

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

May, 2005

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Program details were not available at press time but we will be announcing our proposed slate of new BCDC officers. Come and nominate someone, or volunteer for an office or a chairmanship.

We'll be looking for people to work in our booth at Fiesta Hermosa on May 28, 29, and 30, so mark your calendar and sign up.



Everyone enjoyed our inaugural fund raising dinner on May 7 at the Manhattan Beach home of Sander and Ranoo Shipper. Guests gathered in their spacious patio to enjoy a fabulous full-course Mexican dinner prepared by gourmet chef Shizue McNay. In addition to the bright lights and fiesta decorations—designed by our own fabulous Diane Strack—not one but two George W. Bush piñatas were strung up, inspiring long lines of contestants eager to take a whack. The celebration lasted into the evening and we netted over \$1,300 for the treasury.



Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President



The news that a bankruptcy judge has allowed United Airlines to shift their pension responsibilities to the government is chilling.

Loyal employees who have paid into their retirement accounts for 20 or 30 years are now being told "sorry." How do you suddenly make up for a lifetime of saving when your retirement is on the horizon?

No one is safe; we can no longer count on having the money we will need when our workdays are over. If you are counting on your pension plan or Social Security to help pay your retirement way, think again. For the past 20 years since "Reagan's Greed is Good" philosophy took hold, companies have stopped being good corporate citizens and adopted policies that have hurt the average working person.

Every time one huge corporation gobbles up another, the executives at the top rake in billions from their stock deals, while the workers who have made the company successful are axed. Most displaced workers find another job making less with fewer benefits. With more and more companies outsourcing both blue collar and white collar jobs overseas, our middle class is an endangered species.

This is the Republican way. This is their dream for America. Turn the clock back to the Gilded Age when there were no laws protecting workers. Only the law of the rich get richer.

This Republican Congress has systematically dismantled every worker benefit and protection passed by Democrats over the last half century.

They have passed bills against overtime pay, made it harder for individuals to file for personal bankruptcy, denied our government the right to negotiate

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April Recap

Security at the Port

When not helping her brother with his mayoral campaign, Councilwoman Janice Hahn has been hard at work on issues related to the Port of Los Angeles. Speaking at our April meeting, she laid out a compelling case for greater port security, claiming that over 12 million containers come into the port every year and only two percent of them are inspected.

Volume is projected to triple in fifteen years. Our port complex handles 42% of all trade coming into the country, but after 9/11, all homeland security dollars were directed to airport protection.

We got a taste of how crucial the port is to our economy during last year's labor dispute. During the 10-day shutdown, the US economy lost \$2 billion per day and our Asian trade partners are still feeling the effects.

Hahn said there is growing support at the grassroots level for homeland

security dollars to go to our ports. Senator Feinstein is backing legislation that would allocate funds based on the risk of terrorist attack rather than by the current formula, which has resulted in a disproportionate share going to states with little risk of terrorist attack.

In addition to the security threat, our ports generate 20% of the pollution in the South Bay region. Ships in dock do not turn off their engines and a single vessel burns seven tons of fuel per day. Hahn said her brother has worked with authorities to retrofit our docks so that ships can plug into the electricity grid, and pushed for the use of alternative fuels for port vehicles.

The LA ports operate only in peak periods, not around the clock as in Asia. This compounds traffic congestion and air pollution in the region and loses business to Mexico's Manzanillo. Hahn has twice testified on health issues at hearings held by Governor Schwarzenegger on air quality at the port. Starting in July, our port complex will have expanded hours of operation

Club Business

We were happy to learn that Ani Haigazian and James Lau have been named Democratic Woman and Man of the Year for the 53rd AD, to be honored at the annual FDR Awards dinner at the Hollywood Palladium in June. Lori Geitmann was elected to chair the Democratic Senior Caucus at the Convention.

Club elections will be held in June, and we will name the nominees at our May meeting. Any member who would like to run for office or chair a committee should contact Bobbi.

Ranoo, our tireless fund raising chair, announced the yard sale is coming soon and people should start bringing donated items to her house.

Bobbi reported that the LA County Committee has endorsed Antonio Villaraigosa for mayor. They

said Villaraigosa worked harder and got there first.

The 53rd AD Committee heard a speaker, Lawrence Zackson, on the constraints imposed by McCain-Feingold. The Party may dissolve the AD committees because they cannot raise money.

Dave Wiggins talked about his upcoming runoff race on May 17. He said his opponent, Mike Webb, should be held accountable for wasting money to prosecute misdemeanors instead of focusing on civil issues and open government..

Elected Officials

Linda Wolin reported that Mike Gordon is home from the hospital and recovering. He has been working on a bill to preserve the 310 area code from an overlay that would intermix it with a 424 area code.

and we should expect to see an improvement in air quality.

Asked about the Alameda Corridor, Hahn said we have eliminated 200 grade crossings, which will cut pollution from idling vehicles.

She ended with a pitch for Mayor Hahn, who she said has enacted bold initiatives to clean up the air in LA. After her council term expires, she said she may seek statewide office or possibly county supervisor.



