P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

August, 2005

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 23, 7:30PM David K. Hayward Center 2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Representatives from the California Teachers Association will be speaking on the "Punish New Teachers" Initiative and the "Paycheck Deception" Initiative, set to be on the November Special Election ballot.

Come learn the truth about the Republican Schwarzenegger's plot and how to get involved. We will also be discussing local elections for Hermosa Beach City Council, and school boards in Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach.

53rd AD Race

Manhattan Beach City Councilman Jim Aldinger announced that he would not seek the Democratic nomination for the 53rd Assembly District to replace Mike Gordon.

Torrance Councilman Ted Lieu was the only Democrat to file papers to seek the nomination. Because only one Democrat filed papers, the club did not hold a special meeting, but will consider an endorsement at its next regular meeting.

Dues Reminder

Please note that dues were payable on July 1 and are now \$25 per person, \$40 for two at the same address. Fill out the membership form on page 4 and send in with your check now!

Late renewers will receive a reminder, but we can't afford to keep lapsed members past 90 days.

Voting Rights Are for All Americans

Saturday, August 6, 2005 marks the 40th Anniversary of Congress passing the most successful piece of civil rights legislation in history: the Voting Rights Act. We anticipate the congressional debate to begin after the August district work period, concerning the renewal of temporary revisions that expire in 2007. Unless Congress votes to renew several key sections of the law, they will expire by 2007. The gains of the last 40 years will be severely compromised if these provisions of the VRA are not protected.

Americans for Democratic Action plans to urge Congress to renew and restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965.

Check out the new ADA blog at www.eliberal.org.



Island Luau

Go Native the Gourmet Way!

Join us for our last evening fundraiser of 2005. Saturday, September 24 5:00 PM 1314 8th Street Manhattan Beach Hostess: Donna Scholtz Gourmet Chefs: Sander &

Ranoo Shipper, Sally Boyle, and lane Affonso

All adults over 16 years old welcome \$25, cash bar RSVP: ranooshipper@hotmail.com or Sally Boyle, 310-376-5717

"The problem with the French is that they don't have a word for "entrepreneur."

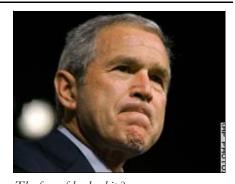
President G.W. Bush

Finally, Justice

POSTED ON SALON.COM A new AP-Ipsos poll (cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/08/05/bush.ap.ipsospoll. ap/) puts George W. Bush's approval rating at its lowest point yet.

Only 42 percent of the public approve of the president's job performance; 55 percent don't. The same poll shows that, by a 50-48 percent margin, Americans now believe that their president is dishonest. Only 38 percent of them approve of the way in which he's handling the war in Iraq.

As bad as those numbers are, it's important to keep them in perspective. Things could be worse. Iraq could be, say, Plamegate. According to the latest CBS News poll (http://www.pollingreport.com/bush.htm), 77 per-



The face of leadership?

cent of the American public believe that the Bush administration is either lying or hiding something about the outing of Valerie Plame. Only 12 percent say the White House is telling "the entire truth." Page 2 Beach Cities Democratic Club

From the President

Winning Elections From The Bottom Up Last month, I wrote that every year is an election



year. That is certainly true this year, with a host of local elections throughout the South Bay. While presidential elections generate a lot more excitement, organizing for (and winning) local elections is the most important thing we can do as grassroots Democrats. The reason is simple—that is how we will start winning elections, from the bottom-up.

As Jesse Unruh said, "money is the mother's milk of politics." The result is that the political establishment have disproportionate sway over the party. Candidates favored by those interests will raise more money and win. Sometimes, this works out. But often, as in 2004, the establishment will seek a safer path like a John Kerry, while the grass-roots will want a strong Democratic message like Howard Dean.

How do grass-roots activists gain control over our party? By building an operation as powerful as the establishment. That starts locally. We must recruit local activists to run for office. We have to walk precincts, make phone calls, and yes, donate a lot of money. As we build our organization, our club's support becomes essential for Democrats running for office.

This is not a new concept. In fact, it has already happened—on the other side of the aisle. After losing the presidential race in 1988, Pat Robertson began building the Christian Coalition from the grass-roots up, winning local elections, legislative and congressional races, and ultimately was the key to George W. Bush becoming president. We may disagree with their views, but we should take a lesson from their organizing prowess.

Here is what BCDC needs to do:

- Recruit our members to run for office—not just support people who happen to be Democrats;
- Build a network of precinct captains to support those candidates—your neighbor probably already knows about the President, but they probably don't know the best choice for City Council or even the state legislature.
- Develop club resources to support candidates—voter databases, bulk mailing permits, and other assets that cost thousands of dollars.
- Donate to the Club and donate to club endorsed candidates. Until we have public financing, raising money will critical.
- Be patient and be relentless. Like President Kennedy said, "all this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days.... But let us begin."

 Lee Fink

July Recap

Ballot Propositions

At the first meeting led by our new president Lee Fink, we heard from speakers on voter registration and the propositions that will be on the ballot in November's special election.

The first presentation came from CP Cima, president of the Torrance

Democratic Club. He is training voter registration workers to use the California state database and building a skills bank to identify volunteers who can perform special tasks.



