

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

September, 2006

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

Our September speaker will talk about the South Bay Smoke-Free Beaches initiative. We will also make endorsements on the state propositions.

Events & Calendar

Contact Diane Strack if you can work in our booth at the Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair October 7 & 8.

San Pedro Neighbors for Peace and Justice Organizers Meeting

Fridays at 7 PM

Next meeting September 29

Become an organizer for peace.

Meetings held at Harry Bridges Community Labor Center at 350 W. 5th St., Ste. 209 in San Pedro.

Torrance Democratic Club Meeting

Second Wednesdays

7:00-9:00 PM

Torrance Municipal Airport Meeting Room at 3301 Airport Drive in Torrance

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club Meeting

Third Sundays

2:30-5:00 PM

Next meeting September 17

Palos Verdes Peninsula Library

Check out the great new Democratic Action Center website at:
democraticactioncenter.com.

BCDC Business

At our August meeting, Ray Waters announced that the Universal Health Care bill passed in the Senate and is now in the Assembly.

Diane Strack announced a scholarship fund called Future Leaders to help needy high school students. Candidates will be required to write a competitive essay. A donation bottle will be placed in the BCDC booths at our tabling events.

Jim Aldinger reported that he is on the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and is lobbying to get an extra seat added to the AQMD. A bill to increase the membership was defeated this session, but Aldinger and

others will bring the issue up again next year.

It was announced that we have a new membership chair, Lynn Thompson. She will work with Barbara, Diane, and Edna to recruit new members and track current ones.

The club is still seeking a fund raising chair and callers for our phone tree.

We passed a motion to support all the Democratic candidates who won the primaries.

Last, the club will form a committee to investigate the application of Clean Money reform to local elections. The Clean Money initiative and other ballot propositions were discussed at the meeting; see story inside.

Labor Day Fiesta



Our booth at the Hermosa Beach Fiesta over the Labor Day weekend drew in many new Democratic voters and even some former Republicans. Diane Strack (left, with Peggy Carter) managed the colorful space throughout the three-day holiday.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

A Wolf in Democrat's Clothing



With the end of the session legislative activity, Gov. Schwarzenegger has tried to soften his image by signing a number of Democratic bills. But we have to remind voters that Schwarzenegger's recent moderation is just election-year gimmicks, and that he is still the right-wing governor, out of step with the Golden State.

Yes, Arnold signed an increase in the state's minimum wage law. Now, the thousands of working Californians who earn minimum wage will be not-so-far below the poverty line. Meanwhile, he is supporting Bush and Congressional Republicans who have refused to raise the national minimum wage law for over ten years. He signed a global warming bill, which passes for moderation in a Republican party whose leader does not believe in science.

But Schwarzenegger is the same governor who a year ago supported a bunch of measures to blame teachers

for problems in public schools—while ignoring the disaster of the Bush No Child Left Behind Act—and blame unions for the state budget mess, despite the reckless refusal of his own party to support any measures to balance the budget.

And despite supporting some good measures, Schwarzenegger has still blocked many more. He has vowed to veto the Kuehl Universal Healthcare Bill, despite overwhelming state and national sentiment in favor of finally providing universal health care. He opposes Clean Money campaign finance reform so that he can continue to take unprecedented millions of dollars of special interest money—far more than any California politician in history. He has refused to support civil rights for gay couples, has not stood up to oppose efforts by the right wing to infringe on a woman's right to choose, and his latest unscripted comments show questionable judgment at best on equal rights for women and minorities.

While the governor has employed some election year antics to fool voters, Schwarzenegger is no more than a wolf in Democrat's clothing—and once the election is over, he is sure to revert to his old conservative self.

Lee Fink

and other Republican strongholds.

By contrast, the Nakano campaign sent out a poorly-conceived mailer claiming that Jenny Oropeza had not sent her children to public schools and had not voted for various bills in the Assembly; Oropeza immediately countered that the couple have no children and Jenny was not in the Assembly when the bills were voted on. The rapid response to these gaffes may have put Oropeza over the top.



Teresa Bird recaps the Jenny Oropeza

Next we discussed some of the propositions, starting with Prop. 89, Clean Money. The bill's language has been rewritten to make participation voluntary and avoid First Amendment challenges. It calls for taxpayer money to fund campaigns and would restrict political donations to candidates. Big corporate donors and major unions—including the California Teachers Association—oppose the measure.

Prop 90, "Government Acquisition—Regulation of Private Property," came up next. Dave Wiggins claimed it's a covert attempt to make government pay for all regulations. Masquerading as a bill to reform eminent domain, Prop. 90 contains unrelated provisions that would cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year and lead to frivolous lawsuits. Taxpayers, homeowners, businesses, environmentalists, educators, and local governments all oppose the initiative.

The club passed motions on the following initiatives:

Prop. 89-Clean Money: Support
Prop. 86-Cigarette Tax: Support
Prop. 85-Parental Notification:

August Recap

Looking Toward November

Some new and returning Democratic friends introduced themselves at our August meeting, including author and former actress Mim Rivas.

