

# CounterPunch

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## OUR LITTLE SECRETS

### INSIDE THE CRACK UP OF A CONGRESSIONAL MARRIAGE

The war on terrorism has struck a mighty blow on one of the most august American institutions: the congressional marriage. In early October, the Charlotte Observer announced that marital discord in the household of Rep. Cass Ballinger, the Jesse Helms protégé, had finally reached the breaking point with Mrs. Ballinger filing for a separation from the 70-year-old congressman.

The driving force behind the acrimonious split? The Ballinger house was located in unnerving proximity to the DC office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a respected civil rights group which Ballinger has denounced as "a fundraising arm for terrorist groups". Ballinger confessed to the Observer that he and his wife spent many sleepless nights, fretting that their house might be consumed in the flames of a CAIR-funded bombing of the US Capitol. Ballinger said he reported CAIR to the FBI and the CIA. But it was too late to save his marriage to Donna.

Apparently, Donna was irate at having to watch "women wearing hoods" unloading boxes and going in and out of the CAIR offices on New Jersey Avenue. "She was worried that they could blow up the Capitol", Ballinger fumed. Mrs. Ballinger may have also been distressed at how political correctness in the DC environs had marred her decorative touches to the Ballinger home-stead. Last December, Cass Ballinger unleashed an attack on Rep. Cynthia

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## The Lessons Greens Should Take from California

BY ALEXANDER COCKBURN AND JEFFREY ST CLAIR

Anyone hoping for a Third Party candidacy to enliven the dead months that lie ahead should take a look at the numbers in Santa Cruz County in the recent recall election that put Arnold Schwarzenegger in the governor's office in Sacramento.

In Santa Cruz, presumptively as green an enclave as you could hope to find in the state of California south of the Arcata Co-op, Peter Camejo pulled 5,000 out of 82,000 cast in the entire county. Bustamante, the uninspired Democrat, won Santa Cruz county with 35,000 votes. Arnold got 25,000 votes, some of them maybe from the manly cement pourers in the Adobe Motel in Aptos, former home of CounterPunch coeditor Cockburn. Camejo got 1,500 votes less than Tom McLintock, the right-wing Republican.

Now, Camejo ran a good race. He covered the whole state. He reached out to blacks and migrant workers, often disdained by Greens. He handled himself well in the debates. Plus, the recall race was a perfect venue for a Green challenge. We had a Democratic governor and lieutenant governor whose entire careers embody all the arguments for a Green challenge. The Republicans were split between their celebrity candidate and the hardcore McLintock. There were scores of other candidates to splinter further the overall vote, to the advantage of a cohesive Green challenge.

Admittedly Camejo did have his Huffington problem. We don't share the peculiar enthusiasm of liberals and some radicals for Ms Huffington. It wasn't so

long ago that she was the fervent right-wing helpmeet of a particularly unappetizing right-wing Texan, Michael H, who parlayed his oil money into a Congressional seat and then made a futile bid for Diane Feinstein's Senate seat in 1994. In the aftermath of this reverse he declared himself gay and bid adieu to Arianna, who took a substantial golden handshake and set up shop in a \$7 million mansion in Brentwood, off Sunset in Los Angeles.

Here she reinvented herself as a left-populist columnist, tv personality and political hostess, railing against the pharmaceutical companies, and two-party dominance. She also thundered against the rich and their tax loopholes, a posture that didn't prevent her from paying no state taxes and just \$771 in federal taxes in 2002. It's our belief that with this disclosure on Day Two of her campaign the Huffington candidacy dropped dead, even though the progressive columnists who like going to her parties were too polite to denounce her hypocrisy.

So why did Huffington run? The only consequence of her initial candidacy was to split the Green vote that should have belonged to Camejo, and to monopolize media attention that could have been his. Her debate performance was an enormous gift to Schwarzenegger at precisely the moment he badly needed a boost. We feel tempted to agree with our friend Bruce Anderson, editor of the Anderson Valley Advertiser, who remarked that in his view "it was the torturous table-saw timbre of her uniquely epiglottal, unrelenting monotone that drove her husband from women altogether".

And then she quit, publicly urging her

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McKinney, the black former-congresswomen from Georgia. Ballinger told a reporter from the Observer that McKinney “stirred in him a little bit of a segregationist feeling. I mean, she was such a bitch.” A few days after this ripe remark hit the press, a congressional aide was dispatched to the Ballinger house to slap a coat of white paint over the black lawn jockey proudly standing guard over the driveway.

