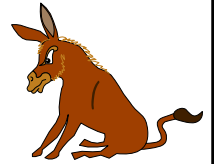


Town & Country Democrat



The Town and Country Democratic Club is affiliated with the California Democratic Council and the Coalition of Democratic Clubs

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On the Web: www.tandconline.org

December 2005

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Progressive Radio Comes to Armed Forces

Just weeks after nixing an agreement literally at the last minute in what seemed to be a fit of ire over one of his broadcasts critical of a rehearsed encounter between President George W. Bush and some members of the military, Armed Forces Radio has said it will in fact carry progressive talker Ed Schultz's increasingly popular radio talk show after all.



Ed Schultz

The progressive talker — whose show was purchased some months ago by two high-powered broadcast executives instrumental in the success of Rush Limbaugh and Clear Channel Communications — thanked his listeners for their massive letter and email campaigns to their elected officials clamoring for the Pentagon to stick by the agreement in a letter The Ed Schultz Show received some months ago giving the green-light to the program as a countervailing voice to conservative talkers such as Rush

Limbaugh and James Dobson.

On his show Schultz said there was only one sticking point in the effort to get him on Armed Forces Radio: Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman responded to people contacting his office by basically dissing Schultz's show, saying it didn't meet the requirements.

Once Schultz' show's debut was yanked due to what seemed like patently political (and, if theories are correct, perhaps petty) reasons, it was as if the official line was that only Limbaugh and Dobson were qualified. The reason: Schultz has the fastest-growing progressive talk show in the country. Schultz is heard on 1240 AM in Sacramento weekdays from 12-3pm.

The show's popularity is expected to skyrocket. His program varies in tone, has a sense of humor, and he often irks people on the left as well as the right. He's bound to recruit more "Edheads" as people in the military now get to listen.

Celebrate the Holidays & The Election Victory Dec. 14th at Carmichael Park Veterans Hall

In keeping with tradition, please join Town & Country and the 5th Assembly District Democratic Committee as our clubs celebrate the holidays and a hard-earned special election victory on December 14th.

The festivities will begin at 7:00pm at the Carmichael Park Veterans Hall. Please note: this will be T&C's regular

monthly meeting. Please do not show up at Deterding Park by mistake!!!

T&C and the 5th AD will be providing the main course and beverages. Everyone in attendance is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share and an unwrapped toy worth \$5-\$10 to donate

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From the President...

What a long strange trip it has been. I want to thank everyone who I have had the opportunity to meet and serve during these last two years as president of Town & Country. It has been a wonderful experience, one that I won't soon forget.

We have a great mix of officers coming to serve the club during the upcoming election year. Tiffany Brown joined T&C earlier this year and will serve as President. She has been active on several progressive fronts over the last few years and will be a great asset to the club.

Taking over for Barbara Krings, our Secretary over the past several years, is another new comer to the group, Laure Olson. Laure has also been fighting for Democratic causes on several different fronts.

We also have two longtime officers remaining on the Executive Committee. Arnie Godmintz and Jim Nakata will remain as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. These two men just don't seem to know what's good for them but we are very happy to have them back.

Yours truly will also be on the Executive Committee serving as Immediate Past President - the first one we have had one for a long time. Additionally I will continue to serve up this newsletter on a monthly basis bringing all the Democratic news "that's fit to print" throughout the coming year.

Even with the challenge of a very ill-conceived special election behind us, there is only a brief moment to rest. The midterm election is just around the corner, a gubernatorial election here at home and the other party is on the defensive. Although only a few of us can serve as club officers it is up to all of us to support those who will give unselfishly of their time and energies in 2006. See you next year!

Lieberman May Face Challenger

In 1998, Joe Lieberman defeated Lowell Weicker in his bid for reelection as a U.S. senator from Connecticut. Weicker was a Republican then, and Lieberman was a Democrat. Weicker went on to become an independent, and Lieberman went on to become, well, what? He's still a Democrat on paper, but you could call him a Bush-lite if the "lite" part weren't so hard to see.

