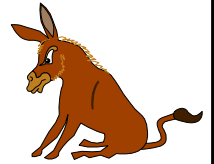


Town & Country Democrat



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

Volume 52, Issue IX

On the Web: www.tandconline.org

February 2005

Officers

Kevin Murphy
President
(916) 536-4212

Arnie Godmintz
Vice President
(916) 332-5980

Barbara Krings
Secretary
(916) 488-2410

James Nakata
Treasurer
(916) 768-9938

Joan Higgins
Immediate Past President
(916) 745-0198

Kevin Murphy
Newsletter Editor
(916) 536-4212
Fax: (916) 944-4027
E-Mail:
skamurphy@hotmail.com

Dean Leads Race for Conscious of the Party— CA & FL Delegations Hand Dean Endorsements

Howard Dean appears to be a solid favorite for the Democratic National Committee Chairman according to a poll conducted by the National Journal in January.

In the poll, 187 out of 447 committee members responded. Howard Dean came out as the clear frontrunner.

The numbers according to Hot Line:

Howard Dean-----31% (58 votes)
Martin Frost-----16% (30 votes)
Tim Roemer-----4% (8 votes)
Donnie Fowler-----4% (7 votes)
Wellington Webb-----2% (4 votes)
Simon Rosenberg-----2% (4 votes)
David Leland-----1% (1 vote)
Refused to Answer-----40% (75 votes)

While keeping in mind that 260 members did not return their surveys and 75 refused to answer, it's still a very good start for Dr. Dean.

The entire DNC delegation from Florida is supporting Dean and just Monday, the Association of Democratic State Party Chairs announced it too would back his campaign.

Additionally, an email sent to many members the California Democratic Party from state party Chairman Senator Art Torres (ret.) stated that his

delegation has voted to fully endorse Dean for next Saturday's vote.

The New York Times has already begun its spin in case Dean prevails, stating recently, "But for all the talk about ideas and issues by symbols of two sides of the Democratic spectrum, the fight to lead the Democratic National Committee is increasingly being viewed by Democrats less as a measure of where to go ideologically and more as an old-fashioned test of logistics, management skills and popularity."

Most Deaniacs will probably not see it that way. After defeat after defeat, the angry left is desperate for a victory, and this race is, indeed, turning into an ideological battle.

Even some mainstream Democrats are finally beginning to see Dean's

Continued to back page...



Dean at a recent appearance in Sacramento

Inside this issue:

<i>In the News</i>	1 - 3
<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>Club News</i>	4 - 6
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	5
<i>Membership Info.</i>	5
<i>Opinion</i>	7
<i>Editorial</i>	7
<i>An Open Letter</i>	8
<i>The Final Word</i>	9
<i>The Calendar</i>	10

More Planning and Goal Setting for Election Cycle at February 9th General Meeting

Those who missed Town and Country's last meeting missed a great presentation by Steve Ybarra, one of our own local Democratic National Committee delegates. Steve gave a great talk about what went wrong during the last election and provided some insight into the coming race to elect the new

DNC Chair. As a result of Steve's knowledgeable and entertaining presentation, we were only able to put a small dent into planning the club's goals and objectives for the next election cycle.

Thus, join us on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:00pm as we dive back into the

Continued to page - 6

From the President...

A good friend and good Democrat from North Carolina sent me a great gift recently; a book entitled, So, You Want to Be Canadian. The book describes itself as a reader "all about the most fascinating people in the world and the magical place they call home." So often my friend and I have joked that if things get any worse in the US, we'll have to move to Canada.

It's quite a page turner. Did you know for example that a dollar in Canada is called a "looney?" Did you know they speak eight different languages in the Northwest Territories alone? I'm sure you knew that author A.A. Milne named his best known character Winnie the Pooh after a bear he saw in the London Zoo, but did you know that bear came from Winnipeg?