Further strain was placed on the Ballinger household by what the congressman referred to as the Republicans’ “holier-than-now” onslaughts on congressional perks and indulgences from lobbyists. Ballinger said that the 1995 decision by the Gingrich-led House of Representatives to restrict gifts had spoiled the social life of congressional spouses. “Those gifts gave congressional wives a life”, Ballinger said.

Although the Ballinger’s were known for their loud and often violent fights, for once Mrs. Ballinger agreed with her husband, who made his millions running a plastic packaging company. “Washington became a lousy place to live”, said Donna Ballinger. “It used to be you’d get invitations to the symphony or the theater. I don’t think you should get \$1,000 trips to the Bahamas. But I don’t see where a dinner or theater tickets is that bad. We had friends who are lobbyists.”

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## VIRGINS, WISE AND FOOLISH: GM CROPS TAKE A BEATING

“It’s agricultural asbestos!” That ripe phrase is how one British farmer described the menu of genetically modified crops being offered by Monsanto. It became a rallying cry for farmers and environmentalists across Britain seeking to keep GM seeds out of English soil. For its part, Monsanto, and the Blair government, dismissed such charges as the ravings of agrarian Luddites.

But now a three-year study by British scientists, commissioned by Blair’s own environment minister, Michael Meacher, reveals that the environmental risks of GM crops may be even greater than previously believed. The Farm-Scale Evaluation study, conducted by the Royal Society, is the first large-scale field test of GM crops. It compared the biodiversity in fields planted with three GM crops—corn, sugar beet and oilseed rape—with the crop of similar non-GM crops in adjacent fields. The study found that the super-charged pesticides required to grow GM crops dealt a severe blow to local farmland wildlife species, killing bees, butterflies, insects, wildflowers and birds. The GM version of Roundup is so potent that it kills almost every non-GM plant in its path, including non-GM versions of the crops themselves.

The study’s findings, ignored by the US press, landed on the front pages of the London papers, striking yet another blow to the Blair government, which nuzzled up to Monsanto early on despite condemnations from Prince Charles and hostile poll numbers that outpaced even opposition to British involvement in the Iraq war.

A few days earlier major insurance groups in the UK had announced they would not write policies covering farmers using GM seeds against possible lawsuits, indicating that GM products could land them in a morass of claims such as followed the linking of thalidomide and asbestos to fatal or crippling conditions.

The Royal Society report was followed a week later by an even more damning study produced by English Nature, the Blair government’s wildlife agency, which concluded that the introduction of GM oilseed rape, in particular, would “seriously degrade” England’s bird population. The crop is Britain’s prime source of feed for birds, producing up to 30 times more sustenance than the average grain fields. The RoundUp weed killers used with the GM crops resulted in a five-

fold decrease in seed production and a 25 percent decline in native flora and fauna.

This has prompted fears that species such as the skylark could be driven to extinction within 20 years if GM farming goes ahead. Populations of skylarks in the east of England, which has a large concentration of oilseed rape, are deemed at particular risk.

“These crops would seriously degrade biodiversity in a short period, said Dr Brian Johnson, biotechnology expert for English Nature. “Clearly, this would take farming in the opposite direction from the Government’s stated objectives of farming less intensely and enhancing farmland bird populations.”

GM beet fields fared nearly as bad, showing 40 percent fewer wildflowers in field margins than in the adjacent non-GM crop fields. Monsanto, clearly on the run, says it’s abandoning Europe for now.

Following Bill Clinton’s lead, Blair stocked his cabinet with Monsanto flacks and fought off attempts by the European Union to ban GM crops. The lone hold out in the Blair camp was Meacher, the environment minister, who vowed last year that the government would ban the crops if the studies produced negative results. But Blair sacked him last year, after Meacher publicly savaged Blair’s support of the Monsanto machine.

All this hits Monsanto, already bruised by declining sales, at a bad time. A week after the British study was released, the ag/chemical giant announced that it was laying off 10 percent of its US workforce in a desperate attempt to slash costs associated with its RoundUp and biotech business.

If there’s any hope for the company, it probably lies in the US rather than Europe. Americans don’t like the idea of eating GM food, but, thanks to an indifferent press, they also know next to nothing about it.

A case in point. A recent survey by the Food Policy Institute at Rutgers University found that 75 percent of Americans believe that their palette has never been contaminated by GM foods. Yet, almost everyone in the US has eaten lots of GM foods. It’s part of our daily diet. More than 80 percent of processed foods contain some GM crops.

