

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

August, 2007

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 28, 7:30PM  
David K. Hayward Center  
2000 Artesia Boulevard  
Redondo Beach

Our speaker was not confirmed at press time, but we will have a recap of the CDC Convention and a report from the recent face-to-face meeting with Jane Harman. We also plan to talk about the Redondo Beach Major Changes in Land Use Initiative.

## Help Clean up our Air

Your voice is needed at the EPA Ozone Hearing in Los Angeles:

Wilshire Grand Hotel  
930 Wilshire Blvd., LA, CA 90017  
Thursday, August 30, 9AM – 8PM

The current national ozone standard is not healthy and our children are at risk. The hearing is a historic opportunity for activists, environmentalists, parents, and scientists to force the EPA to strengthen the ozone standard.

The EPA is proposing a tighter

quality standard for ozone, but their proposal falls short of the goal recommended by their own Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee of independent experts. Lobbyists representing electric power, oil, and diesel engine industries have been busy opposing the proposed quality improvements.

Would you be able to take five minutes or less to testify? If yes, please contact Tricia Crabtree at crabtree.tricia@epa.gov today and request a specific slot anytime between the hours of 9AM– 8 PM.

## Local Democrats Honored at Annual FDR Banquet



*BCDC members shared a table at the annual FDR Democrat of the Year Awards Dinner hosted by the LA County Democratic Party on July 29 at the Sheraton Universal. This year, Tony Hale was honored as Democratic Man of the Year.*

*Top, LA Party Chair Eric Bauman with Tony Hale and Tammy Minion. Below, Lori Geitmann, Teresa Bird, and Diane Strack. Photos: Lori Geitmann.*

## China Syndrome

First dog food, then toothpaste, wheat gluten, lead paint, unsafe parts in our toys, folks it is going to go on. China is the major country that does not regulate or test or even care to regulate and test goods coming into our country. USA corporations are also to blame because of the so called restrictions that NAFTA is supposed to insist on from these countries that have taken over the manufacturing of goods that we bring in to sell to our people, are not being enforced.

We have to get our government to do what it is supposed to do: safeguard our imports and penalize those nations that do not have fair labor practices and enforceable restrictions on goods they manufacture and export.

The Bush Administration has been so uncaring, money is the only thing they care about. Catastrophes can come to us not just with lethal weapons, but with money-hungry nations that take no responsibility for their duty to humankind in safeguarding their exports

*Teresa Bird*

## Time to Pay Dues

Club dues were payable on June 1, \$25 per person, \$40 for two at the same address. Renew promptly if you want to keep receiving the newsletter.

## Calling Phone Tree Volunteers

We still need more volunteers for the phone tree. You'll call five or six people a month to help boost turnout at our meetings and special events.

## Fiesta Hermosa Booth Tabling

We need volunteers to staff our booth at the Hermosa Beach Fiesta over Labor Day weekend, September 1, 2, and 3. Contact Diane Strack at 310-374-4225 or a.strk@verizon.net.



Visit our Website at [lafn.org/politics/bcdc](http://lafn.org/politics/bcdc)

## From the President

While away for an extended vacation, I was fortunate to attend the Nation Magazine annual cruise.

There were daily seminars with a terrific list of speakers. My wife Carolyn and I will provide a brief rundown of some highlights if anyone wants to hear them.

Members of the club were active in the Convention of the California Democratic Council of Clubs held August 10-12 in Los Angeles. We will have a report at the coming meeting. There are always events that can keep the most dedicated activists busy. The Presidential campaigns will be providing everyone with fodder for conversation.

Jane Harman is in town and met with a large group of activists on



August 15. Looking over our roster of the attendees, I counted 10 who are active members in our club (several are members of other clubs as well). The overwhelming message from our group was a desire to see Bush and Cheney impeached. Her response was to acknowledge the misdeeds of the administration but claimed that Nancy Pelosi would not allow the case to proceed. Most of us saw that as spineless, but we realize that conviction is almost impossible. She said that when Bill Clinton was impeached, all business in Congress ground to a halt and that there were too many issues that need to be dealt with at the present time.

There are many ways to be involved in supporting our country, state and or community. We can all be of help. I want to see as many as possible at our meetings. If you cannot attend but still want to help, give one of us a call. Names and phone numbers are included in every newsletter.

*Ray Waters*

## Harman Meet-up



Some BCDC members had a meeting with Jane Harman on August 15. They told her we wanted to see the Democ-

atic Congress get more backbone. Lori presented Jane with a big Mrs. Field's cookie that said "Our Jane is Tops" to thank her for voting against the FISA bill. She is always asking Lori where are the cookies since Lori brought them to the kids in her campaign office.

Jane gave the group a handout on opposing the LNG terminal in the ocean off LAX. She supports Mayor Villaraigosa because he promised not to expand the airport and she wants to know where he stands on the north runway and the plans to wipe out the Westchester Business District.

The group also talked about impeachment. Jane said the leadership position is that nothing will get done if the House goes to impeachment. The group meeting was divided on that issue.

*Photos and notes courtesy of Lori Geitmann*

## July Recap

Our July program was three-part, starting off with Dave Buchanan from the Bill Richardson campaign. Buchanan described the Governor's strong resume: Congressman, energy secretary, UN Ambassador, and currently Governor of New Mexico. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize four times for his international peace mediation and hostage rescue.

Democratic conventions have become virtual coronations, with the nominee already selected. But for 2008, we will probably have an open convention. With four viable candidates in the presidential race, it's unlikely that any one of them will win a clear majority.

