

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

August, 2010

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, August 25
7:30 PM

Election season is here, and we will be talking about the many ways you can help keep our Democratic leaders in office and elect new ones. Fund raisers, precinct walking, house parties—it's all happening. Come and bring those friends who have always wanted to get involved.

Announcements

HB Fiesta Volunteers Needed

Once again this year, BCDC will have a booth at the Hermosa Beach Fiesta. We're looking for people to staff the booth, greet visitors and help register voters. Dates are September 4, 5, and 6. Contact Ray Waters to sign up: 310-374-4744 or raywaters35@gmail.com.

The Long Beach Democrats are co-hosting their annual **Democratic Unity Barbecue** on September 19 from 11:00 to 3:00 PM. They will be inviting elected officials from throughout the region as well as our statewide electeds, including Senator Boxer and Attorney General Brown. Watch for upcoming details.

MoveOn.org is working to **overturn Citizens United** and is in favor of public financing of elections. The organization hopes to amend the Constitution to protect America from unlimited corporate spending and end the overwhelming influence of corporate lobbyists. Local rallies are being held including August in Manhattan Beach, and will be ongoing.

Big Green Bus Comes to Manhattan Beach

Moira Zucker

The Dartmouth College **Big Green Bus** is traveling the country to educate communities on simple lifestyle changes that conserve money, energy, and resources by improving efficiency in everyday activities—and it made a stop in our own very own back yard!

On August 3, Steve and I strolled down to the Farmers Market and enjoyed a tour of the friendly bus. We talked to the Dartmouth students who man this traveling exhibit, and even got to watch as a mechanic opened up the back to check out the non-fossil-fuel engine. It's no joke, this bus runs on vegetable oil!

The Big Green Bus is designed as a model sustainable home, and is an easily accessible example of what individuals can do to "go green." The bus includes solar panels, bamboo flooring, energy efficient air conditioning, and grease filters to purify vegetable oil received from

restaurants—enabling the Big Green Bus to run without fossil fuels. The bus is not only an example of cutting edge green technologies, but is also a hands-on training tool complete with flat screen TVs (solar-powered), and touch screen displays designed to be truly interactive with the community.

The Big Green Bus put down in Manhattan Beach for two days, and was free for all individuals and families to come aboard and learn about sustainability.

Courtesy of the people at www.thebiggreenbus.org.



Locals waited for the Big Green Bus to park near the Manhattan Beach Farmers Market, then flowed in see the exhibits and chat with the Dartmouth students who are traveling the country with their environmental sustainability message. Clockwise from top: the vegetable-oil powered engine; Steve waiting to view the solar-powered wide screen computer, whose case is constructed out of 100% recycled plastic; and visitors learning about the model sustainable environment.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

No matter where or how one turns today, information, news, data, political exposure, views & opinions are all generated from and into a computer. Many years ago, A.J. Liebling said, "A free press is guaranteed to those who own one." We now have access to a comparatively free Internet. Information is uncensored, uncontrolled and flowing freely.

Some years ago, Lily Tomlin created Ernestine, a telephone clerk to portray the arrogance of the phone company. Ernestine said that "We at the phone company handle 84 million calls a year. So, you must realize that every so often an operator will tell you if for no apparent reason your phone got charged for a call



you didn't make, WE DON'T CARE!"

Today there are "for profit" Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The industry is tightly controlled by four phone and cable giants: AT&T, Comcast, Time Warner, and Verizon. They control 94% of the national market. About 40 million Americans use the Internet as their prime source of news and information. The man who invented the World Wide Web set it up to be free & accessible to everyone!

Our four ISPs now want to control & regulate exposure & availability, with the aim of increasing profits for access to the Web. Ostensibly, they want to prevent "a Washington takeover of the Internet" and keep the Internet in the hands of private industry (namely themselves). On balance, the effort is focused on control, domination & added profits. The GEEKS who created & nurtured the Internet are modern day Thomas Paines!! To me the four ISPs smell like the "Banks Too Big To Fail!!"

NOW we best go with the GEEKS and keep the telecom oligarchs away from the controls!!!!



Adam Gallia from Food & Water Watch, explaining the group's opposition to Proposition 18 at our July meeting

Report from the Executive Board

Tony Hale, recently back from the three-day meeting of the California Democratic Party's Executive Board in San Jose, reported on the outcome at our July meeting. He said that these Board meetings are pleasant and informative sessions, held in lieu of putting on state conventions four times a year. The program encompasses resolution and rules committees, organizational development meetings, and discussions about charter.

Tony explained in detail the Committee's opposition to the redistricting bill, Proposition 20. The bill would transfer the process of drawing congressional districts from elected representatives to a 14-member redistricting commission comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four voters registered with neither party.

Not surprisingly, the Committee supports Proposition 25, which would

have a simple majority rule on budgets instead of requiring a 2/3 majority as at present. This would be a start toward making the state governable even though it does not cover tax legislation.

