

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

February, 2006

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

The program will include issues in the upcoming June primary, and hunting safety tips from Dick Cheney. Please plan to attend!

South Bay Democratic Candidates' Forum

Sunday, April 23, 2006
1-4 PM

UFCW Local 770 Hall
25949 Belleporte Avenue
Harbor City

All Statewide Democratic
Candidates Have Been Invited!

Confirmed Speakers include:

Sen. Liz Figueroa, candidate for Lt.
Governor

LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo,
candidate for Attorney General

Sponsored by the Beach Cities,
Gardena Valley, Lawndale, LAX
Area, Lomita-Harbor City, Palos
Verdes, Progressive, San Pedro, and
West LA Democratic Clubs

Renew!

If you have not renewed your membership in the Beach Cities Democratic Club, now is your last chance. After February, if you have not paid your dues, you will not be considered a member in good standing, and your club privileges and newsletter will be discontinued. Please renew your membership. It's your fight too!

January Meeting Recap

After welcoming us to the first meeting of 2006, President Lee held a special election to replace departing Vice-President Tony Hale. Fortunately, Ray Waters has volunteered to serve. Ray was elected by acclamation.

The pre-endorsement caucus will be held April 1 in Harbor City. Based on our 833 membership count, BCDC is entitled to 40+ delegates. Those interested in serving should notify Lee.

Lee gave an update on the upcoming candidates' forum to be sponsored by several south bay Democratic clubs including BCDC. The consortium's goal is to present statewide candidates a week ahead of the Convention. The membership voted to contribute \$250 for seed money. Anyone wanting to help should contact Lee.

George Nakano spoke next in order to address a number of rumors that made the rounds during the special election for Mike Gordon's assembly seat. Nakano stood accused of exerting



*Our new vice-president
Ray Waters*

improper influence in the contest between Ted Lieu and Jim Aldinger. He stated emphatically that the rumors were completely baseless.

Nakano said that during World War II, he and thousands of other people were confined to internment camps as victims of allegations that proved to be completely false and he stressed how personally important it is to get the truth out and clear the air. His speech was followed by a round of applause.

Jim Aldinger then spoke about the undergrounding controversy in Manhattan Beach. A citizens commit-

tee has been formed to address the issues of homeowners who oppose the undergrounding and/or cannot afford to pay for it.

Regarding the recent sewage spill, Aldinger said that the city is still trying to learn what caused the systems to fail.

Lee announced that Linda Wolin will step down from her seat on the Hermosa Beach School Board because her family is relocating to Northern California.

Support the Troops! Send them to Congress

Check out **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America PAC** (iavapac.org). This is the start of a political movement to empower the people who pay the price for bad decisions in Washington: our combat veterans.

With General Wesley Clark on the board of advisors, IAVA PAC's mission is to promote veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan wars who are running for

Congress this year.

The launch of IAVA PAC brings the promise of real change, because the candidates they support have innovative solutions for war issues that can only come with combat experience in the current conflicts.

Let's put an end to warmongering by the chickenhawks.



Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

Ready. Shoot. Aim.

Harry Whittington became the latest victim of the Gang Who Can't Shoot Straight last week, becoming the first person since Alexander Hamilton to be shot by a sitting Vice President.

Dick Cheney's hunting "accident" became great fodder for the late-night comedians. David Letterman declared that "we have finally located weapons of mass destruction ... It's Dick Cheney." Jay Leno claimed that after the shooting, Cheney yelled out, "anyone else want to call domestic wire tapping illegal?" And on the *Daily Show*, "Vice Presidential Firearms Mishap Analyst" Rob Corrdry deadpanned that "in a post-9-11 world, the American people expect their leaders to be decisive. To not have shot his friend in the face would have sent a message to the quail that America is weak."

As the saying goes, it's funny, but only because it's true.

Jon Stewart, who was visibly giddy, noted that it was "easy to make fun of an incident like this. Very easy." The late-night hosts and other jokesters could easily point out the irony that Dick Cheney could accidentally shoot a man, but George W. Bush could not



capture Osama bin Laden, the only 6'4" Arab man on dialysis in Afghanistan. It was easy to joke that Cheney's mishap was secretly retribution for questioning the unabashedly illegal wire-tapping program that the administration has brazenly continued. And of course, the idea that this was OK because 9-11 had "changed everything" was just like the excuse they have given for every other foolish, poorly-planned, poorly-executed, fraudulent, or outright illegal action that this administration has done in the last 4 1/2 years. It turns out, that the joke is on us.

An old saying says that life repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as comedy. Here, the shooting mishap is a perfect comic repeat of this administration's failures. A blatant mistake resulting from careless machismo, an effort to hide the information from the public until Karl Rove could sweep in and provide a PR strategy which, inevitably, blamed the man who was shot in the face rather than the VP with the shotgun. And then, after furiously spinning, and despite being discredited by nearly every expert, they try to change the subject.

From the Iraq War, to the record budget deficits, to the Medicare Drug Debacle, to the response to Katrina, the Gang Who Can't Shoot Straight has had the same philosophy. Ready. Shoot. Aim.

Lee Fink

Support Clean Money

Tony Hale spoke to the club on the Clean Money Campaign. He opened by thanking Senator Bowen for sponsoring AB 583, the Clean Money and Fair Elections Act. Clean Money candidates who collect 500 signatures along with a \$5 donation can receive enough public financing to run a viable campaign.

If Clean Money candidates are outspent by privately funded

candidates, they receive matching funds up to a limit, which in California is \$900,000.