“Americans have no idea that foods with genetically modified ingredients are already for sale in the US” says William Hallman, author of the Rutgers study. “But the bottom line is: if you eat processed foods, you’re probably eating GM ingredients.”

It’s not just a matter of processed foods. GM crops have come to dominate nearly every vegetable crop grown in the US.

A recent report from the Department of Agriculture shows that GM crops are rapidly monopolizing the fields of the farm belt. More than 80 percent of US soybean fields are planted with GM seeds. Similarly GM seeds account for nearly 75 percent of cotton and 40 percent of corn grown in the US.

One reason so many Americans remain ignorant about the prevalence of GM foods in the US diet is that Monsanto and other biotech companies, with the help of the Clinton and Bush administrations, have fended off calls to label GM foods. The Rutgers study showed that 94 percent of those polled want labels on foods with GM ingredients.

The Monsantos of the world know that labels represent a death knell for their business. After all, three out of four Americans believe they are GM virgins.

## **ROUGH BEAST IN BETHLEHEM ALREADY? MIKE DAVIS WON'T YOU PLEASE CALM DOWN**

In the days after Arnold Schwarzenegger's sweeping triumph in California our e-mail inbox spilled over with furious denunciations of popular stupidity. Schwarzenegger's victory, snarled one leftist academic, was "an expression of colossal, unprecedented stupidity of the part of the voters of the state... that blamed Davis for a recession he had nothing to do with... for a car tax that was made necessary only because the Republicans stonewalled more progressive proposals."

Mike Davis, a career cataclysmicist who combines occasional rhetorical bomb-throwing with timid mainstream Democratic politics at the practical level, saw Schwarzenegger's victory in apocalyptic terms. Schwarzenegger, the author of *The Ecology of Fear* quavered, "does add something genuinely novel. He's not just another actor in politics but an extraordinary lightning rod, both in movie persona and in real life, for dark sexualized fantasies about omnipotence. Pleasure in the humiliation of others – Schwarzenegger's lifelong compulsion – is the textbook definition of sadism. As governor he becomes the summation of all smaller sadisms. In their majesty, the predominantly white voters of California's inland empires and gated suburbs have anointed a clinically Hitlerite personality as their personal savior."

"Aha!" we thought, plodding through

these turgid lines, "if we know our Mike soon he'll be quoting Nathanael West. Lo and behold, he duly did: "The last word about all this, of course, [why "of course"] should belong to Nathanael West. In *Day of the Locust* (1939) he clearly saw that fandom was an incipient fascism. On the edge of Hollywood's neon plains, he envisioned the unassuageable hungers of Hollywood's petty bourgeoisie. 'Nothing can ever be violent enough to make taut their slack minds and bodies.... They had been cheated and betrayed. Their boredom becomes more and more terrible.'"

Mike Davis, please calm down. There's no need to start quoting West's elitist kitsch just because millions of Californians including a thick slice of blacks and hispanics said "Why not give Arnold a turn?" After all, one of California's most prominent elected Democrats, attorney general Bill Lockyer, a liberal, confessed publicly in the *Recall*'s aftermath that he himself had voted for Schwarzenegger. "I'm tired of transactional, cynical, deal-making politics", Lockyer told 200 campaign consultants, journalists and academics mustered at UC Berkeley to mull over the *Recall*, "I want to see principled leadership." Lockyer, unlike the tremulous

## ***"A special effort should be made to eliminate certain key individuals."***

Mike Davis, found Schwarzenegger's attitude "just hopeful and optimistic and positive and problem solving."

No doubt Lockyer was in publicly confessional mode partly because he plans to run for governor in 2006 and will be able to say that he wasn't part of the corrupt Democratic machine and that he himself voted for a Clean Broom. But since Mike Davis will undoubtedly be voting for Lockyer if, as seems quite possible, Lockyer gets the Democratic nomination maybe he should stop worrying that the Rough Beast has reached Bethlehem just because one of the most corrupt Democrats in California's history just got thrown out.

## **WHITE HOUSE, DOWNING STREET, CIA AND BRITISH SECRET SERVICE IN PLOT TO MURDER LEADING SYRIANS**

On September 27 the London Guardian ran a long piece by Ben Fenton describing

private papers excavated by a British historian from Royal Holloway University, Matthew Jones, from the archive of Duncan Sandys, British secretary of defense in the Conservative government of the late 1950s headed by Harold MacMillan.