Bobbi and Councilwoman Janice Hahn, with Cinco de Mayo decorations in the background

Assembly Bill 1380 would establish inventory guidelines for better management of the state's telephone numbering resources. The bill passed the Utilities and Commerce committees with bipartisan support.

Mike has also introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 12 to demonstrate that California is united in the effort to retain our military bases. The Los Angeles Air Force Base employs 110,000 people in California and makes an annual contribution of \$16 billion to the state's economy.

We heard from new Redondo Beach Councilmember Don Szerlip, who said the power plant is still the number one issue and that council meetings are running until 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning. Voters wanted a park on the property but the city has not come up with the \$350 million it would take to build it.

Useful Websites

Contacting the Congress is an up-to-date database of congressional contact information. It lists email addresses and website homepages for the 540 members of Congress. Post office addresses are also available on the site. Go to <http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/>.

As the **energy bill** makes its way to the Senate floor and the Bush administration promotes it as a cure-all for our dependence on foreign oil, opponents continue to point out many of the bill's false claims. One provision aggressively supported by Rep. Tom DeLay exempts the oil and gas industry from lawsuits over liability for water contamination caused by the gasoline additive, methyl-tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). Instead, the burden is shifted onto the American taxpayer. Go to <http://www.bushgreenwatch.org/>



Linda Wolin from Mike Gordon's office, with baby Adam stealing the show



Monroe's Corner

For many years I have been a member of a group called Americans for the Separation of Church

& State, which works actively to keep government & religion apart. This administration is taking the USA into a divisive quagmire of religious animosity. President Dubya has found his GOD, who speaks directly to him. I am less fortunate: I never hear from the Almighty, & certainly not from his lesser messengers, such as Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson. I have a strong concern about where the religious right is taking us!

Today, religion is intruding more & more into our daily existence. We are being asked to condone faith-based employment standards, jobs requiring adherence to a specific religion or code, taxes made available for houses of prayer, & tax dollars allocated to groups that control funds that cannot be received by all citizens. There are a large number of these situations. The Salvation Army requires that its employees must embrace Jesus Christ in order to keep their jobs. The Mormon Church does not allow the hiring of Blacks. The NAACP & the African Episcopal Church hire no Whites. The National Science Teachers Assn. is being pressured to teach Creationism (Intelligent Design). Pharmacists can & do refuse to fill legal prescriptions for birth control or morning-after pills if they disagree with the concept. In a small community in Pennsylvania, there is an organization called the Firm Foundation that controls vocational training for prison inmates & requires that only Christians may participate.

And we now have Sleazy Tom DeLay proposing legislation that would undermine the Church State separation.

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“We look forward to analyzing and working with legislation that will make it would hope—put a free press’s mind at ease that you’re not being denied information you shouldn’t see.”—George W. Bush, Washington, D.C., 4/14/05

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Democratic Club Beach Cities



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for drugs, given huge tax cuts to the richest 1% and on and on.

With the dollar at an all time low, gas at an all time high, the deficit in the trillions, the war costing billions a day with no end in sight, when are the American people going to wake up?

I wonder how many of United’s 121,500 employees voted for Bush and his corporate agenda? Do you think they would have voted differently had they understood? I doubt it. I know from personal experience, having been down this greedy road before, that people do not connect the dots. I am appalled to report that after being locked out of their jobs for over two years in the 80’s, taking pay cuts of over 50%, and finally losing our entire company, about ½ of my former flight attendant friends favored the Republicans because of cultural values. DUH!!

When are these good people going to get it? It IS a cultural value to make a living wage.

We have to give it to Rove. All those people who are afraid of gays, of

terrorists, of science, don’t seem to be afraid of losing their jobs, their health care or their Social Security, the things that really affect their families.

This administration, like the corporate elites it bows to, does not believe in accountability. Every bad policy decision coming out of Washington has been rewarded.

Former oil executive Glenn Tilton, at the helm of United since 2002, will not lose his multimillion dollar pension for bilking billions in concessions out of the beleaguered work force.

I feel so bad for all those workers and for the employees of Enron and Global Crossing, because I know it will not end here. It will not end until the American workers Just Say No. No, I don’t want to work at WalMart for less than minimum wage. No, I don’t want to pay top dollar for the drugs I need. No, I refuse to be conned any longer.

If the middle class is going to survive, they have to stop voting for policies and politicians who don’t want a middle class.

Bobbi Buescher

(Monroe, continued from page 3)

There is a move to display the Ten Commandments in prominent public places. Do we use the original Aramaic language or which of many English translations? Must non-believers avert their eyes when passing such a monument? Should we also post the 5 Pillars of Islam, the 4 Noble Truths of Buddhism, the Affirmation of Humanism, or all the above? Is the Sabbath actually the Hebrew Saturday or Moslem Friday or Christian Sunday? And the pledge of allegiance includes “one nation under GOD.” I like Robin Williams’s geographic directional idea, “one nation under Canada.”

The gravest danger is that one nation under GOD will easily become one GOD under a nation. It is a steep slippery slope that can only lead to disaster & devastation. Let us calm down & go about our personal religious beliefs without intruding or imposing the same blanket on everyone.

Amen to that!!!!

Monroe Weinstock