On and on it goes, and becoming a Canadian doesn't seem like such a bad idea. There are even several websites you can check out online sponsored by Canadian law firms that specialize in bringing into Canada people who want to become Canadian. I, myself, checked out a few after the last election.

Still, while the United States is not the country it was just four short years ago, the chance of continuing the fight here at home seems to trump the other alternative of turning tail and heading north. While G.W. Bush may have fully ensconced himself in the White House and surrounded himself with the most ridiculous cabinet ever assembled, we in the alleged minority have a duty to those who can't afford to jump ship.

George wants to take Social Security away from those who need it most. Arnold wants to take healthcare away from those who need it most. It's time for all Democrats to take a page from the Barbara Boxer and Howard Dean playbook and start going on the offensive. Canada will have to wait.

CDC to Form Public Financing Committee

Noting that Democrats cannot ignore their ongoing responsibilities at home to keep their party organizing and moving forward after the losses of Election 2004, California Democratic Council President Chris Stampolis recently announced the formation of an ad hoc committee to study public financing of elections.

"This committee will be responsible to review the public financing systems of Maine, Arizona and elsewhere, while also reviewing the proposal(s) for public financing submitted to California's State Legislature last term and this term," said Stampolis.

The recommendations of the

Public Financing committee will be provided directly to CDC's Board and/or Executive Committee for action. Stampolis is hoping the new committee will provide its first report by the end of February.

Any Democrat may serve on this ad hoc Public Financing committee, provided they are a member of an affiliated Democratic club or county central committee.

If you are interested in this topic, please e-mail your name, your primary Democratic club and your contact information to Chris Stampolis. Most discussions will occur via the CDC listserv. Email Chris at CalifDems@aol.com or call (408) 390-4748.

Sweeney Faces Challenge to Remain In Control of AFL-CIO

Its fortunes slipping away, its membership in decline and trapped in a cycle of political setbacks, the AFL-CIO will attempt this year to regain its footing and, if there's the will, reinvent itself.

However, there may be a fight over differing ideas about reform and perhaps even a challenge to the president of the labor federation, John Sweeney, who will seek re-election in July at the AFL-CIO convention in Chicago.

On one side of the battle will be advocates for sweeping change, particularly the leadership of the nation's largest union, the Service Employees International Union, which wants to reorganize the AFL-CIO. On the other side will be defenders of the status quo for U.S. labor unions.

Sweeney said he favors change, but he questions the degree to which it's necessary. No matter who prevails, change is coming to a movement that has grown weary of

its losing streak.

The key Service Employees International proposal is to reduce the number of affiliated, separate and autonomous unions in the federation from 65 to 20 or fewer and to strengthen those larger unions when they bargain with consolidated national and international corporations. If this change is adopted, 40 presidents could lose their power.

Sweeney became AFL-CIO president in 1995, promising to revive it and to emphasize organizing. One of his priorities was to have affiliated unions devote 30 percent of their budgets to recruiting, but few have done so.

Meantime, the labor movement has continued to decline, representing just under 13 percent of the nation's workers, compared with 35 percent in the mid-20th century. Only 8.2 percent of private-sector workers are unionized.

Eleven Vie with Doris Matsui to Win Her Husband's Former Congressional Seat

While no prominent Democrats stepped up to challenge Doris Matsui's campaign to succeed her husband, eleven other candidates were recently certified by the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters for the special election to fill the 5th Congressional District seat on March 8th.

None of the candidates are seen as a serious threat to Matsui, but the sheer number of them will make it that much tougher for Matsui to receive better than 50% of the total vote. That is the percentage of votes she needs to win the seat and avoid a potential runoff election slated for May 3rd.

Matsui is the wife Rep. Robert Matsui who unexpectedly died on New Years Day. Robert Matsui had just been reelected to another term in Congress this past November.

If the Matsui name will make it a difficult race for anyone running against Doris, the numbers of registered Democrats in the district will make it even tougher.