Sandys' papers contain a document drawn up by secret high level working group that met in Washington DC in September 1957. This document is remarkable for the frankness with which it outlines plans for assassination ("eliminate") and subversion by Western intelligence services.

The "preferred plan" reads, in part, as follows: "In order to facilitate the action of liberative [sic] forces, reduce the capacity of the Syrian regime to organize and direct its military forces, to hold losses and destruction to a minimum, and to bring about desired results in the shortest possible time, a special effort should be made to eliminate certain key individuals. Their removal should be accomplished early in the course of the uprising..."

The three individuals scheduled for assassination were named in the document approved by the Eisenhower administration and by MacMillan. They were Abd al-Hamid Sarraj, head of Syrian military intelligence;

Afif al-Bizri, head of the Syrian general staff; and Khalid Bakdash, leader of the Syrian Communist Party.

MacMillan described the action plan as a "most formidable report" in his diary and ordered it be held secret from British chiefs of staff, because of their propensity "to chatter". The background of the report was the overthrow in 1954 of the conservative military regime of Col. Adib Shishakli by an alliance of the Syrian Ba'ath Party, Communist Party politicians and their allies in the Syrian army.

The plan was for CIA and British SIS operatives to initiate "sabotage, national conspiracies and various strong-arm activities" in Iraq and Jordan which would then be blamed on Damascus. It emphasized that "in mounting "minor sabotage and coup de main incidents within Syria."

In the end the plan was abandoned because Jordan and Iraq wouldn't come aboard. The interest of the MacMillan government was of course to curry favor with the US, and patch things up after the US had spiked the UK attack on Nasser in 1956.

# Recount in the Forests

## Bush Puts Out a Contract on the Spotted Owl

BY JEFFREY ST. CLAIR

Every summer for the past ten years young biologists head off into the forests of the Pacific Northwest to call spotted owls. Every year they get fewer and fewer responses. The spotted owl, which thrives only in the oldest of forests, is in a downward spiral toward extinction. Take the rainforests of Washington's Olympic peninsula. There the owls, isolated in a desert of clearcuts and sprawl, are rapidly disappearing. According to the most recent surveys, these Olympic peninsula owls have declined by more than half in the last decade alone. At this rate the secretive bird may well become extinct by 2010.

In the Cascade Range of western Washington and Oregon, the owls, jeopardized by continued logging on private and federal forest lands, aren't doing any better. Populations are plummeting at a rate of 5 to 8 percent every year. Give the owl in those tattered mountains another 25 years at most, unless all logging stops.

So the numbers just aren't adding up right for Bush, who promised the timber industry that he would reinvigorate logging across the owl's habitat. As it now stands, the Bush administration has produced far less timber for its clients than did the Clinton administration. The natives are getting restless.

With the numbers stacked against them, the Bush team has attacked the counters. Sound familiar? Remember Palm Beach County?

The Bush crowd now echoes one of the most paranoid accusations of big timber: that the Fish and Wildlife Service is intentionally undercounting the owl population in order to suppress logging on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bush flacks charge, is too biased in favor of protecting...you guessed it...wildlife. This must come as a shock

to both environmental groups and the agency, which is facing dozens of lawsuits for not moving fast enough to protect a slate of vanishing species, from the gray wolf and grizzly to the northern goshawk and bull trout.

So for the first time ever, the Bush administration hired private firms to assess the status of two bird species threatened by logging in the northwest: the spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. The spotted owl was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990 and the murrelet, a small sea-bird that nests

sors and partners".

The genius behind this scheme to privatize the spotted owl recount is Mark Rey, the Paul Wolfowitz of the chainsaw brigades. Rey, once the most feared timber industry lobbyist on the Hill, is now deputy secretary of agriculture overseeing the Forest Service. He has been at war against the owl and its defenders for 20 years: orchestrating numerous industry lawsuits, directing campaign contributions to pro-timber legislators, drafting legislation that exempted logging in owl habitat from compliance with envi-

***Bush will get all the blame, but the fingerprints on the owl's death warrant are decidedly bi-partisan.***

in ancient coastal forests, in 1992.

The two private firms will be paid about \$800,000 for the biological reviews of the status of the birds.

These aren't just any private consulting firms, either. Both have sturdy financial ties to the timber industry.

