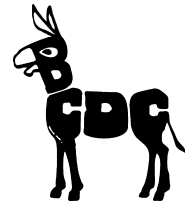


Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

July, 2006

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 25, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.
Our July program will feature:
Assemblyman Ted Lieu
Shelia Hoff for The Universal Health
Care Measure SB 840

Volunteer to Help

BCDC expects to be tabling at:

- ♦ Fiesta Hermosa—September 2, 3, 4
- ♦ Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair—October 7 & 8

Contact Diane Strack if you can work a shift.

Let's Take Our Message to the Road!

On June 28, 2006, thousands of MoveOn members came together at more than 300 rallies across the country to sound the alarm about the Republican Party's dangerous addiction to oil. Now it's time to take their message on the road. Putting these bumperstickers on your car will let everyone know exactly who's responsible for our high gas prices and our dangerous and ongoing addiction to oil.

You can get one sticker for free. For a donation of \$3 or more they'll send you a pack of 10 stickers, and for a donation of \$25 or more you'll receive 100 stickers—then you can give them away to your friends. Help spread the message!



New BCDC Officers Elected

At our June meeting, former President Bobbi Buescher led the club election of officers. The nominating committee, which also included Lori Geitmann and Mustapha Sesay, presented the following slate: Lee Fink—President; Ray Waters—Vice-President, Ani Haigasian—Secretary, and Edna Murphy—Treasurer.

No other nominations were made from the floor, and the slate was approved by acclamation. We will be seeking committee chairs in the

upcoming months.

Congratulations and thanks to our officers!



Our re-elected leaders: President Lee Fink, Vice-President Ray Waters

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TRAINING MEETINGS FOR ALL ADVOCATES FOR HEALTH REFORM

INFORMATION ON THE ONE CARE NOW CAMPAIGN

Forum Sponsors:

Health Access California, Latino Issues Forum, Breast Action Cancer Network, Health Care for All California, California School Employees Association, League of Women Voters of California

At the forum, you will:

- **MEET** others who share your concerns about health care
- **LEARN** about policies that will expand access to health care
- **PRACTICE** skills to become a more effective advocate for health care reform
- **PLAN** activities with others in your community to build support for health care reform

TO RSVP Please Call: Bessie Mathew or Norma Martinez-HoSang, Health Access @ 213-748-5297



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR
HEALTH BENEFITS AND COSTS ???

South Bay/Long Beach
Carson Community Center
Saturday, August 5, 2006
10 am – 2:00 pm (lunch
provided)
3 Civic Plaza Drive
Carson, CA 90745
Must RSVP by July 21, 2006

Forums will also be held in El Monte, Orange County, & Los Angeles

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

The Dog Days of Summer

Two great national pastimes play out over the course of the summer—politics and baseball.

In many ways these two pastimes share a similar timing. The early part of the year is full of hope and hype. Baseball's spring training leads to Opening Day, while politics leads to the Primary Election. Both finish strong, with baseball's pennant race and World Series creating the drama that the final few weeks of a campaign race and Election Day bring in politics.

But in both baseball and politics, the race is won now—during the Dog Days of Summer.

It's this time during the stretch that a team—baseball or politics—gets organized, finds its winning pitch, recruits its key role players, and makes the last deal or two to drive it toward victory in the fall. While in baseball, it is about working out kinks in the starting line-up and picking up a solid fourth starting pitcher, in politics it is getting volunteers organized,



registering voters, preparing precinct lists, and raising money. In politics, just like in baseball, how we spend the dog days of summer determines who wins in the fall.

There are many ways that you can help out too. All the major statewide candidates—including Phil Angelides, John Garamendi, Debra Bowen, and John Chiang need volunteer help. You can find more information on their websites. Our local candidates will also need help, as we work to keep our majorities in the State Assembly and Senate, and regain a majority in Congress. If you are looking for a trade, there are some key teams around the state and country that need help—including congressional races here in California. We are also looking to fill out the Beach Cities club roster too. We need a good clean-up hitter to lead our fundraising efforts, and some utility infielders to help call our members for renewals and volunteer opportunities, and a number of other role-players to help us win this fall.

There is nothing wrong with taking a few days off—baseball has the All-Star break, and taking a chance to catch a ballgame yourself never hurt. But don't forget that we have a pennant to win, and we have to start now.

(And by the way—I always root for the Blue—Democrats and Dodgers.)

Lee Fink

June Recap

The Big Buy

June's program was movie night, featuring a new video about Tom DeLay's corrupt dealings in state and federal office.

"The Big Buy: Tom DeLay's Stolen Congress" told the story of how DeLay hijacked the Texas Legislature in an attempt to create a permanent Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

The founder of Texans for a Republican Majority in Congress (TRMPAC), DeLay cozied up to big donors including Jack Abramoff, illegally channeling half a million dollars in corporate funds to the campaigns.

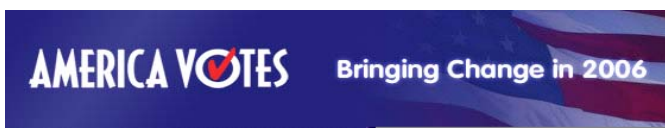
Prior to his conviction on three criminal felony counts for fraud and corruption of public officials, Abramoff said, "Tom DeLay is who all of us want to be when we grow up."