Nearly 300,000 voters are



Doris Matsui announces her intention to run for her late husband's seat at her home in South Sacramento.

registered in the 5th Congressional District with Democrats outnumbering republicans two to one at 51% versus 25% respectively. In the last election, Robert Matsui received 71.1% of the vote with the next highest voter getter being republican Mike Dugas who garnered just 23.4%.

Just For Fun....

A woman in a hot air balloon was lost. She lowered altitude and spotted a man in a boat below. She shouted to him, "Excuse me can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am."

The man consulted his portable GPS and replied, "You're in a hot air balloon approximately 30 feet above a ground elevation of 2346 feet above sea level. You're 31 degrees 14.97 minutes north latitude and 100 degrees 49.09 minutes west longitude."

She rolled her eyes and said, "You must be a Democrat—everything you told me is technically correct but I have no idea what to make of your information and I'm still lost. You haven't been much help to me."

The man smiled and said, "You must be a republican—you don't know where you are or where you're going. You've risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise that you have no idea how to keep and you expect me to solve your problem. You're in exactly the same position you were before we met but somehow now its all my fault."

Second Canadian Wal-Mart Store Gets Union

A second Wal-Mart store in Quebec received union certification after a majority of the store's employees signed cards indicating the Canadian arm of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union was their official agent for collective bargaining, the union said Wednesday.

The union and Wal-Mart Canada, a unit of retailing giant Wal-Mart Stores Inc., already are negotiating a contract for another store in Jonquiere, Quebec.

That store, which Wal-Mart revealed hasn't been profitable since it opened a few years ago, was automatically certified in August.

Wal-Mart Canada spokesman Andrew Pelletier said the company is reviewing all its options,

including a legal challenge to the decision by the Quebec Labour Relations Commission that certified the union after the majority of the 200 employees of the store in the town of Saint Hyacinthe signed union cards.

Pelletier said that while Wal-Mart respects the laws and legal process in Quebec, he called the decision to automatically certify the store "undemocratic."

"Once again, we have a situation where our Quebec associates were not given the opportunity to express their views about the union in a democratic, secret-ballot vote. Instead, the union has been automatically certified at the Saint Hyacinthe store without a vote," he told Dow Jones Newswires.

"This concerns us because we believe the only way to ensure associates can express their views without coercion or intimidation is by allowing a secret-ballot vote to take place," he said.

The UFCW said it plans to deliver a contract proposal to Wal-Mart in the next few weeks. An arbitrator was appointed at Wal-Mart's request in December, and meeting dates have been scheduled through March 15.

"The momentum is picking up," said Michael Fraser, UFCW Canada's national director, in a prepared statement. He added that Wal-Mart workers now realize that if they want a union in their store, Wal-Mart can't stop them.

Club News

Election Results of 5th, 9th and 10th AD Reorganizations

5th Assembly District Democratic Committee:

Chair - Susan McKee
 Vice Chair - Brandon Bell
 Secretary - Ann Wangberg
 Treasurer - Bill Lochenmacher
 Ass't Treasurer - Ronna Krisko

Delegates to the California
 Democratic Party Convention:
 Ann Wangberg Arnie Godmintz
 Marty Maskall Kevin Murphy
 Tiffany Brown Hugh Lafler
 Roberta Ward Brandon Bell
 Lyn Steuve Ron Slaven
 Karen Bernal Bill Lockenmacher

Representative to the CDP
 E-Board: Owen Jackman
 Alternate to the CDP
 E-Board: Karen Bernal

9th Assembly District Democratic Committee:

Chair- Christian Griffith
 Vice Chair - Vicki Lee
 Secretary - Randi Stephens
 Treasurer - Don Douglas

Delegates to the California
 Democratic Party Convention:
 Sam Catalano Maggie Krell
 Mark Nash Jennifer Baker
 Ed Bennett Laurie McBride
 Paul Broyles Janet Wolfe-Esce
 Dan Roth Pam Chueh
 Manny Margarita Maldonado
 Hernandez

