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*(President, continued from page 2)*  
least a month leading up to the elections. All legitimate candidates must be given access to air time. It's time for television owners to stop gouging campaigns, and contribute to the political education of our citizens.

Postage: The US Post Office should lower the cost of postage, so that all candidates can communicate with the voters.

Income Taxes: Instead of the optional \$1.00 going to federal elections, there should be a mandatory \$5.00 or \$10.00. It could be donated to the political party of your choice or used by the Federal Elections Commission for election education and awareness.

Astonishingly, two cataclysmic events for any democracy to weather, a stolen election, and a major terrorist attack, did not increase voter turnout one iota. In fact, participation has dropped at every level in the past two years. Zealots went out and bought flags to wave from their SUVs, but failed to do the really patriotic thing

Bobbi Buescher

and go to the polls and vote.

There is a serious disconnect between the people and their government. Congress can no longer sit idly by. These low voter turnout levels should be looked upon with alarm. How can a democracy survive when its citizens are not involved in the life and health of their country?

It's far too clear what can and has happened when the people are not paying attention, corruption and abuse of power. Rome fell because of corruption from within. Her citizens were too busy leading "the good life" to notice that their Republic was dying. Sound vaguely familiar?

Each of us must do our part to help our country. We must commit to give of our time, maybe 20 hours in the next election cycle, to register and educate voters. We can start next month at the Redondo Beach Fair on June 21 and 22. Sign-ups will be at our next meeting on May 27. Or you can call Bob Barnwell or me. Our numbers are listed at the back of the newsletter.

*(Monroe, continued from page 3)*

Senate is filibustering his nomination awaiting detailed information & opinions.

The quiet Dubya revolution is stifling the country & strangling our freedoms. I know there is no free lunch & everything has a price tag. I also know that we must be vocal & forceful in our defense of liberty and fair play. At this point, I must quote Ben Franklin..."They that give up essential liberty to obtain temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Monroe Weinstock



### Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 PM  
David K. Hayward Center  
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

### Strengthening the Club

This month, we will take care of club business to strengthen ourselves for the tough election year coming up.

We must address our current financial situation. At last month's meeting we talked about raising our annual dues. In order to do that, we must change our bylaws and publish our intent in this newsletter.

The Board recommends a dues increase from \$15 to either \$20 or \$25 per person. The dues for our new fiscal year must be billed on June 1, and are due and payable on July 1.

There will be many important topics discussed at the meeting and we urge everyone to attend.

### Quotable Quotes

FROM THE ACLU 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATION OF LIBERTY HILL  
2003 UPPIE AWARD CEREMONY MAY 9

**"They arrested Upton Sinclair for reading the Constitution, but they haven't impeached George W. Bush and John Ashcroft for not reading it."**

Writer-Producer Nat Segaloff

**"Government is really inconvenient if you want to make a fortune and run away with it."**

Representative Sheila Kuehl

### Open Letter on Tax Proposals

The Honorable Bob Graham  
The Honorable John Edwards  
The Honorable John Kerry  
The Honorable Joseph Lieberman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

In comparing the Senate Democratic tax cut plan with the Bush tax cut plan for 2003, it is clear to us that the Democrats must highlight the benefits for wealthy taxpayers under the Bush plan—those whose incomes fall in the top five percent. The voters must learn how strongly the President and the Republicans favor the very wealthy and how utterly false and deceitful are their claims of job creation under their plan. We have been terribly disappointed by the failure of each of you to take a strong stand on this matter.

We are lifetime Democrats and active members of both the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Beach Cities Democratic Clubs. Our Democratic friends are looking for tax justice and real help for those people struggling at the lower end of our economy.

We will not support, and will encourage our fellow club members not to support, the Presidential bid of any Senator who does not take a strong and visible stand against the Republican tax proposals or who votes for a tax cut that provides more than ten percent of the total benefits to taxpayers in the upper five percentile of incomes.

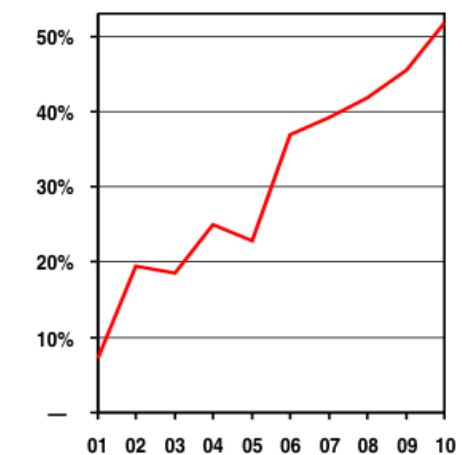
Sincerely yours,  
Steven and Moira Zucker

### A Question of Fairness

Over the ten-year period, the richest Americans—the best-off one percent—are slated to receive tax cuts totaling almost half a trillion dollars. The \$477 billion in tax breaks the Bush administration has targeted to this elite group will average \$342,000 each over the decade.

