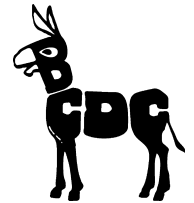


# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

November, 2005

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 22, 7:30PM  
David K. Hayward Center  
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

“Putting the 2005 Election in Perspective – An Academic View”

Our November speaker will be Seth Hill. Mr. Hill is a graduate student in Political Science at University of California at Los Angeles with a focus on American politics. He has worked for the polling firm Polimetrix.

He will put some features of the 2005 Special Election in perspective and offer insight into where the Democratic Party should be going as it works to take back the governor's mansion and the White House.

## Save the Date

Our annual holiday party is targeted for December 4 and will be held at Ray Waters's home. We're planning to hold the price of admission at last year's rate of \$35 per person, although this will not quite cover the cost.

We'll also hold our traditional White Donkey auction, so save your valuable giveaways! It'll help defray costs and feed our treasury for next year's election.

Watch your mail for an invitation.

## Dues Alert

Many, many BCDC members are still overdue with their 2005-06 dues. Please stay with the club and make your payment today, or at the November meeting. It's our year!

## October Program Recap

### What Fundamentalists Want

Our October speaker was Reverend John Morehouse, minister of the Pacific Unitarian Church in Palos Verdes. Reverend Morehouse comes from an activist background and said he once bailed his father out of jail for civil disobedience.

Morehouse said that religious fundamentalism is a problem all over the world. He referred to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century atheist Robert Ingersoll, who famously remarked that God retired from politics after the Declaration of Independence was signed. But now, Morehouse said, God has taken a front seat.

His talk focused on the hallmarks of Christian fundamentalism. The religious right and the fundamentalists are not the same, although their agendas may overlap. All members of the religious right are fundamentalists, but not all evangelicals have a rightwing political agenda. The Reverend Jim Wallace is an example of a progressive evangelical, liberal on social issues but conservative on abortion.

Fundamentalism arose as a response to secularism, which is viewed as a threat to the Christian way of life. Fundamentalists believe that humanity is going the way of the devil and want to return America to its “Christian foundations.” Thus the founding five years ago of Patrick Henry College in Virginia, whose mission is to train a new generation of Christian politicians.

Fundamentalists believe that what's at stake is not just political power but salvation itself. Their goal is to save as many souls as possible before the end of days. Their priorities are focused not in this world but in the next. Tradi-

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## From the Editor

BCDC does not publish a December issue, so this is it for 2005. You'll be receiving an invitation to our holiday party and the usual emails if you're on that list.

This is my opportunity to thank my contributors: Lee Fink for his great column, Monroe Weinstock for *his* great column, Steve Zucker for the occasional great article and of course the mailing labels. Jim McGreevy for his constant help and for putting up our newsletter on the website. Diane Strack has provided pleasing graphic artwork, a new and most welcome addition. Tammy Minion and Tony Hale handle the monthly mailing, a very big task these days. It continues to be a pleasure to work with all of you.

I want to make sure everybody knows this is your newsletter, not mine. I encourage you to send me articles, letters, and commentary, and space permitting, I'll print them. Space usually permits. It will make BCDC a more interesting and useful newsletter if you contribute.

I wish all of you a cheery holiday. There's an election year coming up; let's stick together.

*Maira Zucker*



*Lori Geittman with October speaker  
Reverend John Morehouse.*

## From the President

### A New Beginning

A tumultuous year is ending on a very high note for Democrats. We defeated all of Arnold's initiatives, showing him that he will be the "One Term-inator." To add to that excitement, our club endorsed seven different candidates for local office, and six of them—Michael Keegan, Howard Fishman, Linda Beck, Lance Widman, Robin Funk, and Ray Gen won. And while Jeff Duclos came up just short—finishing as the highest vote-getter to not take office—he is now the clear front-runner for the Hermosa Beach City Council in 2007. We can take pride in the fact that in neighboring Torrance, Al Mursastuchi was elected to the School Board and Democrats nationally captured the governor's mansions in Blue New Jersey and future Blue state Virginia. With Democratic victories and the American people now seeing through the façade of the Bush Administration, it is a good time to be a Democrat.

It has been a tough twelve months for Democrats since last year's presidential election. It has been particularly difficult for us in the South Bay, with the loss of our assemblyman and a bitter internal fight over his replacement. But this month's elections show what Democrats can do. But we must be united in 2006 to do the big things that we need to do, including electing a Democratic Governor and all state-wide officers, winning back the House and the Senate, and laying the groundwork to elect a Democratic President in 2008.

