

President
Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890
Vice-President
Bob Bohner—310-546-4382
Treasurer
Shirlee Browne—310-798-0908
Newsletter
Moiria Zucker—310-546-7562
Mailing
Marge Winston—310-372-8026
Web Manager
James McGreevy—310-320-1638
Membership
Bob Barnwell—310-371-3143

(President, continued from page 2)
it will prevent fires, but new studies show that undergrowth is thickest and fire danger greatest in areas that have been logged.

And now the problem that hits closest to home, drilling for oil off our coast. We are all so blessed to live in the "Beach Cities." Do we want oil derricks sitting off our shores like our neighbors to the north in Santa Barbara and those to the south in Long Beach and Huntington Beach? It could happen. They are working to renew oil leases right now.

Which brings me back to Iraq.

If war happens, no one can say how it will effect oil shipments. Here in California we get 8% of our total supply from there, and inventories are at a 27 year low. This would be just the "national emergency" needed to demand immediate drilling.

We must continue to let our government know that we oppose war without the backing of the United Nations and our friends and allies. By the time

this comes out, there will have been the second worldwide protest to stop a war. Did you stand up to be counted? Opposition to bad policy is very patriotic. And, war is bad for people and our precious planet.

Bobbi Buescher

(Monroe, continued from page 3)
the Alabama National Guard, but no one can confirm that he served. In 1973 the Air National Guard relieved him from his commitment 8 months early & it allowed him to enter Harvard Business School (for his MBA). Sounds like a very, very untypical American success story! Never happened to anyone I know! And now, he rejects affirmative action for Universities!!!

Dubya has grand plans, and to look ahead I see:

- a. A progressive tax system (class warfare)
- b. Replacement of government entitlements (let us pray)

- c. String out a very low safety net for the poor (no affirmative action)
- d. Efficient & accountable government, like a well-run corporation (Enron ???)
- e. Protect private property & enterprise (S.E.C. fiasco)
- f. Global common market fed by USA productivity (World Com)
- g. An American rampart...respect us, rather than love us (Coca Cola)

Some years ago, the poet-humorist Ogden Nash wrote this poem:

Whether elected or appointed
He considers himself the Lord's
anointed.
And indeed the ointment lingers on
him
So thick you can't get your fingers on
him....

Monroe Weinstock

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 7:30 PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

Our speaker will be Asad Farhad. Mr. Farhad is an Afghan who has been living in the U.S. for many years, but still has ties to Afghanistan and is up to date on events there.

He will give us a broad overview and an assessment of American policies in Afghanistan since the Eisenhower administration. He hopes to show how events unfolded and how we got to where we are today.

He was quoted in the *Orange County Register* last year for predicting what is happening today in Afghanistan. He will also offer a prediction

Peace Song for the Millenium

Plenty of welcome humor is circulating around the web these days. The following is sung to the tune, "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands."

If you cannot find Osama, bomb Iraq.
If the markets are a drama, bomb Iraq.
If the terrorists are frisky,
Pakistan is looking shifty,
North Korea is too risky,
Bomb Iraq.

If we have no allies with us, bomb Iraq.
If we think someone has dissed us,
bomb Iraq.
So to hell with the inspections,
Let's look tough for the elections,
Close your mind and take directions,
Bomb Iraq.

It's "pre-emptive non-aggression", bomb Iraq.
Let's prevent this mass destruction,

Giving Peace a Chance

As of press time, the peace movement was alive and well. Here are some of the protest messages carried at the San Francisco anti-war march in January, attended by tens of thousands of demonstrators. My cousin Joanna Dwyer was there and this is taken from her notes.

Don't Die Any People (sign held by a 4-year-old)

BUSH'S POLICIES
ENDANGERING AMERICA,
ENRAGING THE WORLD

Make Music, Not War

Dissent is Patriotic

How Many Lives Per Gallon?
No War On Iraq!

Small Carnivores for Peace

Dump Bush, Draft Al Gore

World War II Vet Says No to
WW III

(Continued on page 3)

We welcomed four new members at our January meeting: Irma Cohen, Marge Winston, Nelson Zager, and (not pictured) Nancy Martinez.

bomb Iraq.
They've got weapons we can't see,
And that's good enough for me
'Cos it's all the proof I need
Bomb Iraq.