What goes around comes around. Weicker tells the New York Times

today that he'll consider running against Lieberman in 2006 if no one else does. "When you've become the president's best friend on the war in Iraq, you should not be in office, especially if you're in the opposing party," Weicker says.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal last month, Lieberman was effusive about the "real progress" being made in Iraq and said he was "disappointed" in both Democrats and Republicans who had expressed criticism of the president.

'Intelligent-design' school board ousted

Voters ousted a Pennsylvania local school board that promoted an "intelligent-design" alternative to teaching evolution, and elected a new slate of candidates who promised to remove the concept from science classes.

The board of Dover Area School District in south-central Pennsylvania lost eight of its nine incumbents in an upset election that surprised even the challengers, who had been hoping for a bare majority to take control of the board.

The new board, which includes teachers, opposed the incumbents' policy of including intelligent design in science classes.

The ousted board was the first school board in the country to implement such a policy. The challengers also criticized what they called arrogance and secrecy by the incumbent board.

For the last six weeks, the teaching of intelligent design has been challenged in federal court by a group of Dover parents. They said the concept is a religious belief and therefore may not be taught in public schools, because the U.S. Constitution forbids it. They also argue that the theory is unscientific and so has no place in science classes.

Defeated board members were not immediately available for comment. Dover residents have been split on the issue of intelligent design since the board adopted the policy in October 2004.

The policy requires that students be read a four-paragraph statement that says there are "gaps" in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and that students should consider other explanations of the origins of life, including intelligent design.

Intelligent design holds that some aspects of nature are so complex they must be the work of an unnamed designer, rather than the result of random natural selection, as argued by Darwin's theory.

The trial, which attracted national and international media attention, was watched in at least 30 states where policies are being considered that would promote teaching alternatives to evolution theory.

U.S. President George W. Bush, whose re-election was boosted by many Christian-conservative votes, has said he believes intelligent design should be taught alongside evolution.

U.S. District Judge John Jones is expected to rule on the case in December or January.

Annual Democratic Holiday/Victory Party

Co-sponsored by Town & Country
& The 5th AD Democratic Committee

Wednesday, December 14th
7:00pm to 9:30pm

Carmichael Park Veterans Hall
Grant Avenue near Fair Oaks Blvd.

The Clubs will provide the main dish, drinks and a DJ.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and an unwrapped gift in the amount of \$5 to \$10 to be donated to the children of members of the Western Service Workers Association. In lieu of a gift, please bring a cash donation of \$5.



For more information
Please contact Ann Wangberg
at awangberg@comcast.net or
Arnie Godmintz at
(916) 332-5980



Poll: Americans Favor Bush's Impeachment If He Lied About Iraq

By a margin of 50% to 44%, Americans want Congress to consider impeaching President Bush if he lied about the war in Iraq, according to a new poll by conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, the highly-regarded non-partisan polling company. The poll interviewed 1,001 U.S. adults on October 6-9.

The poll found that 50% agreed with the statement: "If President Bush did not tell the truth about his reasons for going to war with Iraq, Congress should consider holding him accountable by impeaching him."

44% disagreed, and 6% said they didn't know or declined to answer. The poll has a +/- 3.1% margin of error.

Among those who felt strongly either way, 39% strongly agreed, while 30% strongly disagreed.

Young voters led surge in 2004 election

Turns out, the kids rocked after all. Nearly half of all eligible young voters cast ballots in the November 2004 election, raising their turnout rate by more than twice any other age group.

"This is big," said David King, associate director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University who highlighted the Census Bureau findings in an IOP report Wednesday. "When you vote young, you're much more likely to vote the rest of your life, so the 2004 campaign turned a generation on to politics."

Exit polls from Election Day 2004 had shown that 9 percent of voters were 18 to 24, about the same proportion of the electorate as in

2000. Those figures were interpreted as a sign that young voters failed to increase their political impact in an election that focused on the Iraq war and included unsubstantiated rumors that the Bush administration might impose the draft.