As Democrats, we will always have differences and we will always have the opportunity to air those differences. But it is our common concerns—opportunity for all, advocates for



### Club Business Recap

President Lee Fink opened our October meeting with a minute of silence in honor of the deaths of civil rights icon Rosa Parks, Councilman Ed Roybal, and the 2,000 American soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq to date. Lee reminded us that Mrs. Parks changed our country by refusing to give up her seat on the bus, and that Mr. Roybal was the first Latino city councilman in Los Angeles since the 1880s.

Some peace vigils were announced that were to take place the following evening, including in San Pedro and at the Manhattan Beach pier.

Ray Waters announced a series of meetings and workshops by the South Bay Energy Savings Center, a coalition of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, So Cal Edison, and the Gas Company. SBE\$C provides help on how to conserve energy and will be holding a workshop on November 17 on the new California energy standards, Title 24.

It was reported that we have about \$2,600 in the treasury following a post-card mailing to Hermosa Beach Democrats on our endorsements.

We discussed the election and the fact that we didn't hear from or endorse any candidates in Manhattan Beach. Edna Murphy said that three Democrats are running for City Council: Ida VanderPoorte, Scott Fournier, and Betsy Rubino.

George Nakano said how important it is for people in office to get more Democrats to run for local races. He said that Assembly officeholders come from the pool of city council and school board members. We should look ahead to the 2008 and 2010 elections because that's when many of our Democratic officers will be termed out.

Jim Aldinger reported that the Manhattan Beach Police and Fire facilities have fallen behind schedule and the council is trying to decide what to do to get it back on track.

### EDITORIAL

### The Door is Open

Our moment has finally arrived.

In the *LA Weekly* (10/14/2005), columnist Marc Cooper described the mood in Congress right after the House passed a controversial giveaway package to the oil companies and voted to lift environmental regulations: There was "an unprecedented breakdown of decorum in the House. Democrats shouted out 'Shame! Shame! Shame!' as the votes were tallied. It takes a lot to get the Democrats to show such passion. Maybe we're finally getting there.

"Even they can sense that the once-mighty Bush administration has already collapsed. The future of this White House has already been foreclosed. All that's missing are the closing ceremonies and the signing of receipts."

And this from a CNN poll released on October 25:

"... a majority of those questioned felt the Democrats could do a better job than Republicans at handling health care (59 percent to 30 percent), Social Security (56 percent to 33 percent), gasoline prices (51 percent to 31 percent) and the economy (50 percent to 38 percent)."

How much better could it get? Isn't this the moment we've all been hoping for—when the appalling Bush Administration finally gets its comeuppance and starts to collapse under the sheer weight of its own incompetence and venality?

Well, apparently not if you're a Democrat. What does our Party do with this golden moment?

We tragically lose a gifted Assemblyman just into his first term, and two Democrats step up to run for his vacated seat. The Party leaders endorse the one they think is most likely to

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hold the seat from the Republicans. Then, there's only one thing for good Democrats to do about this.

Devour each other!

Never have I seen such an outpouring of rudeness as that which followed this event. It seemed the fight was taking place in every forum, in every club meeting, and at all levels of the State party committee. Everyone involved was thoroughly assailed and vilified, including both of the candidates and even our excellent Senator Debra Bowen. Even the party itself! I heard fellow club members say they weren't going to vote for the Democrat on the ballot.

Here are two examples of the upshot so far: Good and energetic new club members, who were busy at work organizing successful money-raising events for the club, have seen fit to pull away and look for more agreeable recipients of their efforts and enthusiasm. The club meeting room, which has boasted virtually standing-room-only, was nearly empty at our September meeting; most of the attendees were the speakers. The quarrelling and recriminations leave a bitter taste.

2006 is just around the corner, and there's a presidential contest coming up in 2008. Even though Bush can't run again, you can bet there's going to be a genuine contest. Could the stakes be any higher?

The Republicans learn from their mistakes and they know how to keep their ranks from destroying each other. Not the Democrats. We have to stand on principle and make those Party leaders pay some respect to the grass-roots, even if that means nobody raises money, comes to meetings, or votes.

I just want to know how we're going to win an election, any election, with this strategy.

*Moirra Zucker*

## Monroe's Corner

This newsletter is a wrap for 2005, since there is no publication in December. Or might I call this a "rap" against the bad guys in DC & Sacramento!



I usually keep my details compartmentalized, so that I can poke fingers at specifics. Here is what I have over-all for 2005 so far...