If you never were elected, bomb Iraq.
If your mood is quite dejected, bomb Iraq.
If you think Saddam's gone mad,
With the weapons that he had,
(And he tried to kill your dad),
Bomb Iraq.

If your corporate fraud is growin', bomb

Jane Harman Opens New Offices

Reflecting her newly-configured 36th District, Congresswoman Jane Harman has opened two new offices. They are located at:

Municipal Building
544 North Avalon, Suite 307
Wilmington, CA 90744
310-549-8282

2321 Rosecrans, Suite 3270
El Segundo, CA 90245
310-643-3636



Iraq.
If your ties to it are showin', bomb Iraq.
If your politics are sleazy,
And hiding that ain't easy,
And your manhood's getting queasy,
Bomb Iraq.

Fall in line and follow orders, bomb Iraq.
For our might knows not our borders,
bomb Iraq.
Disagree? We'll call it treason,
Let's make war not love this season,
Even if we have no reason,
Bomb Iraq.

From the President's Pen

The administration pursues war on Iraq with a vengeance, and informs North Korea it has no problem with war on two fronts.

Yet, another devastating war progresses with little media attention: the war on the environment.

From the disdain W displayed early on by skipping the Kyoto Earth Summit to his latest "Healthy Forests Initiative," his administration has systematically rolled back regulations that protect our air, water, forests and other public lands.

Nationwide the toll has been great, but here in California with so much to plunder—ocean, mountains, desert and giant Sequoias— we are especially vulnerable.

In Sacramento, Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer says that defending our environmental protection laws against the administration's pro business policies has cost the state millions of dollars and threatened regulations governing everything from offshore oil drilling and toxic cleanup to forest management and air quality.

We cannot let this happen. Now is the time for each of us to take a stand against the onslaught of terrible decisions coming out of Washington.

As an example, after a decade of study by Forest Service scientists, the Sierra Nevada Framework was established. Now a proposal would allow commercial logging in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. It would also allow clear-cutting of up to two acres, and cutting of old growth trees up to 30 inches in diameter almost anywhere in the Sierra, not just where they meet civilization, as the Framework had established.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton says

(Continued on page 4)



January Recap

A Chance for Clean Campaigns

Voter turnout in our last election, at 49.3%, was the lowest in history, according to our January speaker Jim Clarke. Jim is the executive director of California Clean Money Campaign—in addition to serving as CDC president and working part-time for Congresswoman Diane Watson—and he's advocating for a realistic solution to campaign finance.

Voters are rightly discouraged; they don't think they have a real choice when voting; and in fact, most incumbents win. Diane Watson won 82% of the votes in her district with almost no campaigning. The only congressional district that was up for grabs in 2002 was Gary Condit's.

Running for office is more expensive than ever. Candidates spend 14 out of every 24 months raising money, leaving them with no time to address the concerns of their constituents.

The California Clean Money Campaign (www.californiacleanmoney.org) is working on an initiative called Clean Money, Clean Elections. Their four-part goal: To increase electoral competition and voter choice; to free candidates from the money chase and increase their time spent with voters; to achieve greater financial parity for candidates who lack special interest funding; and to reduce the influence of special interests in public policy decisions.

Here's how it works: a candidate collects signatures and \$5 donations. When he has gathered the requisite number of signatures, the candidate qualifies for public funds if he pledges not to spend time fund-raising or use his own money for campaigning.

Speaker Jim Clarke chats with club members Barbara Blum and Lee Fink after the meeting.

However, each candidate is allowed to spend on a limited number of mailings to state his position; to conduct a poll; and pay a campaign manager. If a candidate's opponent goes over a pre-established spending limit, CCMC will use public funds to make up the difference for up to three times the original amount raised by the clean money candidate.

The process already exists in five states: Maine, Arizona, Massachusetts, Vermont, and North Carolina (for judges only). Arizona, home state of campaign reform champion John McCain, has the first clean-money governor in history, Janet Napolitano. During the race, when George W. Bush came to the state to raise money for her opponent, Napolitano wasn't worried because she knew CMCE would match the Republican money dollar for dollar.