The Census numbers suggest that young voters did get involved.

About 47 percent of Americans 18-24 voted in 2004, up from 36 percent in 2000, according to the Census Bureau. No other age group increased its turnout by more than 5 percentage points.

Even with the increase, the youngest voters still had the lowest turnout rate. Nearly three of every four people aged 55-74 voted in

From the Associated Press

2004.

Those numbers explain why elderly voters are highly prized by candidates. But they also suggest there is enormous potential in the young vote, and that efforts by President Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry to recruit college-age students were worth the trouble.

The 18-24 set made up 9 percent of the electorate last year, up very slightly from 8 percent the previous election. It's unclear what that might mean for the young vote in the future.

"Will it work for kids who were 14 years old in 2004? No idea. That work still remains to be done," King said.

Club News

T&C Members Elect New Officers, Vote to Restructure Dues

After several years of seeing the same familiar faces on the Executive Committee, 2006 will bring some new faces serving as Town & Country club officers.

At the November general membership meeting the club elected Tiffany Brown and Laure Olson as President and Secretary, respectively while Arnie Godmintz will remain as club Vice President and Jim Nakata will return as T&C's Treasurer.

Brown and Olson joined Town & Country over the past year and have been involved in many other progressive organizations. Brown coordinated the voter registration booth at the State Fair for area clubs and organizations.

Outgoing club President Kevin Murphy will be stepping down after

two years at the helm of Town & Country.

"The membership should be very excited about this partial changing of the guard," Murphy said. We have two very excited and very able new officers coming on board who will be very well-complemented with two very experienced and seasoned officers who will remain.

Godmintz has served as both President and Vice President over the past five years and Nakata has served over five years as treasurer.

Murphy will be returning to the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President for 2006 and will continue to edit the club's newsletter.

Stepping down as an officer after several years as Secretary is Barbara Krings.

Murphy commented that Krings had been the safety net for the Steering Committee over the last few years

"She brought a much needed woman's perspective and sense of responsibility to the otherwise all-male Steering Committee," Murphy said. "Without her, I'm sure there would have been countless details that would have been forgotten during our meetings and events."

The first Steering Committee meeting of 2006 is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00pm. The location is TBA.

Also at the November meeting, the club voted to overhaul the membership level and price structure for future dues in the club. For more information, see the meeting minutes on page - 5.

Sacramento Welcomes "Match" On December 17th

The dynamic Australian percussion duo, MATCH, will be performing at the Unitarian auditorium, 2425 Sierra Blvd, for a UNICEF benefit on Saturday, December 17, at 7:30 pm.

MATCH, which features Daryl Pratt and Alison Eddington are two of Australia's leading percussionists. They will be performing music from their newest CD 'Water Settings' featuring original works and new pieces by Australian composers. These reflect 'jazz' and 'contemporary classical' influences and will include works for drums, vibraphone and marimba inspired by the Australian landscape and indigenous Australian music.

A reception will follow to meet the artists. Although tickets are not required, contributions are requested to be made to US Fund for UNICEF and can be sent directly to UNICEF 1910 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814. For information call Fred Pratt - 482-3018.



Club Finances Look Solid for '06

T&C President Kevin Murphy reports that club coffers look good heading into the beginning of the new year.

"The good news is that we have around \$7,500 heading into an election year. The better news is that we have not started soliciting dues from our members yet - a renewal form will be included in the December newsletter," Murphy said.

Membership dues levels will be increased starting January 1 after the club voted for the increase at the last month's meeting.

The chief concern heading into the new year is raising funds, along with other clubs and organizations, for a northeast democratic campaign office. Murphy also hopes that after the annual luncheon, more money will be available for candidate contributions as well.

Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2005

The meeting was called to order to by President Kevin Murphy at 7:12 PM. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Laure Olson filled in for Barbara Krings as secretary.