The film chronicles how the intrepid Texas DA Ronnie Earle went after DeLay and his cronies, patiently following the money trail while DeLay went on the attack. Earle keeps his cool on camera: Responding to the Congressman's name-calling, he commented, "Being called vindictive and partisan by Tom DeLay is like being called ugly by a frog. It sort of comes with the territory."

Noting that it's a felony for corporations to contribute money for political campaigns, Earle claimed the corporate fundraising was done to elect Republicans to the Texas legislature so they could redistrict the state and ensure that more Republicans would be elected to the house in Washington.

Also shown was the famous exodus of the Texas Democratic lawmakers into neighboring Oklahoma to shut down progress on the Republican bill. In the end, the GOP succeeded in gerrymandering the state to convert five Democratic Congressional districts to Republican, for a net gain of ten seats.

But in September of 2004, the



Taking Back the Country

This election cycle, America Votes will work in nine targeted states to raise awareness on a broad range of issues including the economy, health care, security, political corruption, the environment, education and civil and human rights.

Their mission is to take back our country. To achieve this, they plan to:

- ♦ Increase the progressive base;
- ♦ Engage progressive voters and propel them to the polls;
- ♦ Create a permanent progressive infrastructure in every state;
- ♦ Harness the significant power of the progressive community into one unstoppable force.

To find out how you can help, visit americavotes.org.

Grand Jury returned thirty-two indictments against DeLay's associates including John Colyandro, TRMPAC's executive director, and, in September of 2005, three felony indictments against Tom DeLay. His resignation followed in February of this year.

In a recent decision, the Supreme Court upheld most of the Texas congressional map, but threw out some new boundaries for failing to protect minority voting rights.

Following the movie, Tony Hale passed out a Clean Money petition and gave a short update on the program. It's already working well in Arizona—where 55% of officeholders were elected with Clean Money—and Maine, where the number is 80%.

Notably, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano is able to negotiate drug discounts for seniors because she isn't beholden to the pharmaceutical companies.

Tony was joined by Kathy Carder, a nurse and activist for fair elections. She spoke about the California Nurses' Association's efforts to put Clean Money initiatives on the ballot.



Kathy Carder, from the California Nurses' Association

Monroe's Corner

Our government, & this administration in particular, frequently lie! Over the years a classification system has evolved so that the government can protect information vital to national security. Today we classify many facts to cover errors, hide blunders, & adjust political inconveniences.

Not too long ago Columnist Robert Novak exposed the fact that Valerie Plame was an undercover agent with the CIA. This information was 'leaked' to him by 'Scooter' Libby, an asst. to VP Cheney. Personally, I am convinced that this was done to retaliate against Ambassador Joseph Wilson who had the 'chutzpah' to prove that Dubya was wrong in saying that Hussein of Iraq had WMD.

And since the beginning of our War on Terror in Iraq our reporters have all been embedded with the troops. These reporters are frequently thwarted in showing a true picture of our people fighting & dying. Pictures of returning coffins are forbidden to be printed for the public. Dubya feels he must protect the identities of our brave heroic dead. Dubya has managed to warp our image of the facts by manipulating data & offering misinformation.

Now we must again face the problem of censorship, which takes on many forms. News must offer two



sides to all stories, even though one side may be without merit & perhaps even a lie! Censorship even stoops into the public schools where the children are taught that patriotism is red, white & blue napkins, parades, music, & flag saluting (under GOD). Meanwhile Civic duties, thinking & voting are only incidental.

The latest action is Dubya & VP Cheney calling the New York Times "traitorous" for telling the world that the USA is "following the money" to locate terrorist sources. In 2003 the Secretary of the Treasury took a group of reporters on an extensive tour to explain how & where the Government was tracking terrorist finances. Nothing technical was exposed by the Times.

So there are positive leaks & dangerous leaks. Some confidential information is vital to expose theft & wrong-doing. "Leak" sources must be protected from exposure & must be legally hidden. Reporters today, to a degree, have been too sheepish. They have been gullible, complacent & compliant for fear of losing "access" to news. Acting legally & with a bit of courage, the free press might have averted the War on Iraq.

Many years ago I read that the truth shall make you free. Actually, there ain't no free lunch & there ain't no free truth unless 'we the people' force the truth into the light of day!

Monroe Weinstock

Taking Back California

TakeBackCA.org is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating Californians about the impact of special interests and tested, proven alternatives to special-interest influence. They provide tools for local groups to self-organize and work with existing organizations as part of a citizen-oriented fair elections coalition.

From their blog:
Four former senators—two Repub-

licans and two Democrats—have teamed up to call for federal Clean Elections. The "Just \$6" campaign emphasizes the minimal investment required to rid campaigns of special-interest dollars.

Republicans Alan Simpson and Warren Rudman join Democrats Bill Bradley and Bob Kerry in supporting Americans for Campaign Reform.

California voters will have the chance to vote on the issue this No-

vember. The California Nurses Association has turned in more than 600,000 signatures to bring Clean Money Elections to California. Their measure is modeled after successful systems now in place in Arizona, Connecticut and Maine.

A Clean Elections system would cover all state offices, including the assembly, senate, and governor. It would make candidates accountable to voters, not beholden to donors.

President
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 Vice-President
 Ray Waters—310-374-4744
 Treasurer
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
 Secretary
 Ani 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

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.