*Citizens for Tax Justice*

Top 1%'s Share of Bush Tax Cuts by Year



### From the April Meeting



Environmental activist Lillian Light speaking at the April meeting on the erosion of environmental safeguards under Bush

### From the President's Pen



With W making campaign stops landing on aircraft carriers, and promoting yet another outrageous tax giveaway to his big donor constituency, Campaign 2004 is off to a new low.

Many millions of dollars will be spent trying to persuade voters who to cast their ballots for.

I think our government should spend some resource time and money bringing our citizens back into the process and convincing them that it is in their best interest to take part in our democracy.

Some people like to say that one vote won't make any difference, and that politicians are all the same, that it doesn't really matter who is in charge. In the wake of Election 2000 and its aftermath, we now can definitively say these arguments are completely false.

We take for granted our rights and privileges at our own peril.

What can and should be done?

Maybe voting should be linked to the Super Bowl. Half the seats in the stadium could be earmarked for lucky voters. When you vote you get a chance at going to the big game. That might get sports fans off the couch. Or have a million dollar voting lotto.

Easy money would move people.

Kidding aside. Congress must act. The health of our Nation depends on it.

Every possible option must be explored.

Holiday: Make Election Day a national holiday. Move Election Day to Monday and add a second day of voting on Sunday.

Television: The air waves belong to us, and we must demand thorough, thoughtful coverage of all races for at

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### April Recap

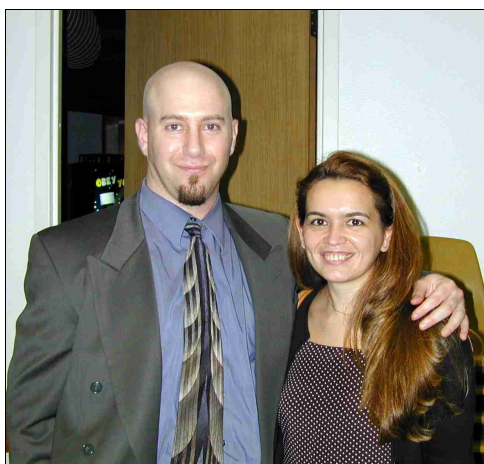
### Saving Spaceship Earth

BCDC member Lillian Light gave an impassioned presentation on the state of environmental deregulation under the Bush administration. Lillian is president of the Environmental Priorities Network, a sponsor of the recent Earth Day event "Saving Spaceship Earth II" held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro.

Lillian reported that the Bush administration is steadily dismantling the policies and laws that were put into place after the first Earth Day thirty-three years ago. The first casualty was the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandated environmental impact reports and public participation in decision-making.

Current targets include the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Endangered Species Act, and the EPA itself.

Since Bush took office, more than 200 changes have been made to weaken environmental and health policies. National monuments are being opened to logging, and land in national parks is being given to private interests and to local governments to build paved highways through ancient forest



New members Jeffrey Klein and Christiani Amorim

land. The Bureau of Land Management claims that the changes in rules are exempt from environmental review.

Under the Bush administration, no action has been taken to alleviate the effects of the thousands of toxic chemicals that threaten our health. EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman has refused to act on the problem of toxins found in the body and wants to cut back on screenings for lead poisoning.

The toxic cleanup Superfund has been under-funded in this Administration, with an \$82 million shortfall this year alone. Bush has replaced the "Polluter Pays Principle" with the "Taxpayer Pays Principle," absolving big polluters from cleaning up their own waste in the name of "tax relief" for corporations. Budgets at the EPA and other agencies have been cut by more than 50%. At present, Bush is attempting to roll back the Clean Air Act, making anti-pollution upgrades voluntary.

Nothing is sacred: Interior Secretary Gale Holmes Norton, in Lillian's opinion the worst of Bush's appointees, has not added a single species to the Endangered Species list and has delisted many endangered animals. She attempted to start oil drilling off the California coast while Bush banned coastal drilling in Florida to help his brother's gubernatorial campaign. Now she is attempting to privatize the department's personnel, replacing rangers and scientists with workers from the logging and mining companies.