The status of the spotted owl will be reviewed by the Sustainable Ecosystems Institute. Last year alone, the institute received more than \$270,000 from Pacific Lumber—roughly 44 percent of its total revenue. Pacific Lumber, corporate molester of the redwoods of northern California, hired Sustainable Ecosystems to review of the status of the marbled murrelet on company-owned lands of redwood forest in Humboldt and Mendocino counties. Pacific Lumber isn't its only client in big timber. Sustainable Ecosystems also received money from Boise Cascade, Weyerhaeuser, Potlatch and Rayonier. The firm's website refers to these timber giants warmly as "spon-

ronmental laws.

The owl recount resulted from a 2002 lawsuit that Rey helped concoct with his former clients at the American Forest Resource Council and the Western Council of Industrial Workers, a union under the thumb of the bosses of big timber.

In early 2001, the Bush administration ordered the Fish and Wildlife Service to halt status reviews of owl and murrelet populations, which are required every five years by the Endangered Species Act. The administration claimed poverty—it simply didn't have enough money to conduct a proper evaluation. Then Rey urged his cohorts in the timber industry to sue the government to compel the review. The industry sued and won. It was a calculated gamble. To get more than a trickle of timber flowing from federal forests, the industry needs the owl delisted. But the population trends all point down. Thus, there was the risk that an unbiased review by

# The owl contracts are part and parcel of a larger Bush project to privatize the work of federal natural resource agencies.

the Fish and Wildlife Service might lead to the owl being upgraded to an endangered species, greatly expanding restrictions on logging, roadbuilding and other developments across the region—even on private land.

That's when Rey floated the scheme of taking the reviews from the hands of the Fish and Wildlife Service and giving it to a private outfit with ties to the timber industry. Big timber pins its hopes on two factors that certainly wouldn't survive scrutiny by biologists at the Fish and Wildlife Service. First, it wants to introduce owl surveys conducted by the industry purporting to show a thriving population of young owls in cut-over forests in Oregon and northern California, surveys widely regarded as junk science by most ecologists. Second, the industry desperately wants the population of the California spotted owl (a distinct species inhabiting the Sierra Nevada range) to be double counted as part of the northern spotted owl population. Seen one owl, seen them all.

The private review team will be headed by discredited forest ecologist

Jerry Franklin. Franklin, once the dean of Forest Service researchers, cashed in his reputation during the 1990s for a position at the University of Washington school of forestry, a program lavishly underwritten by Weyerhaeuser. He was later called upon by Clinton to head up the team that developed the infamous Option 9 plan for northwest forests, which legitimized continued logging in spotted owl habitat. The decline of the owl has been steeper under Franklin's plan than it was during the logging frenzy of the Reagan and Bush I years.

Fresh from this triumph, Franklin began to hire himself out as a consultant to any timber company that would have him. Like David Kay and his band of weapons hunters in Iraq, Franklin and the Bush owl mercenaries will scour the forests of the Northwest for birds that simply aren't there. If Franklin produces a report suggesting that the owl population has miraculously rebounded, he and his team will almost certainly have cooked the books.

All this is part and parcel of a larger Bush project to privatize the work of natural resource agencies, from Park Service interpreters to firefighters. The move serves cherished objectives of the corporate cabal now running the White House: neuter the agencies, break the power of the federal employees union and transfer crucial work to compliant outside contractors. These contracts, often handed out to political patrons of the Bush crowd, come with an unwritten codicil: produce the results the administration wants or risk losing future deals. You're either with us or against us. It won't take long for that lesson to be drilled home.

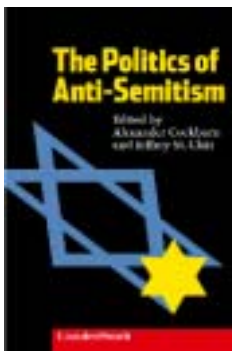
It could have been different. In 1990, the spotted owl won a chance at survival when federal (and Reagan-appointed) judge William Dwyer, slapped an injunction on all logging in the owl's habitat. It was a courageous decision that prompted a freshet of death threats. Dwyer shrugged them off. The enviros largely cowered and finally caved when confronted with political blackmail by Clinton. They relinquished the hard-won injunction and sanctioned Jerry

Franklin's logging plan, which condemned the owl to smaller and smaller micro-reserves of forest that served as little more than a kind of ecological death row.

The big greens, now foraging for grants on salmon and the boondoggle of "restoration forestry", turned their back on the spotted owl, once their totemic species. To continue to press for protection of the owl and its habitat would have meant an aggressive confrontation with Clinton and Bruce Babbitt. And they wanted none of that. "We haven't actively focused on the spotted owl in several years", says Heath Packard of the National Audubon Society. This is a damning admission given that the Audubon Society had raised millions on behalf of the owl and stood mute as the bird slid toward statistical death, a slow motion extinction.