Rivas, whose latest book is *Beautiful Jim Keys*, is active in LitPAC (litpac.org), an organization that gets authors involved in the political process. Through literary fundraisers, LitPAC plans to support at least 15 House candidates in this year's election with direct gifts of up to \$5,000. In addition to direct fundraising, LitPAC will register voters at events across the

country.

Teresa Bird spoke on the lessons learned in Jenny Oropeza's campaign. Registered Democrats have decreased from 192,000 to 179,000 in our district. Only 35% voted, with Jenny taking 52.8% over Nakano's 47.2%.

Jenny won because she was a great candidate with a first-rate consultant, Parke Skelton. She also had the best endorsements including Debra Bowen, Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Janice Hahn, the California Nurses, and the all-important State Party. Her campaign took advantage of both the grassroots organizers and the Internet. They did phone banking in Torrance

Oppose
Prop. 90-
"Taxpayer Trap":
Oppose

At our next meeting, we'll hear committee recommendations on the other propositions.

Bob Willett spoke on the Cool Cities project

(coolcities.com) and said that the mayor of Seattle is leading an effort to get all U.S. cities to combat global warming at the local level. To date, 188 mayors from 38 states, representing some 40 million Americans, have signed on. Their motto is "Solving Global Warming One City at a Time." In line with the Kyoto Protocol, the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is a pledge to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012. Visit <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate>.

Our last speaker was Redondo Beach City Councilman Steve Diels, opposing the telecom bills which have legislated tax cuts for the phone and cable companies. Although Diels is a Republican, he said, "Bad government is bipartisan."

The bills do not favor consumers. They eliminate "net neutrality" by allowing providers the right to charge for preferential content delivery, creating a multitiered internet based on the ability to pay.

The State bill, AB 2987, authored by Fabien Nuñez, seeks to allow telephone companies such as AT&T and Verizon to jump into the television business by getting a statewide franchise. The federal bill is 5252.



Steve Diels discusses his opposition to the Telecomm bills

An Excerpt From a Pakistani Article

BY PROFESSOR IJAZ UL HASSAN
SUBMITTED BY DILIP ADARKAR

Everyone daydreams but the common American citizen is something else.

A person I know and who lives near Boston recounted to me that one evening he was driving home in mild rain when he saw the grim image of a young white girl standing on the roadside. She stood lost, half drenched and shivering. Bashir, who suffers from a sense of social justice, stopped the car, backed up to her and asked if he could give her a ride home. Solemnly, she peered at him and informed him that she didn't have a home. Her parents, she said, had thrown her out. For a moment Bashir was confused, not knowing how to address the situation. Finally he asked her to get in the car. Without a word, she got into the car and Bashir drove off to his house that was a short distance away.

On reaching his house Bashir asked her to follow and the girl timidly complied. She was asked to sit in the lounge while Bashir went up to his room from where he fetched a shirt and a pair of pyjamas, and asked her to change in the adjacent room so that she could dry her wet clothes. In the meantime he looked into the refrigerator for some food for her.

The following day Bashir rented a room for her and bought her some essentials. After a few days when he thought Jenny had mentally revived, he drove her to his store and offered her a job. Within weeks she got back her humour and complexion and Bashir felt some satisfaction.

As I have mentioned, Bashir is supportive of anything that helps the under-privileged. That was the year of the American presidential elections. Bashir was unusually excited because he believed that the Democrats would win. He tried, tactlessly, to try to persuade all customers to support the

Democrats, often getting into arguments with strangers.

One day Bashir noticed that Jenny seemed to have no interest in politics. He resolved to talk to her about it in general and the presidential elections in particular. At the first opportunity, as a way of opening the subject, he asked Jenny, "Who will you vote for in the elections?" "I'll vote for the Republicans," replied Jenny definitively. Bashir was taken aback. "Jenny, why would you not vote for the Democrats?" Jenny, who only a few weeks earlier had been shivering in rags on a footpath, explained: "I will not vote for Democrats because they take away money from the rich and give it to the poor." Bashir was totally dumbfounded, and has been ever since, he tells me.

Will the American people ever wake up, he quietly speculates.

That day, he says, he spent the rest of the day sitting in his small, untidy office, staring through the window at the fluttering leaves and branches swaying in the breeze. He did not notice the sun go down. Before he realised, it was pitch dark. He only jerked out of his chair to put the lights on."

Note: I came across an article by this author, a painter, scholar and political activist in Pakistan. It was in the *Daily Times*, a liberal and inclusive publication I access on the Internet. The article was entitled "The Way It Was – Now it was Ditch dark."

The bit I have excerpted would certainly remind us of what we face as Democrats! It is of interest to Pakistanis also.

I corresponded with Professor Hassan and obtained his permission to republish this.

Professor Hassan may be reached at <ijazulhassan@magic.net.pk/

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Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Other) _____

Email _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box if you would like to receive yours by e-mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with Mailing Hospitality Write for Newsletter

Register Voters Programs Legislative Membership Other _____

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.