Bush's "healthy forest" initiative calls for cutting down the largest old-growth trees, claiming it will reduce the risk of forest fires—exactly the opposite of what the experts believe. Cutting is already underway in backwoods areas, out of public view. Because this initiative wouldn't have a chance of getting Congressional approval, it is

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going ahead by executive order.

As if this isn't bad enough, the Pentagon is designing nuclear "bunker busters" half the size of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan, which they consider an acceptable use of nuclear weapons. The Republicans are hoping to use these "dirty" bombs to combat terrorism.

What do to about this bleak picture? Lillian said that Democrats and Republicans must join to oppose the most egregious environmental plundering. Let Congress know that we demand environmental protections. She handed



BCDC Treasurer Shirlee Browne is our Democratic Woman of the Year

out stamped postcards and urged BCDC members to write to Congresswoman Jane Harman to oppose the use of nuclear weapons. Jane's voting record is 95% pro-

### Democrats Make the Case: Bush Has Got to Go

DNC SERVICES CORPORATION The nine Democratic candidates for President blasted George W. Bush in their first primary debate May 3, citing Bush's irresponsible economic record, his attacks on civil rights, his shameful broken promises to America's children, and much more as proof that America needs new leadership.

Here are a few quotes from the debate where nine Democrats stood together to make the case that it is time for Bush to go.

Sen. John Edwards: "We did a lot better under Bill Clinton than we are under George Bush."

Rev. Al Sharpton: "First of all, I call George Bush's tax breaks, even the small amounts that he gives working-class people—it's like Jim Jones giving Kool-Aid—it tastes good, but it will

environment, but she is a strong supporter of the military. Urge Jane to support Representative Edward Markey in his efforts to eliminate the \$15 billion in the budget earmarked for the nuclear bunker buster. Use the Congresswoman's local address, or send a fax, as there are still mail delays in Washington DC.

Lillian invited members to join the Environmental Priorities Network at a cost of \$12. In closing, she urged members to support a bill currently in Congress to slow down global warming.

### Club News

Congratulations to Shirlee Browne and Patrick Kelley, who have been named Democratic Woman and Man of the Year for the 53rd AD.

Day at the Races will take place July 12 at Hollywood Park in Inglewood; more details will follow.

We welcomed new members Jeffrey Klein and Christiani Amorim.

Notes and photographs for this article courtesy of Jim McGreevy.

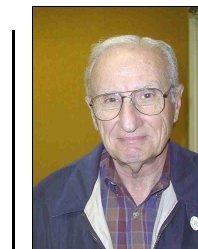
kill you."

Sen. Joe Lieberman: "The Bush administration has been an abysmal failure in leading our economy. We've lost 500,000 jobs in the last three months, and disproportionately among African Americans."

Gov. Howard Dean: "Abraham Lincoln said that, 'a government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this earth.' President Bush has forgotten the ordinary people of this country. It's time to take our Party back now and it's time to take our country back."

Rep. Dennis Kucinich: "Imagine a president who is willing to stand up to the Enrons of America."

Sen. John Kerry: "Why not have a president who understands the truth that the flag and patriotism do not belong to any one party; they belong to all Americans?"



### Monroe's Corner

Privacy, the judiciary & civil rights are a tight fit! They go together like a "trifecta." Under the

Republican administration an invasion of privacy is considered to be preservation of free speech. Our courts are no longer "fair" but slanted to the right! Budget deficits are considered to be imaginative creative accounting! The revolution by Dubya will now make black into white & evil is now good!!!

The FBI can monitor much of what we do using "Carnivore," not a mythical monster but a technology that reads our internet use, our library readings, our expenditures, and our mail! Attorney General Ashcroft has pushed the Justice Dept. in directions that few thought possible before 9-11. Cases in point: A. In December '02 the Justice Dept. designated Dr. Steven Hatfill as a "person of interest" in the anthrax investigation. Because of this suspicious identification, his career & personal life are in shambles. B. In March, major brokerage houses paid a fine of \$1.4 billion, without admitting any wrongdoing. C. At the same time, a man who shoplifted 9 video tapes was given a life sentence. So what happened to "equal justice under the law?"

We have a Supreme Court of 7 old men & 2 old women. Four are moderates, and five conservatives are firmly on the side of curbing federal powers (except in the selection of a President). There is the thought that the next replacement Justice must be a "stealth" candidate with little or no paper trail. So we now have the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the D.C. Court of Appeals (stepping stone to the Supreme Court). He is well educated, extremely bright, very conservative & with few written decisions or statements to his name. Rightfully, the

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