Representative to the CDP
 E-Board: Sam Catalano
 Alternate to the CDP:
 E-Board: Laurie McBride

10th Assembly District Democratic Committee:

Chair - Rick Larkey
 Vice Chair - Nancy Bui
 Secretary - Katherine Maestas
 Treasurer - Peggy Gorman

Delegates to the California
 Democratic Party Convention:
 Jim Cook Mavis McAllister
 Ken Cooley Mytoan Nguyen
 Robert Dawa Peggy Gorman
 Joel Ryan Mary Lisa Lynch
 Robert Abelon Anita Cavanaugh
 Bernie Knighton Carolyn Estes

Representative to the CDP
 E-Board: Mavis McAllister
 Alternate to the CDP
 E-Board: Anita Cavanaugh

2005 Town & Country Democratic Club Budget (Proposed)



Income:

Forward from 2004.....	\$2,000.00
Dues.....	\$2,000.00
Fundraising/Annual Luncheon.....	\$10,000.00
Raffles/Donations/Gifts.....	\$1,000.00
Total Income.....	\$15,000.00

Expenses

Newsletter.....	\$2,000.00
Voter Registration/Publicity Efforts.....	\$300.00
Post Office Box.....	\$100.00
Memberships.....	\$250.00
Fundraising/Annual Luncheon.....	\$4,500.00
Contributions.....	\$250.00
Rent for Meetings.....	\$750.00
Office Expenses/Miscellaneous.....	\$350.00
Total Expenses.....	\$8,500.00

Anticipated Carry Over to 2006.....\$6,500.00

Delegates Needed for CDC

As a club member of the California Democratic Council, Town & Country is able to select delegates to participate in regional meetings of the CDC and its annual convention. Depending on our membership total, T&C is generally able to fill ten delegate spots.

The CDC is the premier grassroots organization in the state of California. It has a membership of over 300 clubs, Assembly District and Central Committees. This year's convention will be held in San Bernardino June 17—19. Registration fees are generally low but transportation and accommodations are not included.

If you are interested in becoming a delegate from Town and Country, please contact Kevin at (916) 944-0669 or via email at skamurphy@hotmail.com. More information about the CDC can be found at www.cdc-ca.org.

Meeting Minutes from January 12th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Murphy who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the swearing in of the 2005 club officers by Joan Lee. Treasurer Jim Nakata was absent.

President Murphy then spoke about the great loss of Rep. Robert Matsui and the coming special election to fill his seat.

Murphy gave the Treasurer's report as provided him by Jim Nakata. Approximately \$2,368.83 remains in the treasury.

Murphy introduced Steve Ybarra, one of our DNC Representatives. Steve first mentioned the need to continue the momentum started by volunteers who supported the 2004 presidential election by building that support into a groundswell for the work that must be done in the future with special emphasis on the special election to replace Robert Matsui. The use of absentee ballots must be promoted. Planning for the future is a priority.

Vice President Arnie Godmintz reported on the County Central Committee election of officers and the tabled vote on "One club, one vote."

There was a motion made to

continue paying for membership for the club in the Congress of California Seniors. Seconded and passed.

Members were asked to decide whether or not they would like to donate individual monies to the California Clean Money Campaign.

A motion was made to donate \$250 to the Robert Matsui Memorial Fund. Seconded and passed.

The reorganization of the 5th Assembly District Democratic Committee occurred on January 8th. The new officers are Susan McKee, who is now chairperson, Brandon Bell, who will be Vice Chair, Ann Wangberg, who is Secretary, Bill Lockenmacher, who will be Treasurer and Ronna Krisko, who will serve as Assistant Treasurer. Delegates as well as the new officers and delegates from the 9th and 10th AD Democratic Committees will be announced in the next newsletter.

Joan Lee, T&C's Legislative Chair, reported on the Bush Administration's attack on Social Security and how proposed changes will affect young people.