So after two decades of fierce warfare in the forests of the Pacific Northwest the spotted owl and dozens of other species that cling to the last of the old growth forests appear doomed. Bush will get the blame, but the fingerprints on the death warrant are decidedly bi-partisan. CP

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followers to back... Bustamante, just the sort of creature of the California ag interests she had just spent her populist phase denouncing.

As if this wasn't bad enough Camejo had also to endure the performance of Kevin Dannaher, Medea Benjamin's partner in Global Exchange. Dannaher urged Huffington to endorse Bustamante, suggesting a payback whereby Bustamante would use some of Huffington's ideas (presumably not the tax-loophole stuff) on the stump. Of course Bustamante said Thanks to Huffington for the endorsement and paid no further attention.

It's clear that many of those potential Camejo voters in Santa Cruz County and across the state bolted to a No on Recall, and then to Bustamante. Two bad moves. Popular disgust at Davis was well merited, and he deserved to get kicked out. He was a walking advertisement of most of the viler characteristics of the Democratic Party, from his gruesome postures on crime and the death penalty, to the For Sale to Big Money sign hanging on his office door. In his final hours in office Davis found time to veto a syringe bill that would surely have saved many lives.

What sent all those possible supporters of Camejo back into the Democratic column was the simple message: the Recall and Schwarzenegger campaigns are all part of the ongoing Republican fascist coup. Hold your nose and go back into the Democratic stable.

We'll be hearing the same line from now until November 2004. First stage: a candidate like Kucinich or Sharpton will enter the lists and announce that he is run-

ning to redeem the soul of the Democratic Party. He builds up a devoted following, among whom are many who hope their hero will split from the Democrats and make an independent run, such as many wanted Jackson to do in 1984 and in 1988. A candidate like Jackson will publicly toy with this idea, partly to keep hope alive, partly to increase his bargaining power when it comes time to cut a deal, usually just before the Democratic Party convention. Contours of said deal? Public support for the Party's nominee and, in return truckloads of DNC money labeled "Get out the vote", much of which vanishes into the candidate's pockets.

## **RALPH'S NEW MATE, BUT SHOULD THEY RUN?**

Not long after the California contest, Greens across the country were stirred by a USA Today poll which suggested that far from being a cadaver in Arlington's National Doghouse Cemetery for Spoilers, Ralph Nader still has appeal, maybe more now than back in 2000. In the USA Today poll no less than 25 per cent thought he should run in 2004, putting him about ten points above the poll numbers for any Democrat currently in the field. The news story accompanying this finding noted that Erin Brockovich is being talked up in Green circles as the "likely choice" as Nader's running mate.

We don't know what Nader's plans are, and we doubt he knows himself, but if he does throw his hat in the ring again, the vilification heaped on his head in 2000 will look like love caresses compared to the

sledgehammers and dirty tricks awaiting him next year. And the lessons of Santa Cruz County should be remembered. We suspect, given the anti-Bush fever that rages across the entire spectrum from Center to Left, that no Green candidate stands a chance of making any sort of national showing in 2004.

Don't get us wrong. We regard Bush as appalling, but some sense of proportion has to be maintained against the delirium that has Michael Moore already, in October 2003, touting the former Nato Supreme Commander and all-round madman Wesley Clark as Democratic nominee and trashing Kucinich in this cause. We've never been great fans of Moore either, and in recent times he's seemed to us as potentially Flint's answer to France's LePen, a very nasty customer indeed. He's scarcely helped Mumia abu Jamal's chances of getting off Death Row by throwing off in his latest book, *Dude Where's My Country*, the remark that "Mumia probably killed that guy. There, I said it." Ask yourself, why exactly did Moore say it?

So we have to question whether any sort of sustained effort to boost a Green challenger for the Presidency is worth the effort involved. Back in 2000 we watched scores of energetic radicals spending days and weeks of their time organizing Nader's "Super Rallies" (whose MC was Moore), not long after Arianna Huffington put together her Shadow Convention in Los Angeles, set up as a final Goodbye to the Democratic Party. Why waste the time and money on a Presidential candidate, watch the last-minute defections to the Democratic candidate and get smashed flat at the polling booth. Better to stick with local fights and have a shot at winning. CP

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