a consent decree with the EPA, the MA DEP and the State of Connecticut. The decree calls for a clean-up of the first two miles of the river, starting in Pittsfield, by 2005 with GE paying for the first 1/2 mile of clean-up and the taxpayer, with some GE input, paying for the rest. The decree, however, does not address PCB pollution in the CT portion of the river and only calls for further studies of the remainder of the 40 mile section in MA. Through an ad-hoc organization called HEAL (Housatonic Environmental Action League) we are calling for intensive testing of the CT portion of the river—the majority of testing that has been done was done by GE—before any decree is signed. We need to know the extent of PCB pollution in CT. Also, we strongly disagree with provisions in the decree that release GE from any future liability and are seeking an extension of the citizen comment period on the agreement, especially when the majority of property owners along the Housatonic in CT have no knowledge about the consent decree.

For date and time of future chapter meeting please contact Tom Sevigny at 860-693-8344 or e-mail capeconn@rci.com

HARTFORD CHAPTER

Nineteen ninety-nine was a very busy year for the Hartford Green Party Chapter. The highlight was the November 99 elections. We had members run in Hartford and West Hartford. Elizabeth Horton Sheff ran for Hartford city council and won a convincing victory. Ben Wojan ran for West Hartford city council and got over 700 votes in this suburban city. Both these candidates will set the stage for future legislative and municipal elections in which the Green Party will gain even more support among voters. As a chapter we have learned how to run elections and how to win elections. We have always believed that fighting for the issues is always a real victory for the Green Party.

During the past year Hartford Green Party members have forged close links with the Hartford Environmental Justice Network. This group recently gave the Green Party an 'Environmental Justice' award for its work in Hartford. We continue to build alliances with Hartford municipal labor unions and have close ties with the Hartford Fire Fighters Association Local 760. We also participated in the Coalition for Universal Healthcare that introduced single-payer health care legislation into last year's CT General Assembly. We worked with Northwest chapter GP member John Battista in pushing to get this bill through the byzantine CT General Assembly committee system. Several members also participated in the successful Stop the Stadium campaign.

Our chapter led the way in telling the truth about the electric utility deregulation and the bailout of Northeast Utilities and U.I. Our members also participated in the campaign to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

For the year 2000 members of the Hartford Chapter will continue to work with the aforementioned groups. We will also be attending all Hartford City Council meetings and building support for Green Party Council Member Elizabeth Horton Sheff and we are involved in Elizabeth's Community Advisory Council. We are also involved in the growing CT election campaign finance reform movement. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at Unitarian Church Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Ave. in West Hartford.(Corner of Bloomfield Ave. and Albany Ave.) Check out our website: www.ctgreens.org/hartford.
Help Ralph Nader!
Join the Nader
Become Presidential