CP Cima

Next we heard from

several people on the propositions. Bobbi Buescher spoke on Proposition 73, the Parental Notification of Abortion Initiative. It would require doctors to notify a minor girl's parent or legal guardian 48 hours before performing an abortion. It would turn back the clock on reproductive rights and introduce new problems in families with abusive parents. A motion was passed to oppose Prop 73.



Rhey Lee, Harman's representative

Prop 74,
Teacher Tenure
in California,
would extend
teachers' probation period
from two years
to five and
make it easier to
dismiss teachers.
Critics claim it is
an attack on
teachers and
would create

Club Business

Lori reported that County Committee is trying to work out a way to comply with McCain-Feingold without reducing the power of the grass roots. Mustapha, reporting on the 53rd AD committee, will be attending the Executive Board meeting in Sacramento and expects many fights over the endorsement process.

Rhey Lee, Jane Harman's field rep-

resentative, talked about Jane's monthly email newsletter in which she recently discussed social security, the environment, and women's reproductive rights.

She was asked about Harman's support to extend the Patriot Act, which even Congressman Rohrabacher has opposed. She said that as a member of the Intelligence Committee, Jane believes there may be suicide bombers in

(Continued on page 3)

shortages in an already small talent pool. George Nakano, a former teacher and school administrator, said there's already a system in place to train deficient teachers and that good teachers won't stay in their jobs if they have to wait five years for job security. A motion was passed to oppose.

Tony Hale spoke about Props 75 and 76. Proposition 75 would require unions to get written permission from members before using their dues for political purposes. It is considered a key battleground in the November special election because it could dry up an important source of campaign money for Democrats. Union members are already protected under current laws.

Prop 76, called the California Live Within Our Means Act, empowers the governor to impose spending reductions in budget emergencies. This gives him too much discretion and could hurt public education.

We skipped propositions 77 and 80 because they have been removed from the ballot. If the courts allow them back on, we will hear about them in September.

Propositions 78 and 79 both address prescription drug programs. 78, favored by the pharmaceutical companies, establishes a discount program for low and moderate income Californians. 79 also provides for discounts and would be funded through rebates negotiated with drug manufacturers. Favored by a coalition of labor and consumer groups, Prop 79 would penalize drug companies that do not participate in the program.

A motion was passed to oppose 78 and support 79.

We then discussed the assembly seat vacated by Mike Gordon. Two Democrats, Jim Aldinger and Ted Lieu, are running for the office although both were away attending their respective city council meetings. [Note: Jim Aldinger has since withdrawn from the race.]

Monroe's Corner

For those of us who are politically aware & concerned, this past month has had its unsettling events & near disasters. I do

concern us all.



A) An Ohio Congressman is pushing a provision to allow religiously affiliated Head Start programs to hire & fire on the basis of religious belief. B) A Kentucky Judge makes it a practice to allow drug & alcohol offenders the option of attending worship services instead of jail or rehab. (C) Florida high schools conducted graduation exercises jointly in a huge church chapel. D) In a mega-church, the Governor of Texas signed measures banning same sex marriages & another requiring parental consent for abortions. E) The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs has acknowledged a problem of intentional religious intolerance practiced by students who are Evangelical Christians. F) The phrase "In God We Trust" may be inscribed & displayed on the wall of the No. Carolina Davidson County Government Center.

With the help of Steve Zucker, I have seen a web site that is run by a group called the Christian Exodus.

They have a plan to move thousands of Christians to So. Carolina to reestablish constitutionally limited government founded on Christian principles. From here, they hope to expand nationally. And today we have a Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) that is a growing & expanding media group. These conservative Evangelicals control at least 6 national TV networks, reach tens of millions of homes through more than 2,000 radio stations. On a more personal note, these folks are concerned with the state of Israel & the future redemptions & conversion of all Jews. I'd rather not extend my thoughts into this. Going along these lines, there is also the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) which represents 1600 broadcasters with billions of dollars in media holdings. These are the networks that helped distort the condition of Terri Schiavo & demonized her husband.

One of my favored organizations is Americans United for the Separation of Church & State which vigorously works to keep it that way.

All my thinking life I have felt that a person's religion is his or her own. I do not pretend to know the philosophy of other religions or what their church leaders will suggest. I do however know that if I do not encroach on my neighbor & they respect my prerogatives, then we have a perfect match. To quote the infamous Rodney King, "Why can't we just get along?"

Monroe Weinstock

(Club business, continued from page 2) the US and wants the FBI to have all necessary tools to fight it. Jane did vote to repeal the Library portion of the act. She has initiated a port security bill and supports an independent investigation of the Downing Street Memo.

George Nakano was invited to talk about his upcoming run for State Senate. He praised Senator Bowen in her bid for Secretary of State. He also said it's gratifying to see the Governor's poll numbers declining as a result of his magazine deals.

Jim Aldinger (arriving from the city council meeting) announced that the Manhattan Beach police and fire facilities are coming in under budget and there may be new funds available for the schools. He also reported that the Coastal Commission recently fought a mansionization case in Montecito.

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P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Beach Cities

Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form

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PLEASE PRINT

Name $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.			
Address			
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□ Distribution of the club newsletter via newsletter by mail.	a e-mail saves money. Check	this box onl	ly if you do not wish to receive your
I volunteer to:			
□Telephone □Help with Mailing □H	Hospitality □Write for New	sletter	
□Register Voters □Programs □Legist	lative □Membership □Oth	per	

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make check payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.