The President called for a round of applause in response to the success of the defeat of the Arnold Schwarzenegger and for all the work done by members of the club and for recognition of Rick Wathen.

A motion was asked for, seconded, and passed to accept last month's minutes (MSMP).

Officer reports: Vice-President Arnie Godmintz reported recognition from the powers to be of T&C members and officers and from the Central Committee, Labor and CTA for their work on the campaign regarding the special election. He also posed the questions "Where do we go from here individually and collectively, as a club" and the future question "What are the possibilities in keeping this group together."

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported \$7210.70 was in the treasury.

No other reports were presented.

Old business: The Legislative committee report was delivered by Joan Lee regarding hospital plans and Medicare. Sutter is problematic

to unions. They tout not for profit yet CEOs make high salaries and are hard on the poor demanding payments. Joan called for members to join with Community Coalition for Accountable Development. She collected the handout with member signatures that supported this stance.

The Annual Luncheon will be held May or June. The hope is to attract Barbara Boxer as keynote speaker or honoree. Next month will start the committee process for food, publicity, fundraisers, phones, etc.

The 2006 club officer election was conducted. Additional nominations were asked for followed by a motion to close nominations (MSMP). The votes were counted. Results of vote the was unanimous. The 2006 officers were elected as nominated from the ballot – President Tiffany Brown, Vice-President Arnie Godmintz, Treasurer Jim Nakata, Secretary Laure Olson.

The annual holiday party was discussed and is to be Wed., Dec. 14 at 7PM at Veterans Hall in Carmichael Park. The 5th AD Democratic Committee will co-host. Anyone is invited. We are providing the main course and beverages but need volunteers to help.

Entertainment will be a our own DJ with karaoke and dancing. Admission is an unwrapped toy worth at least \$5 or \$10.

There was discussion regarding that some newsletters were received mutilated or were not received. Kevin will talk to the sending post office.

There was discussion regarding membership fees. It has been several years since fees were changed. The recommended raise in dues are as follows: Individual - \$25, Family - \$30, Senior Individual - \$20, Senior Family - \$25. Students/Unemployed and Newsletter Only categories to be eliminated. The new dues begin 1/1/06. (MSMP).

Ralph Cyphers reported that voter registration since April resulted in 1300 registrations. Since August, the bounty of \$2.50/ per registration netted 875 resulting in \$2,100 to the coordinated campaign. 53 Republicans were re-registered as Democrats. The program continues.

Announcements: Fred Pratt announced a concert benefit for UNICEP featuring "Match", a percussion duo, on 11/17.

Continued to back page

Join the Town & Country Democratic Club!!!

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Strengths/Experience _____

**The Town & Country
 Democratic Club
 encourages the
 participation of
 young members.**

Please check one box and circle the correct membership below: NEW RENEWAL

Annual Dues: \$20.00 Individual \$25.00 Family \$12.00 Full-Time Student/Unemployed
 \$12.00 Senior Individual \$16.00 Senior Family \$12.00 Newsletter Only

Signature _____

Please mail to: Town & Country Democratic Club
 P.O. Box 1286
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

Date _____

Holiday/Special Election Victory Party at Carmichael Pk con't

to the Western Service Workers Association. In lieu of a gift, please provide a \$5 cash donation to WSWA so they may purchase additional gifts for the children of their members.

T&C's Bill Emmerson has volunteered to be the DJ for the evening and there will be dancing after dinner.

Additionally, we will be taking a few moments and installing Town & Country's new 2006 officers. See page - 4 for more information on the folks we elected last month!

The Veterans Hall is located behind the Carmichael Park Clubhouse at the corner of Grant and Fair Oaks Blvd. See map at right. Call 536-4212 for more info.



An Open Letter from Rick Wathen

Thank you all so much for the extra time and commitment you made in helping beat back Schwarzenegger's attacks on November 8, 2005. This one goes down in history as the largest Get Out The Vote effort we have ever experienced. One week later, we are still doing data entry, compiling statistics, catching up on our sleep and writing thank you letters to all who participated in this historic campaign.