President Murphy thanked Margie Metzler for her hard work in improving T&C's website and

encouraged all members to visit the site and make any suggestions for improvement to Margie via her link as "webmaster" on the site.

Also thanked, those who participated in the very successful holiday party including Peggy Gorman, Barbara Krings, Margie Metzler, and Lynette Stueve.

Murphy provided a McCain/Feingold update. Attorneys representing the California Democratic Party have issued an opinion indicating that clubs are not in violation of the new law if contributions for federal elections are kept under \$1,000. As a result, there is no need for T&C to register as a federal PAC.

It was announced that Treasurer Jim Nakata will be working on a proposed 2005 budget to present to the Steering Committee at its January 26th meeting.

The club's Annual Awards Luncheon is expected to be held at Eskaton Village in June. Phil Angelides will be asked to be keynote speaker.

Much discussion ended the program on what to do to prepare for the 5th CD special election.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Krings, Secretary

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

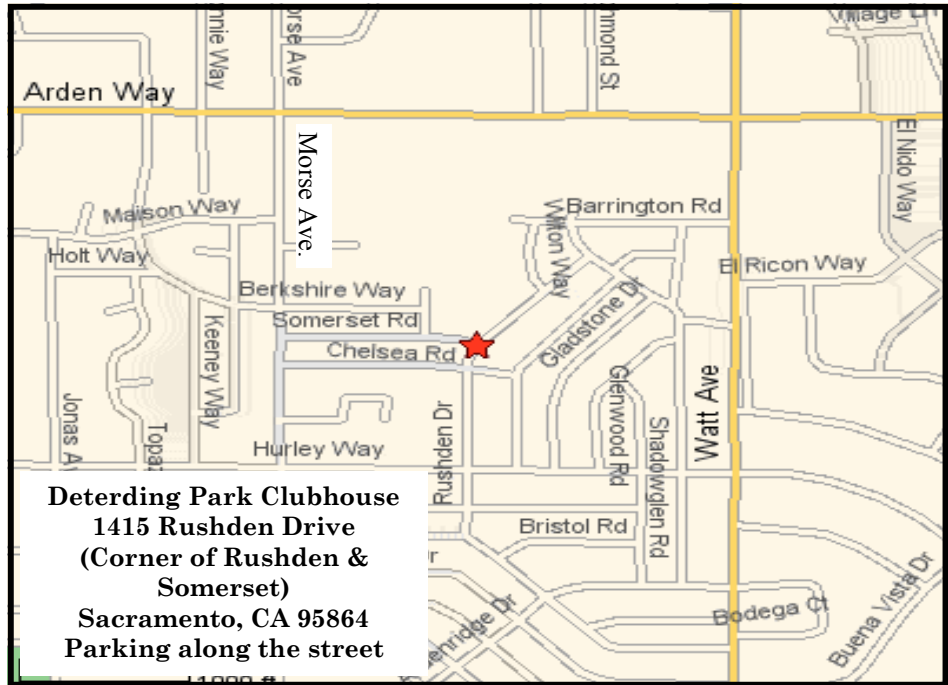
Date _____

Goals and Objectives, Annual Luncheon & Budget on Feb. 9th

planning of goals we hope to set and accomplish over the next two years. First and foremost on the list - discussion of the activities the club will participate in this year as well the programs we hope to host at our meetings.

We will also be discussing the upcoming 5th Congressional District race, the club's annual luncheon and the club's proposed budget for 2005. You can find the proposed budget on page four of this newsletter. The final budget must be approved by the membership by the club's February meeting.

Please plan on joining us on February 9th at the Deterding Park Clubhouse (see map at right).



Murphy Fills Committee Chair Assignments

Club President Kevin Murphy filled nearly all of the Committee Chairs for 2005 prior to the last General Membership meeting.

"We really need to get back to the burden of the planning of club events and activities being on the shoulders of our committees. Too much work is being done by too few people," Murphy said.

