

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

September, 2005

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Protecting Choice

Anne Smith from Planned Parenthood Los Angeles will be talking about Proposition 73 (the "Endanger our Daughters Amendment"). Anne is a local Democratic activist. We will also be discussing endorsements for the local elections.

Help for Katrina Victims

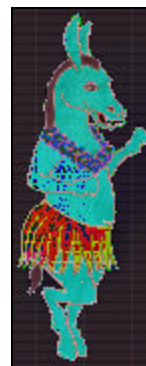
Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath have reminded us that we face challenges close to home. In 2001, FEMA indicated that the three most pressing disaster possibilities were a terrorist attack in New York City, a hurricane in New Orleans, and a major earthquake on the San Andreas fault.

As Democrats, we believe that government must take the lead in planning and preparing for national disasters (manmade and natural). We understand the importance of the federal role, and we believe that leaders who fail their obligations must be held accountable for their failures.

But more importantly, we believe that the first priority is in helping the survivors. BCDC collected over \$500 in contributions while tabling at Fiesta Hermosa which we've donated to the American Red Cross (through the efforts of Barbara Blum, Diane Strack, Edna Murphy, and many others). But there is more that we can do.

There are a number of events going on in the Beach Cities in the coming days, and many ways you can help. I encourage you to help in any way you can.

Lee Fink



Island Luau

Go Native the Gourmet Way!

Join us for our last evening fundraiser of the year.

Saturday, September 24
5:00 PM
1314 8th Street
Manhattan Beach

Hostess: Donna Scholtz
Gourmet Chefs: Sander & Ranoo Shipper, Sally Boyle, and Jane Affonso

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



Camp Casey Journal—Members perused photos taken by Barbara Farren during her visit to meet Cindy Sheehan.

The Times They Are A-Changin'

BY STEVE ZUCKER

Here, from pollingreports.com, are the results of two recent polls and two polls taken shortly after the beginning of the Iraq War. All have a $\pm 3\%$ margin of error. Though Bush certainly won't be impeached, he and his agenda are much weakened.

ABC News/Washington Post Poll: "Do you approve of the way Bush is handing the situation in Iraq?"

9/8-11/2005

Approve	38%
Disapprove	62%
Unsure	1%

4/27-30/2003

Approve	75%
Disapprove	22%
Unsure	2%

CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll: "In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you

think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, or not?"

9/8-11/2005

A Mistake	53%
Not a Mistake	46%
Unsure	1%

4/27-30/2003

A Mistake	23%
Not a Mistake	75%
Unsure	2%

Ted Lieu Sweeps to Victory

Torrance City Councilman Ted Lieu crushed all three Republican opponents and one Peace and Freedom candidate in Tuesday's primary, avoiding a November runoff election to replace the late Mike Gordon. Lieu captured 59.9 percent of the vote -- three times his closest challenger.

Congratulations, Ted!

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

The Best Way to Avoid a Disaster—Vote Democrat!



Ronald Reagan famously declared that “government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem.” A quarter of a century later, that mantra has become the central tenet of the Republican party. But I am pretty sure that the people of New Orleans would say that Hurricane Katrina was the problem, and the government should have been the solution.

The federal government failed the people of the Gulf Coast this month. The failure was so spectacular that George W. Bush was forced to publicly take responsibility for it—something he has never done despite the numerous disasters for which he has been responsible. But it begs the question of what is he taking responsibility for. The failure in responding to Hurricane Katrina was not just a result of Bush picking partisan cronies who were unqualified to do their jobs (although he did and they were), but because the worldview of the Republicans who are running the country now is entirely antithetical to government.

Bush clearly believes that the

government is the problem. And if the government does not matter, then there is no problem in placing a disgraced former horse judge in charge of FEMA. There is no problem making a marginally successful CEO the head of the Treasury Department, making your press secretary’s brother the head of the FDA, or making your personal lawyer the top enforcer of criminal and civil rights laws, and on and on. If it looks like no one in the Bush administration is qualified to do their jobs, it’s because Bush does not take those jobs seriously.

As Democrats, we have a different view. Government is far from perfect—just ask anyone at the DMV. But so is the private sector—just ask anyone who owned stock in Enron or WorldCom. But government matters—whether it is social security, education, police, or national disaster relief—and we want qualified people doing those jobs when the day comes that we need them.

In the next few years, we can make replacements at the top, so that the culture of cronyism is replaced by a true sense of public service. But this fall we have local elections, and our local elections committee has recommended a number of people who understand the important tasks they will face as leaders. I hope you come and support them.

Lee Fink

August Recap

The Republican “Reform Agenda”

Our speakers this month were veteran teachers Carol Matthews and Jeff Goode from the California Teachers Association. They spoke about three ballot propositions dubbed the Governor’s Anti-Teacher Initiatives and designed to destroy public education in favor of voucher schools.

Bad Propositions

The first, Prop 74—the Punishment of Teachers Act—would delay a teachers’ due process rights by three years. Teachers currently receive “permanent status” (not tenure) on the first day of their third year in a district. The initiative would push that back to the sixth year. Permanent status simply protects teachers from being fired indiscriminately. Under prop 74, they would be much more vulnerable to punitive evaluations.