Although the Arizona initiative was voted in by only a slim margin, it has gained in popularity. Voter turnout is up, campaign spending is down, and more candidates stand in the elections.

Clean Money wants to float a similar initiative in California, but faced with the huge budget deficit, will probably defer their goal to 2008. If adopted,

(Continued on page 3)



(Clean Money, continued from page 2)
the initiative would cost about \$7.50 per voter per year.

As part of a drive to educate the public, CCMC took out a full page in the LA Times on January 9. Future plans include a hearing, possibly to feature the Arizona governor. Public discussion is underway, and support is running at about 58%.

Club News

We learned that Lori Geittmann has been in Torrance Memorial Hospital after undergoing open-heart surgery. She is recovering well and expected back soon. We send our best wishes.

Bob Bohner said his campaign for Manhattan Beach City Council is going well. He has been walking precincts and placing lawn signs. The club voted unanimously to donate \$250 to his campaign.

Bob Barnwell said we will again have a booth at the Riviera Village Fair in April. He wants to have more Democrats working in and around the booth to attract new members and promote our elected leaders.

Mustapha Sesay is the new chairman of the 53rd AD Committee. He reminded us that the committee meets on third Thursdays; the next meeting

(Peace, continued from page 1)

Dump Dubya, Not Bombs
Oil is Black, Blood is Red,
Hundreds of Thousands of Kids will be Dead
Today Iraq, Tomorrow the World,
Heil Bush!
You've Stopped the Economy,
Now Stop the War
"Just" Wars are Just Wars
Raiders Fans Against the War

will be at Carrow's Restaurant in Torrance.

The CDC Reunion and 50th anniversary celebration will be held April 25-27 in Fresno. BCDC members should consider becoming delegates; we are entitled to send four people and will ask for volunteers at the February meeting.

New Members

We welcomed four new members. Nancy Martinez lives in Manhattan Beach; she worked in President Clinton's campaign and wants to help get more Democrats in office. Nelson Zager, from Redondo Beach, was a city council candidate in the last election. Marge Winston and Irma Cohen both come from Redondo Beach and want to join their fellow Democratic activists in making a difference.

Volunteers Step Up

After a long search, the club has a new secretary, Barbara Blum. Already active with membership, Barbara has our sincere gratitude.

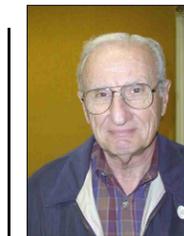
Also, one of our new members, Marge Winston, has volunteered to take over the newsletter mailing job. We thank Mary Lou Elsner for her many years of faithful service in this and other duties.

George Bush Couldn't Run
a Laundromat

King=Dream
Bush=Nightmare

Fox News Executives Against the War
Colin Powell, Condry Rice—21st
Century Uncle Toms for Colonialism
Healthcare, Not Warfare

Hard Hats and Hippies Against War
Not My President!
Not My War!



Monroe's Corner

I must begin with a low bow & a smart salute to the seven stellar astronauts who gave their lives

aboard the space shuttle. Since one of the crew members was a Jewish Israeli, someone suggested that it might be appropriate to light a seven candle Menorah in their memory. Seems proper & fitting to me, since they were attempting to expand man's horizons, without political motives.

I thought of focusing this article on our economic travail & the inequities in our tax structure, but we are in the midst of an internal corrosive REVOLUTION that is eating away at our democracy...and it ain't good! It is time for the spade called Dubya to be called a shovel (or worse)! After the State of the Union speech & the new budget proposals, we now can witness a remarkable piece of fiction. His plans are all smoke & mirrors & hokum! The budget plan guarantees deficits for years to come, with few apologies. In truth, we need homeland security, economic stimulation & protection against terrorism...but we also desperately need better & more health care for everyone, environment protection, continued stem-cell research, keeping church-state matters separated, and allowing women the right to choose (abortion).

And now a bit of history about my prime target, Dubya...In 1968 he enlisted in the Texas National Guard & pledged 2 years of active service plus 4 years reserve duty. After basic training he pulled inactive duty to become a campaign 'gopher.' Then he was reactivated & transferred to Georgia. In 1969 he was transferred to Houston & received his wings in 1970. He was also rejected by the Texas University Law School. In 1972 he transferred to

(Continued on page 4)