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

February, 2007

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30PM David K. Hayward Center 2000 Artesia Boulevard Redondo Beach

The program will include a presentation on proposals for the Redondo Beach AES site by representatives of the South Bay Parkland Conservancy and others. SBPC helps communities and local governments to acquire parklands. We will also discuss the March 2007 Elections in Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach.

Teresa Bird Honored

Teresa Bird has been named "Woman of the Year" for the 28th Senatorial District by Senator Jenny Oropeza. The California Legislature bestows this yearly honor to outstanding women.

A native Californian, Teresa has held numerous posts over the years from PTA president to office manager for Governor Jerry Brown. She organized a UFW grape boycott at supermarkets in the South Bay and has lobbied the city council on behalf of civil rights, women's rights, and health issues. She worked for Senator Ralph Dills for fifteen years and for John Tunney in his senatorial race. She has worked on special elections for Ruben Ayala, Dick Floyd, Richard Alatorre, and others, and has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention five times.

Teresa is a founding member of the Beach Cities Democratic Club and the South Bay headquarters. She has three grown children.

Teresa will be honored at a ceremony on March 5th in Sacramento.

With Chuck Norris in Iraq

Our January meeting featured a slide presentation by Jeff DuClos on his recent trip to Iraq with Chuck Norris. DuClos was formerly a corporate publicist for Norris.

An actor and martial-arts master, Norris is idolized by our service men and women and his image appears everywhere on military property. The



Jeff DuClos presenting a slide show of Chuck Norris's work with the Make a Wish Foundation

photo from *Delta Force* is used on USO recruitment posters. Soldiers enjoy memorizing and reciting satirical facts from the Chuck Norris Fact Generator, an Internet phenomenon that contains over 600,000 humorous quotes and legends.

DuClos's presentation included many examples of military humor, an essential ingredient for survival in the combat zones.

Last October, the two spent a week traveling around Iraq, where they toured eleven facilities and met with more than 18,000 service members. DuClos noted the prevalence of large weaponry; everyone had at least an

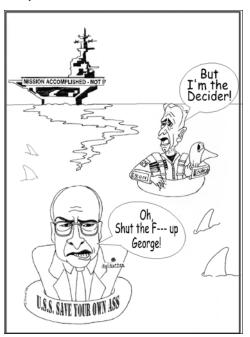
M16 rifle.

Although they did not go into Baghdad, their stops included the Al Asad Air Base and Hadatha Dam, the second largest hydroelectric facility in Iraq. Like much of the country's infrastructure, the dam is non-operational and power comes from gas generators. They also visited the 44th Air Medical Unit, which performs daily acts of heroism.

DuClos was surprised by the number of women Marines he encountered. He played a short video showing scenes of soldiers having fun, engaging in combat, and interacting with Iraqi citizens including children.

Chuck Norris is deeply committed to humanitarian causes and donates much of his time visiting with children for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Political Art By Diane Strack

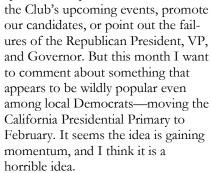


Page 2 Beach Cities Democratic Club

From the President

Election 2008 – The California Primary

I usually use this space to trumpet



The premise is sound enough—with the most residents and the most diverse populace in the country, California should have a major role in choosing presidential nominees. Unfortunately, the perceived cure is likely to make the situation worse.

First of all, let's separate the myths from the realities. The California Primary has never been as unimportant as people seem to think. In 1968, it would have swung the nomination to Bobby Kennedy, if tragedy did not befall him that night. California played a critical role in both 1976 and 1980, when challengers to the incumbent presidents (Reagan, then Kennedy) won the primary and did not concede until the convention. In 1984, Walter Mondale could not claim the nomination until after California and five other states held their primaries. And while Bill Clinton's nomination seemed assured, it was not until he beat Jerry Brown in California that he had the delegates he needed. The same was true for Al Gore and George W. Bush in 2000.

Moving up the California primary will not enhance our power, but instead will make Iowa and New Hampshire even more important. In a media-heavy state like California, money continues to be "the mother's milk of politics." Campaign professionals know that it costs \$2 Million to buy enough television time to drive home just one thirty-second advertisement. Winning the California Primary therefore will only be possible with an extraordinary amount of money. With California just a week after New Hampshire, only candidates who fare well in the Granite State will have the momentum to raise money so quickly, or break through a news media more interested in Anna Nicole Smith than universal healthcare.

We have seen this before. In 2004, John Kerry was running a distant third in New Hampshire. But his victory in Iowa caused a huge momentum shift that saw him win by 13 points and cemented his place as the front-runner.

While a grass-roots campaign can work even in the face of a media on-slaught, it cannot be done in a week. There is not enough time to organize and touch base with voters inundated by media images from the front-runners and well-funded candidates.

California rightfully should not be left at the tail end of the primary calendar, but a snap primary does not enhance our influence. Sadly, the driving motivation of the legislators has nothing to do with national politics, but is an effort to overhaul the state's term limits before it forces them out of office. By holding a February primary, the Legislature can place on the ballot a measure to extend the current term limits measures, and still allow them to file for re-election in time for a June legislative primary. There is no doubt that term limits in California are broken (a topic for another column), but it's their self-serving interest that the Legislature has prioritized over universal health care, education funding, and the state's continuing structural budget deficit—and California's own interest in national elections.

Lee Fink.

January Recap

Local Endorsements

Following Jeff DuClos's presentation, we heard from our local candidates.