As for legalizing marijuana (Prop 19), most of the members were in favor, with almost every family knowing somebody or knowing of somebody who is serving time in prison over victimless marijuana offenses. The current penalty disproportionately affects people of color. The vote was 80 in favor and 103 neutral, the latter voicing concern about political mayhem from Meg Whitman ahead of the November election.

Here is a complete list of the Committee's endorsements:

- Proposition 19** (Marijuana legalization) Neutral
- Proposition 20** (Redistricting for Congress) No
- Proposition 21** (State parks funding) Yes
- Proposition 22** (protects local funds) No
- Proposition 23** (Suspends AB32) No

Proposition 24 (Repeals corporate tax benefits) Yes

Proposition 25 (Majority vote budget) Yes

Proposition 26 (2/3 vote for fees) No

Proposition 27 (Eliminates redistricting commission) Yes

The Party opted not to vote on a position on Proposition 18, the \$11 billion water bond some officials are trying to push onto the 2012 ballot.

The committee also passed a resolution supporting the Global Climate campaign for a 350 PPM carbon dioxide target. 350 parts per million is what many scientists and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere. The Committee also wants to reverse the Governor's cuts on HIV funding and oppose the Arizona immigration law.

Attendees were trained on the MOE system (Mobilize, Organize, Energize), an online database that the State Party makes available free of charge.

July Recap

As water becomes a more and more important problem, we invited a speaker to our July meeting to talk about the controversial Proposition 18. Adam Gallia is a member of Food & Water Watch, an organization devoted to fighting for affordable clean water for everyone. He is opposed to Proposition 18, the water bond now before the legislature, claiming it would be bad fiscal policy. Known by its supporters as the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010, the measure would allow the state government to borrow \$11.1 billion to overhaul the state's water system.

Gallia said the bond would cost the taxpayers \$22 billion over 30 years and that it mainly benefits corporate interests that overuse and pollute our water. The bond would invest in building more dams instead of supporting long-term water sustainability projects, and it is opposed by the Sierra Club, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, United Farm Workers, and other organizations.

Who would benefit? Gallia said the bond's promoters claim it would help disadvantaged communities and conservation; but the percentages are so low (one percent and two percent, respectively) as to be inconsequential.

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed removing Proposition 18 from the 2010 ballot with the intention of putting it back on the 2012 ballot. Leaders are divided, some considering the measure a tough compromise with advantages and disadvantages. But supporters include Meg Whitman and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Gallia hopes to kill the measure once and for all, not postpone it, and he asked the club to go on record as opposed. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Next we heard a farewell message from our stalwart friend Irving Pacheco, Ted Lieu's representative. We were not surprised to hear that Governor Schwarzenegger is holding up the state budget again. But, recent good news included the approval of Lieu's Assembly Bill 1778, calling for in-state film production. It stems from a recent advertising campaign promoting California's dairy industry, the "Happy Cow" ad campaign, parts of which were actually filmed in New Zealand. Lieu's bill would require that all promotional commercials made on behalf of the State of California and paid for with public funds must be produced in California. The bill now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Lieu also recently sponsored Green Vehicles bill AB 1500, which promotes the use of low-emission vehicles by extending their access to HOV lanes until January 2015. The bill moves to the Governor for his signature.

Next, we discussed a fund raiser for Betsy Butler, and it was noted that the calendar is filling up fast: there are events for Brown and Boxer, and the FDR dinner is on August 22. Lori will contact Betsy Butler to set up a date for the event, which will be held at Ray and Carol Waters's home and have an affordable ticket price around \$25.

There was some discussion about merging with the Torrance Democratic Club to increase membership and share resources. The merged club could be

renamed; one proposal was to call it the South Bay Democratic Club. Teresa Bird, representing the Torrance Club, will bring up this proposal soon with Tony Hale, Jeff Hirsch, and Torrance members.

Ray Waters reported that our club's Charter application has been completed and mailed.

He said that the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair, to be held October 2 and 3, makes only ten booths available to political clubs. Ray has applied for a booth at this year's event, but we won't know the results until September. Our club did not participate last year. The city places many restrictions on what can take place in the booths: for example, no merchandise can be sold or money collected. Tony Hale said The DAC is acquiring Jerry Brown campaign swag, which we may or may not be able to hand out for a donation.

We discussed the upcoming FDR dinner: 54 Democratic activists will be honored again this year, two from each Assembly District. The 53rd AD will have a table, coordinated by Mary Ann Tyler. The membership moved to reimburse attendees for half the price of attending, which (full price) is \$90 per person before August 2 and \$95 thereafter, with August 16 as the deadline to sign up.

Dency Nelson reported that the City of Hermosa Beach has waived all plan check and building permit fees for homeowners who want to install photovoltaic solar panels on their rooftops and commended the City Council for its July 27th vote.



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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