**Judiciary**...Say what you will but 94 out of 162 judges sitting in the US Courts of Appeals were chosen by Republican Presidents. If that ain't enough, what is? **Health Care**...What could be simpler than a simple single-payer universal system? This has been proven time & again in many countries world-wide. In the USA we have yet to even discuss the subject! **Stem Cell Research**...Frowned on by Dubya because it might destroy fetus' life & possibly lead to a eugenic world. But it might cure much that is seriously needed & as my Rabbi has said, "GOD gave man intelligence to be able to create things." **Church-State**...Dubya still thinks the jury is still out on evolution. But if man was actually created in God's image, then does God also have my lower back problems? **Media**...The vast majority of the DC press is beholden & embedded with

the administration. It prevents them printing the truth & exposing the real skunk who "outed" agent Valerie Plame. **PRIVACY**...Patriot Act II can & does intrude on much that is private & serves no security purpose whatsoever. Fact is, the terrorists win this one! **Environment**...Instead of using non-polluting fuels, Dubya plans to open the pristine Alaskan fields to dig for more contamination. **Economy**...The current tax structure & the new Bankruptcy law combine to bury the middle classes deeper in the pit of poverty & despair. **Arnold in California**...This "barbarian" never was any good & the public gave his four propositions a resounding NO. He must know now that it takes more than script writers to be Governor for "all the people."

Last but in a spot all his own is **Dubya**...whose recent trip to South America was a complete bust; his reactions to Katrina in Louisiana were disastrous; his Social Security revision was a non-starter; his War on Iraq is faltering & a monstrous failure; his Homeland Security Dept. is a fiasco; his immigration reform plans are unacceptable; his deficit budget will weigh heavily on generations to come; & his cronyism & incompetence is self-evident.

I hope we & the world can survive the next 3 years of this administration!

*Monroe Weinstock*

### Which Party Do You Trust to Handle...

	Dem	Rep
Economy	56%	34%
Social Security	56	29
Education	55	32
Health Care	54	29
Taxes	48	38
Iraq	48	37
Federal Budget	48	34
Gas Prices	47	26
Terrorism	42	42
Ethics	42	36

### Party Attributes

Which party ...	Dem	Rep
Is more open to ideas of people like you	60	24
Is more concerned with needs of people like you	56	33
Better represents your values	50	40
Has stronger leaders	35	51

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

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Beach Cities  
 Democratic Club



*(President, continued from page 2)*  
 working men and women, and an America respected around the world—that unite us. Between the Arnold propaganda machine and the Bush Administration, we have plenty of fights to take on. So let this election be a new beginning, allowing us to put aside (if not forgetting) our differences, because we know they pale in comparison to the differences we have with our opponents on the other side of the aisle. As good as this election night was, working together, we can make election night 2006 even better.

In that spirit, I hope you will all join me at our annual Holiday Party. We will have the traditional turkey dinner and all the fixin's, our white donkey auction, and a lot of fun. It is Sunday, December 4, at 5 PM, at Ray Waters home at 615 24<sup>th</sup> Place in Hermosa Beach.

Lee Fink



*(Fundamentalism, continued from page 1)*  
 tional Christian charity and the social safety net are not high on the list.

Morehouse referred to George Lakoff's book, "Moral Politics," which describes the contrast between the compassionate Democratic world view, which seeks to take care of people, and the Republicans' "stern parent" model that insists on strength and self reliance. The latter view promotes moral authority and a strong defense over fiscal responsibility. The Constitution is seen as a flawed document because it doesn't invoke the Higher Authority.

Morehouse said Democrats urgently need to recapture the moral values argument, partly by couching their principles in religious language using words like "redemption," and keeping the ideas simple. John Kerry's campaign taught us that complexity doesn't sell. We should seek to build coalitions with mainstream religious organizations and engage in the language of moral politics.

**Protect our Unions**

Check out the "Stop Albertsons Now" website put up by the United Food & Commercial Workers Union: [stopalbertsonsnow.com/](http://stopalbertsonsnow.com/).

Here's part of what the website says: "Do you remember the grocery strike? Five months long and an inconvenience to millions. But the workers won because you stood by us. Thank you.

Now Albertsons is selling your local store to non-union Bristol Farms, owned by Albertsons! So why would they do that? Albertsons plans to fire the Union employees at this store and replace them with low paid workers who won't get Union pensions or Union healthcare. And Albertsons is hoping that you aren't smart enough to notice.

"Don't let them get away with it."

It sounds like we need legislation to prevent unionized companies from "selling" themselves to their non-union subsidiaries!

Jim McGreevy