To put things in perspective, on election night we had an unprecedented 619 volunteers in the field walking precincts in Sacramento county. In addition, the Alliance for a Better California estimates that we had nearly 200 volunteers on the phones on November 8. That means we surpassed our goal of 700 and had over 800 volunteers on Election Day walking and talking to voters about the importance of voting NO on all of the governor's anti-working family initiatives. Statewide we had a goal of recruiting 10,000

volunteers on Election Day. We crushed that goal by collectively recruiting over 15,000 volunteers on November 8, 2005!

(News Flash to Governor Schwarzenegger - That's what happens when you pick a fight with all of us at once.)

Our side won, the governor and his corporate bullies lost and we gained an Alliance that will continue on to help face the challenges of tomorrow. One challenge that faces us already is making sure we keep the pressure on the governor by developing a plan and agenda that resonates to all our constituencies. We must pull together to help elect a new governor in 2006 who actually cares about the value of hard work, retirement, access to health care, transportation and the need for quality education for all of our children.

All of this could not have been possible without your help. I want to personally thank all of you for the extra hours you invested during this

unwanted, unplanned and wasteful Special Election. A great many sacrifices were made during this campaign and your dedication and commitment will always be remembered and appreciated.

Special appreciation to Assemblyman Dave Jones and Senator Deborah Ortiz for donating their time and resources to the Alliance campaign effort.

And of course, my local union leadership Jim Hard, Cathy Hackett, Michael Baratz, Michael Krivosh and all of the staff at SEIU Local 1000 who gave up many nights and weekends to help send a loud, clear message to the governor and his corporate donors that attacks against our communities only make us stronger.

Rick Wathen
SEIU Local 1000 CSEA
(916) 326-4381
(916) 326-4215 FAX

The Final Word: Who's the Girlie Man Now?

By Robert Scheer

You have to love California. Yes, I'm buzzed by the stunning rejection of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's referendum revolution aimed at turning this blue state red. That the voters soundly defeated his proposals to punish the public sector unions and legislators who dared to cross the Terminator is a bellwether moment for the nation.

Schwarzenegger was defeated primarily by the hardworking public sector workers of the state: the teachers, firefighters and other civil servants who are sick and tired of being pitted by politicians against those they are so dedicated to serving. "We're the mighty, mighty nurses" the joyous healers chanted in a victory conga line the night they brought the bully down. Frankly, I feared that what was left of Schwarzenegger's blustery charisma along with the endorsement of some of his proposals by all of the state's big newspapers and the Republicans' attempt to drag their base to the polls with an anti-abortion initiative would fool the voters. That it didn't, along with the rejection of Bush backed candidates in New Jersey and Virginia, trumpets a message of hope for the country.

Hope, because California is not some bohemian outpost divorced from mainstream American reality, despite the incessant repetition of that caricature. After all, this is the state that gave the nation Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan and fell once again for the Republican big business populism of Schwarzenegger just two years ago.

The caricature is a joke. California represents the cutting edge of the nation, certainly in media, science and economic innovation, but also very much in its politics, which make the state's palpable energy possible.

That point was lost on all seven

of the state's top daily newspapers, which endorsed the governor's plan to take the power to draw election districts away from the legislature, a move, like the previously successful term limits initiative, that only would make the lobbyists and their campaign contributions more important.

Because of "safe" or less contested races, legislators at least have the

"California represents the cutting edge of the nation, certainly in media, science and economic innovation, but also very much in its politics, which make the state's palpable energy possible."

potential to pay attention to their constituents rather than to those who finance the hotly contested races. It is not true, as The Los Angeles Times editorialized, that under the current system, "extremists reign," but rather that responsible legislators can focus on constituent needs rather than waging costly electoral battles financed by lobbyists. The Times went so far as to bemoan in the body of its lead election news story the voters' refusal to heed Schwarzenegger's effort at "reforming" California's "notoriously dysfunctional politics."