While Committee Chairs are members of the Steering Committee, very few people were interested in being chairs last year and/or attending Steering Committee meetings. Murphy hopes that will change this year.

"The last election cycle has brought several new members to the club with new ideas and a new energy to continue making Town and Country an increasingly important player in finding new candidates for office, raising money, and bringing the message of the party to the areas outside the city limits of Sacramento."

There are still two committees Murphy hopes to find people to

chair. The first is the Nominating Committee that typically meets in October to form a slate of officers for the coming year.

The other is the Bylaws Committee, an ad hoc committee Murphy called for last year to revise the club's bylaws. The committee was never formed as several questions regarding the club's relationship with McCain-Feingold campaign financing laws needed to be examined. Those questions have been recently answered.

"The Bylaws Committee needs to get underway immediately. As we discovered last year, the bylaws allow for several different interpretations or just contradict each other," Murphy said.

Anyone interested in chairing the Bylaws Committee is advised to contact Kevin at (916) 944-0669 or at skamurphy@hotmail.com. Anyone interested in participating on a committee should contact Kevin Murphy at (916) 944-0669 or contact the committee chair.

2005 Committee Assignments

Finance Committee—
Jim Nakata (916) 768-9938

Newsletter Committee—
Joan Higgins (916) 745-0198

Legislative Committee—
Joan Lee (916) 332-5980

Membership Committee—
Krystal Maddox (916) 961-2460

Program Committee—
Arnie Godmintz (916) 332-5980

Publicity Committee—
John Bernier (916) 481-5616

Telephone Committee—
Barbara Krings (916) 488-2410

Luncheon Committee—
Peggy Gorman (916) 638-9022

Opinion: An Open Letter to President Bush from California

Dear President Bush:

Congratulations on your victory over all us non-evangelicals. Actually, we're a bit ticked off here in California, so we're leaving.

California will now be its own country. And we're taking all the Blue States with us. In case you are not aware, that includes Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and all of the North East. We spoke to God, and she agrees that this split will be beneficial to almost everybody, and especially to us in the new country of California. In fact, God is so excited about it; she's going to shift the whole country at 4:30 pm EST next Friday. Therefore, please let everyone know they need to be back in their states by then.

So you get Texas and all the former slave states. We get stem cell research and the best beaches. We get Elliot Spitzer. You get Ken Lay. (Okay, we have to keep the Governor; we can live with that.) We get the Statue of Liberty. You get OpryLand. We get Intel and Microsoft. You get WorldCom. We get Harvard. You get Ole Miss. We get 85% of America's venture capital and entrepreneurs. You get all the technological innovation in Alabama. We get about two-thirds of the tax revenue, and you get to make the red states pay their fair share.

Since our divorce rate is 22% lower than the Christian coalition's, we get a bunch of happy families. You get a bunch of single moms to support, and we know how

much you like that. Did I mention we produce about 70% of the nation's veggies? But heck the only greens the Bible-thumpers eat are the pickles on their Big Macs.

Oh yeah, another thing, don't plan on serving California wine at your state dinners. From now on it's imported French wine for you. Ouch, bet that hurts.

Just so we're clear, the country of California will be pro-choice and anti-war. Speaking of war, we're going to want all Blue States citizens back from Iraq.

Anyway, we wish you all the best in the next four years and really hope you find those missing weapons of mass destruction. Seriously. Soon.
Sincerely,
California

Editorial: Dean for DNC Chair

Even if you were unable to attend the latest Democratic National Committee Chairperson Candidates Forum held in Sacramento, it should be clear to you that this election is more than the rubber stamp it has been in the past. Typically, the party insider who has the potential to bring in the most election year cash is automatically ordained without fanfare and certainly without any front page newspaper coverage.

Regardless of what mainstream papers like the New York Times say or conservative rags like The Weekly Standard or The National Review, this election really is about the heart and soul of the party.