Pat Aust

Pat Aust, running for city council in Redondo Beach, is a retired fire chief with a long career in public service. Although he was not allowed to be openly political, Aust is a former member of BCDC.

and served on the board of the Beach Cities Health District. He is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps which performs emergency medical response services. His major areas of concern include traffic, development, and public health and safety.

Carl Clark, running as an incumbent for Redondo Beach School Board, was represented by Amy Santa Cruz, a teacher in the district. Currently serving as school board president, Clark has presided over years of budget cuts but kept them out of the classroom. He is extremely accessible, returns phone calls, and takes care of problems quickly. He is endorsed by the Teachers Union.

Dale Petrulis, also running for Redondo Beach school board along-side Arlene Staich, boasts 38 years of educational experience. Petrulis has taught grades from kindergarten through high school. She has written over \$3 million worth of grants for various LA Unified schools. With celebrity Sheri Lansing, she helped found a program called Prime Time which recruits new retirees to bring their expertise into the classroom.

Kevin Sullivan, a candidate for Redondo Beach city clerk, has a long career in public service. A city councilman for six years, he has also served as labor coordinator for Cary Peck, vicepresident of the LA County Labor Federation, and Secretary/treasurer of Shipyards in San Pedro, an elected position. He has been a trustee of pension funds and auditor for local unions. He founded a real estate mortgage company in Redondo Beach and has experience in international banking.



Kevin Sullivan

ning for city clerk: Larry Fox spoke on her behalf and said she has been an accountant for 26 years, runs her own

Cindy Szerlip, also run-

business, and has high technology skills that

would be useful in the position.

Don Szerlip, running for reelection to Redondo Beach city council, described his commitment to public safety and neighborhood improvement. He helped staff up the police department and upgrade its communications equipment. Every street in his district has been repaved and the used car lots removed. He pledged to keep up the improvements along Artesia Boulevard, the Galleria, and the Pier, and reinvigorate business districts in the city.

Bob Bohner, running for Manhattan Beach city council, was represented by Tony Hale. Bohner is the longest serving member on the Planning Commission, serves on Parks and Recreation, and is president of the Sister City program. He is also a member of the Homeowners' Association and Lions Club. Although Manhattan Beach has deemed city offices nonpartisan and discouraged candidates from seeking our endorsement,

Bohner has worked on many Democratic campaigns.

Endorsements

The only candidate receiving the requisite 60% of the endorsement votes was Dale Petrulis.



Dale Petrulis

I Am a Democrat

By Lori Geittmann

Many years ago, then Senator William Fulbright of Arkansas said, "I can do anything I want in foreign affairs as long as I vote against every civil rights bill." In my young, naive college days, I thought that was terrible, until one of my friends got a Fulbright scholarship to Oxford. I also learned about Senator Fulbright's great record in foreign policy issues as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In the late 70s or early 80s, a Ku Klux Klan leader was elected in a Democratic primary in San Diego because Democrats did not field a candidate in the primary. While the Klan leader's chance of winning the general election were very unlikely, his nomination was of concern to the California Democratic Party.

He came to the State Party Convention with his followers as his appointees. I was on the Credentials Committee. There was a vote to expel him and his "toughie" appointees. I asked how we could vote to exclude him. After all, we were a small "d" democratic organization. Our party chair pointed out that an organization can exclude anyone who does not follow its principles and the Democratic Party could exclude anyone who didn't follow its principles. That chair was Nancy Pelosi.

Now House Speaker Pelosi can make any committee chair appointments she wants to, and it may be that she will not appoint a member to a chairmanship if she believes that member is not voting the interests and ideology of the Democratic Party.

In my mind, being a Democrat means something; it represents my philosophy of life. Thomas Hill Green, the British philosopher, is said to be the one who gave voice to the ideas that created the British welfare state. In this country those ideas were put forth by John Dewey. Basically the old

liberal idea was that the barriers the government put up toward peoples' freedoms would be removed. What Green and Dewey proposed was there are barriers put up to keep people from achieving their full potential that have nothing to do with government. To create a free people, government must be used to remove those barriers. Civil rights laws would be an example. Free public schools another.

This is a vastly over simplified version of Green and Dewey. For someone who wishes to understand modern liberal philosophy and political ideas, I refer them to these two thinkers.

Which gives the background to what I wish to say about a Democratic Club. The purpose of a Democratic Club is to elect Democrats to office and to pursue our goals. It is not the "Good Government League," "Common Cause," or "The League of Women Voters." It is fair to ask our chosen candidates to adhere to our platform and support our party. It is also fair to ask them what they have done for the party in the past. Finally it should be fair to withhold support if the candidates have disavowed Democratic candidates in the past.

Is there room for debate within the party? There certainly is. There are those of us who have chosen not to support one candidate over the other in a primary. I supported Adlai Stevenson over John Kennedy in 1960. Once Kennedy had the nomination, I was an enthusiastic supporter. There have been times where I have resented the heavy hand of party leaders in the nominating process. But not once have I actively worked against a Democratic candidate and endorsed one from another party. I may have considered it but once in the voting booth, I couldn't do it. Oh how I hate it when I hear a Democrat say he/she voted for Arnold.

The price of admission, I think, is loyalty.

Debate?

James McGreevy—310-320-1638

James McGreevy—310-320-1638

James McGreevy—310-320-1638

James McGreevy—310-546-7562

James McGreevy—310-546-7562

James McGreevy—310-546-7562

James McGreevy—310-646-7562

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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 in	ntending to register	, may join the club.	
Address				
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Phone (Home)	(Other)			
Email				
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□ 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:

 \Box Telephone \Box Help with Mailing \Box Hospitality \Box Write for Newsletter

 \square Register Voters \square Programs \square Legislative \square Membership \square 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.