The program is working well in Arizona, where 55% of all candidates ran Clean Money campaigns, and in Maine, which boasts 87%. Assemblyman Ted Lieu is leaning toward support of AB 583 as is Speaker Nuñez.

The club voted to endorse AB 583.



Our January Speakers

Campaigns and Clean Money

Our surprise guest was Senator Debra Bowen, speaking on her upcoming run for Secretary of State. She started off with a litany of the reasons why 2006 is the year of the Democrats.

Noting that the foundation of Bush's presidency is starting to crum-

ble, she listed scandal after scandal: over illegal spying, the Alito nomination, kickbacks, and other ethical lapses. In California, we just saw



Senator Debra Bowen

Governor Schwarzenegger's agenda go down to resounding defeat. People are starting to realize they made a mistake in electing Republican leaders; and the great thing about democracy is that we can correct our mistakes.

First, we need to take corporate money out of the initiative process. This month, AB 583—the Clean Money and Fair Elections Act—will finally be voted on in the Assembly. The bill will help establish a Clean Money system of public funding of election campaigns for statewide and legislative races in California. Bowen is proud of the fact that 60% of the people who contribute to her campaigns are small donors who gave less than \$100.

Her campaign is in good shape. She said she's in the race for two reasons: Florida and Ohio. She is focusing on voting issues—how votes are tabulated, and whether or not the Diebold machinery should be certified for use in our state.

The “independent testing” done by our current Secretary of State is highly questionable. Every claim about Diebold’s reliability has been proved unsound, yet the Governor and Secretary continue to allow their voting machines in 17 counties.

A model voting system is that used in Sacramento county. Voters use a touch screen, verify their vote, and then cause a paper ballot to be submitted.



Hermosa Beach City Council Candidate Jeff DuClos

The system ensures accuracy, clarity, and a paper trail. As a senator, Bowen gained technical expertise in information technology and passed legislation on data security and

identity protection. Her landmark law banning companies from using Social Security numbers as public identifiers makes it much more difficult for criminals to commit identity theft. She plans to make consumer privacy a priority.

So far, she has received endorsements from Senator Gil Sedillo and Speaker Fabian Nuñez, Emily’s List, and several trade unions including the Teamsters. The only other Democrat in the race is Deborah Ortiz, a state senator from Sacramento.

Bowen chose this race because she wants to raise the quality of public information. The Secretary of State is responsible for reporting on such critical issues as campaign contributions, domestic partnerships, and end of life preferences. Bowen challenged members to visit the current Secretary of State website and try to figure out how much money oil companies have

Monroe’s Corner

We citizens have serious concerns. There is much to criticize & complain about. There is the War on Terror in Iraq & Afghanistan; there is the lack of help for the survivors of the Katrina dysfunctional response; there is the reduced environmental controls of air pollution; there are public schools that are less than adequate to teach; there is the worldwide Moslem upset with the cartoons of Muhammad; and worse of all there is the N.S.A. and their illegal wiretapping of our government against us!

My subject this month deals with our new unbalanced & unhealthy budget. President Dubya has just proposed a budget for 2007 that he says will focus on fiscal discipline & a reduction in entitlements. So the Pentagon will now have more to spend. Homeland Security & Foreign Aid will also get a boost. The education President will cut funds for schools & also eliminate 142 other programs. Reductions will also be made in environmental controls.

Social security will evolve into personal retirement accounts with the help of investments in stocks & bonds.



contributed to any given candidate.

She has opened a campaign office:

578 Washington Blvd. #409
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Phone: (310) 823-3106
Email: info@debrabowen.com

Next, we were introduced to Jeff DuClos, the Hermosa Beach candidate who finished fourth in the race to fill three city council seats. Since Howard Fishman withdrew, the city is holding a special election in June.

DuClos is a public relations executive, environmental activist, and

Taxes for the wealthy will obviously never be increased! We have now reversed Robin Hood. The administration is robbing the poor & giving to the rich!

One economic example is a tale told by Paul Krugman in the *New York Times*. A Russian émigré moved into his neighborhood. The Russian looked about him & said that everyone seemed to be very rich & yet they never seemed to work at making anything. “How does the country earn its money?” Krugman’s answer was that we make our living by selling each other houses. The housing boom creates jobs in construction & it also raises the value of all houses.

And now a political moral tale of a priest who lay dying in a local hospital. Knowing the end was near, he asked his Bishop if he might prevail on two men to visit with him. The men he asked to visit were Tom DeLay & Dick Cheney. The Bishop hesitated, but called anyhow & luckily both agreed to come. They felt that politically it would reflect on them as a noble act. On arrival, Tom DeLay asked the priest why he had chosen him & Dick. The priest replied, “I have always patterned my life after Our Lord Jesus Christ. And Jesus died on the cross between two thieves. I would like to do the same!”

Monroe Weinstock

teacher of communications at California State University, Dominguez Hills. As a 15-year member of the Surfrider Foundation, he worked to persuade Hermosa Beach to institute a Pesticide Free Zone in the Green Belt and received the 1999 Environmental Hero Award from VOICE (Volunteers and Organizations Improving the Communities Environment).

The club voted to endorse DuClos and donate the maximum amount, \$250, to his campaign. Lee then offered to match additional personal donations dollar for dollar.

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 James McGreevy—310-320-1638
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 Tammy Minion—310-406-8057
Mailing
 Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
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 Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
Newsletter
 Ami Hagzarian—310-798-7903
Secretary
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Treasurer
 Ray Waters—310-374-4744
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) _____ (Other) _____

Email _____

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:

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.