Letters to the Editor Los Angeles Times 202 W. 1st Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 letters@latimes.com



November 20, 2000

Dear editor,

Green party member is excited about the "meltdown of the Republicrat system,"

believing that it gives the Greens "an opportunity now that we've never had." ("I

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by Section B.) Instead, the Greens under Nader have squandered an opportunity to earn the support of millions of Americans whose support is crucial to their success as a political party.

Politics has been defined as the art of the possible. Mature practitioners of this art are patient and know how and when to compromise. That Nader and the Greens were actually happy to destroy Gore's chance for the Presidency shows that this election was more about satisfying Green emotional needs and stoking Green egos than about protecting the environment, helping the poor and the middle class, or even building a lasting movement.

Ironically, patience and compromise are the foundations of the Green Party's consensus politics. Outside of their own insular convocations, however, the Greens have shown that their real mantra is: "Our way, or we'll make it impossible."

Let's hope the Greens grow up. Otherwise, this election year's 3% return on their investment will be all they can ever hope for, and more than they deserve.

Sincerely, Bill Becker