Americans can't afford another Republican president appointing Supreme Court justices. We must choose an electable candidate. Bill Richardson has crossover appeal: in 2006, he won the Governor's office by nearly 70% of the vote in a state that was 52 to 48 Republican, receiving 40% of the Republican vote.

You can contact the campaign at [richardsonforpresident.com](http://richardsonforpresident.com), or call Dave at 310-384-5031.

Next, Jeff DuClos and Dency Nelson talked about the Green Building Campaign in Hermosa Beach. Last November, the city signed on to the Cool Cities Initiative, a fast-growing grassroots movement to combat the problems of global warming.

Dency praised Harman Representative Jim Kennedy for his ongoing support and his participation in the Torrance Energy Fair. He talked about creative ways cities are making their infrastructures more environmentally sound, such as installing permeable sidewalks that filter runoff naturally instead of letting it wash into the bay.

They handed out information about two non-profit organizations that promote environmentally responsible

building and remodeling practices:

Build It Green (Builditgreen.org) connects consumers and building professionals with the tools and technical expertise they need to build quality green buildings.

Global Green USA (GlobalGreen.org) works on stemming global climate change by creating green buildings and cities.

The up-front costs of energy-efficient construction may be higher, but they pay back in reduced maintenance and repair costs. Even Walmart is starting to go Green: In a well-publicized experiment, their megastore in Lawrence, Kansas, participated in a 1995 study to see whether the use of natural light improves human performance and buying trends. The results were dramatic—Walmart reported 40 percent higher sales at checkout counters located underneath skylights.

Our next speaker was Tim Goodrich, co-founder of Iraq Veterans Against the War (ivaw.org), a national group of veterans and active-duty service men and women of the “Global War on Terror” who are working to bring their fellow soldiers home.

Goodrich joined the US Air Force at eighteen and was deployed to the Middle East several times as a senior airman. During these deployments, he participated in Operation Southern Watch (enforcement of the southern no-fly zone over Iraq) and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. On his final deployment, he took part in the bombing of Iraq prior to the ground invasion, at the same time that President Bush was claiming that diplomacy was still being employed.

In January 2004, Goodrich was honorably discharged and traveled to Iraq on a fact-finding delegation. The trip was a difficult one. He was forced to look at the damage he had helped to cause. Upon his return, he co-founded IVAW and now serves as director of

the Iraq Veterans for Progress PAC.

Since its founding, IVAW has been steadily growing. The group uses creative forms of publicity to spread its message. In Santa Monica, members “took over” the city for a day, performing mock combat patrols and staging a mock recruitment in front of a recruitment center. On the Third Street Promenade, they staged a fake IED explosion, startling onlookers but drawing lots of support. Their street theatre can be seen on YouTube under Operation First Casualty.

Other activities include counter-recruitment in schools and outreach to active duty service personnel. They are working to change the military’s current opt-out policy to one in which students cannot be recruited unless they opt in.

IVAW’s national sponsor, Veterans for Peace (veteransforpeace.org), conducts educational forums, demonstrations, and memorial displays such as Arlington West to draw attention to the growing human cost of the war. It is legal to speak out against the military as long as one is not in uniform or on base. Goodrich said he can no longer support anyone’s joining the military while it is being so misused and abused.

IVAW is raising money to send veterans to their August 15 – 19 Convention in St. Louis. Sixty-five vets attended last year’s event and they hope to send 100 this year, at a cost of about \$750 per person.



*Tim Goodrich, former US Airman and cofounder of Iraq Veterans Against the War, drew many follow-up questions after the meeting.*

## Monroe Redux

Today’s horror story is our MASS MEDIA PRESS. Many years ago someone said that there are two important things in politics, one is money & I forget the other! In 1983 the principal global media was owned by about 50 corporations. In 2002 it was **nine**...& today it is **five**...Rupert Murdoch predicts that it will soon be **three** & he’ll be one of them.

In America, the concept of a free press first developed in the colonies in 1735 with the trial of John Peter Zenger. A jury rightfully ruled that he was not guilty of seditious libel because the truth was a justifiable defense. A few years ago, A.J. Liebling of the New Yorker Magazine wrote that the press is free to anyone who owns one.

My purpose is to focus on Rupert Murdoch, the Australian mogul who controls a vast worldwide empire, encompassing TV, the Internet, newspapers, magazines, and his most recent acquisition, the Wall Street Journal.

Mr. Murdoch is known for his medieval brand of conservatism. He managed to convert the New York Post from a liberal tabloid to an extreme right wing gossip rag. He has reduced the long famous Times of London to a tabloid of no serious consequence. He neither writes nor explains himself, but hires like-minded stoneheads who follow his reasoning with unquestioning logic. He is replacing investigative reporting with “infotainment.”

With this apparent march of media consolidation, we need desperately to have Washington keep this kind of expansion in check. We need new cross-ownership laws to control who sells the news. We need to create a more accessible independent media that is widely diversified with more public input. Simply put, we could use a heavy dose of a younger, dynamic, vibrant, articulate guy or gal...on the order of a Bill Moyers.

*Monroe Weinstock*

**Websites related to articles in this issue:** Democratic Action Center—www.democraticactioncenter.com; richardsonforpresident.com; builditgreen.org; globalgreen.org; vaw.org; veteransforpeace.org;

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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box *only* if you would like to receive it by US 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 checks payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278