Dysfunctional? Compared to what? The politics of Texas where the death penalty is the most active social service program, or is it Kansas, which has decided that the theory of evolution is no longer science? What The Times and Schwarzenegger consider dysfunctional is actually functioning representative government, where the little guy gets a chance at being heard, the sort of government we no longer have in Washington.

The power of the corporate interests has been checked primarily by the state's huge public service workers unions. Their grassroots tested power is what has allowed the state to remain economically vibrant

by being responsive to the needs of ordinary folk and not just the richest winners in the economic lottery. This was an election in which voters thanked the civil servants, from teachers to correction officers, who serve them year in and out.

That victory for the progressive base was echoed in the Democrats winning the gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia as well. In New Jersey, Jon Corzine, one of the toughest liberals in the nation, beat back those who sought to turn this millionaire businessman's social compassion into a negative. So, too, in Virginia where Timothy Kaine, a Catholic, refused to abandon his church's opposition to the death penalty despite the most vicious right-wing attacks.

The lessons of Tuesday's election both in the bellwether state of California and across the nation is that Lincoln was right: the American people will not forever be fooled. The negative message of the Republican right, even when fronted by a smirking action hero, has lost its power to terrorize voters.

Bob Scheer is the editor of Truthdig.com

Contribution Policy

The opinions expressed in editorials or other contributions do not necessarily reflect those of the membership of the Town & Country Democratic Club. Contributions may be edited due to space or content, are due by the 25th of each month for the coming issue, and can be sent to.....

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E-Mail: skamurphy@hotmail.com



The Calendar



Garamendi for Lt. Governor Fundraiser

Saturday, Dec. 10th, 12pm-3pm
Grand Island Mansion
13415 Grand Island Road
Walnut Grove
Cost: \$100 per person
RSVP: (916) 863-6881

Gray Panthers Annual Holiday Party & Potluck

Tuesday, December 13th, 12:30pm
Hart Senior Center
27th & I Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joyce, (916) 688-1827
www.graypanthersacramento.org

Town & Country Democratic Club & 5th AD Holiday Party

Wed., December 14th, 7:00pm
Carmichael Park Veterans Hall
Grant Avenue at Fair Oaks Blvd.
Contact: Kevin Murphy, President
(916) 944-0669
www.tandconline.org

“Match” - Percussion Duo Fundraiser for UNICEF

Sat., December 17th, 7:30pm
Sacramento Unitarian Church
2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento
Contact: Fred Pratt (916) 482-3018

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Monday, December 19th, 6:30pm
Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento
Contact: Linda Rogaski
(916) 332-8732
www.wdsc.net

Town & Country Steering Committee Meeting

Wed., January 4, 2006, 7:00pm
Location: TBA
Contact: Kevin at (916) 944-0669
All Members Welcome!
www.tandconline.org

Sacramento For Democracy

Wednesday, January 4th, 7:00pm
Location: TBA - Ctc: (916) 326-5850
www.sacramentofordemocracy.org

Minutes con't..

On 11/19, the California Clean Money Campaign is holding a party. BYO with music and dancing at Southside Park Co-Housing Common House.

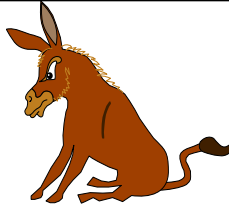
Members were encouraged to bring resolutions to T&C, who will acknowledge these with a letter presented to the pertinent group or person.

There was discussion regarding the club brochures update and the club website quality and timeliness and the forwarding of comments and postings. There also was a resolution for the club to write a letter in support to council members who condemned the War in Iraq. A letter of thanks was also proposed for the work done by Ralph and Rick. (MSMP).

The meeting adjourned at 8:3pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laure Olson
Acting Secretary

**Town & Country
Democratic Club
P.O. Box 1286
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286**



Time Value Mail
Address Correction Requested



**Reminder: The Holiday
Party is Dec. 14th at
Carmichael Park's
Veteran Hall. See details
on page—1!!!**