Goode and Matthews said that teachers need good job protection because their jobs can be highly politicized and because there needs to be an incentive to keep good people in such a low-paid profession. The average length of a teaching career in California is five years.

Prop 75, the “Paycheck Deception Initiative,” is seen as an attempt to silence the voices of public employees. As we heard last month, union members already have the ability to prevent their union dues from going to a cause they don’t support. Backed by big business, this law would require unions to obtain written permission every time they seek to use pension funds politically. Goode compared this to a corporation’s being forced to seek approval from all of its shareholders every time it invested money.

Prop 76, the “Imperial Governor’s Initiative,” is also called the “Living Within our Means Act.” It amounts to a unilateral suspension of Prop 98,



Left, Redondo Beach School Board members Todd Loewenstein and Drew Gamet. Right, teachers Carol Matthews and Jeff Goode.

enacted in 1988, which gave California a minimum funding level for K-12 education and community colleges. California lags behind the nation as a whole in per-pupil spending, teacher-pupil ratios, and education spending as a percentage of personal income. With the fourth largest economy in the *world*, it's hard to see how Californians would justify further educational cuts.

Next we heard from Barbara Farren, a club member who recently returned from Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas. Farren traveled there with her children and her father and was able to speak with Cindy Sheehan. They visited just before the camp moved closer to Bush's ranch and just before Sheehan was called away to attend her ailing mother. The gathering was peaceful and well-

organized in spite of some harassment from neighbors. The vandalized wooden crosses had all been replaced alongside hundreds of red roses sent by a sympathetic donor.



Barbara Ferran

Drew Gamet and Todd Loewenstein, both on the Redondo Beach School Board, reported on recent developments including a state-mandated Wellness program, a program to counteract bullying, and a plan to install broadband.

A more serious issue is the low percentage of graduates—30%—enrolling in four-year colleges. The low number may be due to higher tuition costs, but the district wants to raise it to 50%.

They mentioned that some recall petitions are in the air, as well as a flap over the departed superintendent. They didn't think the recalls would go forward and said the superintendent resigned voluntarily.

Monroe's Corner

Some people collect stamps or coins or money or trivia. I collect quotations. As the show tune goes, "thou witty, thou swell..." I have a few that I think are particularly witty, swell, & worth repeating.



A President lying about an extra marital affair is an impeachable offense, but a President lying to enlist support for a war that has killed thousands is solid defense policy...Being a drug addict is a moral failing & a crime. If you are a conservative radio commentator, then it is an illness that needs our prayer for recovery...Global warming & tobacco's link to cancer are both junk science, but we should teach Creationism or Intelligent Design in our schools...Providing healthcare to all Iraqis is sound policy, but to do the same in the USA is Socialism...A woman cannot be trusted with decisions about her own body, but multinational corporations can decide things for all humankind without regulation...Jesus loves you & shares your hatred for homosexuals & Hillary Clinton...Trade with Cuba is wrong because the country is Communist, but trade with China & Vietnam is vital to the spirit of international harmony...Every ten years or so the USA needs to pick a

small crappy country & throw it against the wall, just to show the world that we mean business...Either you are with us or with the terrorists (thus spake Dubya)...

Dick Cheney said in June, "There clearly was a relationship. It's been testified to. The evidence is overwhelming. In October, he also said, "I have not suggested there's a connection between Iraq & 9/11...An English newspaper wrote, "The war is unnatural, unconstitutional, unnecessary unjust, dangerous, hazardous, and unprofitable" referring to another George in 1775...lawmakers often pass bills they had not read, may not even have realized how they systematically undermine the economic welfare of most Americans...Repealing the Estate Tax is the "equivalent in economic terms of choosing the Olympic team by picking the eldest son of the gold medal winners in the 2000 Olympics (quoting Warren Buffet)..."

Much has been said about "Katrina" & the flooding in New Orleans. The most striking quote to me was made by Barbara Bush. Speaking at the Houston Astrodome to thousands of "refugees", she said, "They were underprivileged anyway, so this...is working well for them." It is too bad she didn't quote Marie Antoinette who said, "Let them eat cake."

Monroe Weinstock

Club Business

Lee announced our new policy that candidates seeking endorsement must first go through our elections committee. Chairman Ray Waters reported on upcoming contests: three school board seats in Manhattan Beach and three in Torrance, and three city council seats in Hermosa Beach.

The committee works out of an office located on Rosecrans twice a week at 6PM. Members interested in attending should contact Ray at rlwaters35@aol.com or call 354-4744.

Lori is working with Alliance for a Better California and wants to build a field operation for precinct walking.

Lee asked for phone tree volunteers to contact our many members who have not renewed.

Ranoo announced that the garage sale netted \$370.00 and reminded us to come to the Luau on September 24.

There followed a discussion of the 53rd AD vacancy. Many people objected to the Party's endorsement of one candidate over another.

Barbara Blum—310-540-6346
 Membership
 James McGreevy—310-320-1638
 Web Manager
 Tammy Minion—310-406-8057
 Mailing
 Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
 Database
 Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
 Newsletter
 Ami Hagazian—310-798-7903
 Secretary
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
 Treasurer
 Tony Hale—310-406-8057
 Vice-President
 Lee Fink—310-370-3020
 President
 P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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) _____ (Work) _____

Email _____

? Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box only if you do not wish to receive your newsletter by 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.