Ever since, Bill Clinton's reelection in 1996, the party has been trying to reinforce its position in the center of the political spectrum and for the last eight years it has only brought disappointment on a national scale - the loss of the presidency twice, most recently against the weakest incumbent in history, and further

losses in Congress.

Meanwhile, grassroots activism has been hard at work with little support of the national party and they have been winning. In states where the party has typically written off any chances of making significant inroads, Democrats in the last two years have taken over as governors of many "red states" including Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina, Virginia, Montana and Tennessee.

These folks were elected by the hard work of the grassroots, the precise audience that Howard Dean plays to rave reviews and great success to in terms of money and manpower. This is precisely why he needs to be elected as DNC Chair on February 12th.

Howard Dean has been called the "Liberal's Liberal" by the press and many conservative and liberal pundits but his record as Governor of Vermont reads more like Bill Clinton's tenure in the White House - a moderate who was able to work with both sides of the aisle.

He was the first Democratic candidate for President to take great advantage of the age of the computer by building a technological infrastructure that rallied thousands of volunteers, many of whom had been dispassionate about politics for years. They opened their homes to Meetups and their checkbooks to campaign contributions.

Dean's greatest weakness is that many times he speaks first and thinks later - remember the gaff about the party needing to attract southern men with pickups and confederate flags? Dean later clarified what he meant and most Democrats knew the message he was trying to convey but the press had a field day.

The time has come for a day of reckoning within the party. Will we stay with the party insiders and maintain the status quo and a losing track record or will we follow Dean and his proven skills? Howard Dean is just what the doctor needs to order.

An Open Letter to the DNC from the Dem Club of OC

Dear Mr. McAuliffe:

The Democratic Club of Central Orange County, representing the cities of Orange, Tustin, Santa Ana, Villa Park and Anaheim Hills, was founded in May, 2002 and is chartered by the Democratic Central Committee of Orange County. The Club operated a campaign headquarters in Santa Ana from August 1, 2004 through the November, 2004 election. All resources to open and operate the headquarters were raised by the club's officers and through outreach by club members. At the close of the campaign, over 300 volunteers were headquartered out of the Club's office. Campaign activities included voter registration, precinct organization, an aggressive vote-by-mail campaign, and letter writing to the swing states Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. Volunteers telephoned thousands of voters in Missouri, Florida and Arizona.

Given the time, effort, energy and passion our group put into the 2004 election, we were sorely disappointed at the November 2nd results. On December 15 we invited all volunteers and members to discuss what went wrong and where we and the Democratic party might go from here. This letter is a distillation and summary of our thoughts and recommendations.

On the national level, our members felt that the Democratic Party was out-organized, out-issued, out-spun and out-communicated. We allowed the Karl Rove machine to highjack God, and the Democrats were too reluctant to claim the moral high ground with traditional Democratic values. The national media was much too passive and deferential to George Bush. Fox News, Rush Limbaugh and his ilk were lying to the public,

demeaning our candidates and mischaracterizing our programs and positions and the Democratic Party was too slow and too timid in their response. It is of the utmost importance that a Democratic news channel be developed to counter Fox, etc, a kind of rapid response team to counter the distortions and outright lies that seem to pervade the market place of political discourse. Clearly, we were out-issued by the Republican machine.

The Democratic Party never clearly identified our issues and what we stand for. For the first time in our history, a whole generation of American children, saddled with the huge budget deficit, is looking at a future less bright than their parents' generation.

Traditionally, the Democrats have been the opportunity party; opportunity for jobs, social security in our old age, health care for young and old, a living wage, safe air and water, and excellence in public education. But the Democrats allowed themselves to be out-issued by the Republicans.

The Republicans knew their message and stayed on it. As a Party, the Democrats did not communicate a clear and simple message. Of all the e-mails our club received, not one ever said this is our message and this is what we as Democrats stand for. While the Party registered tens of thousands of new voters, spent countless hours making sure folks got to the polls, the Party did not persuade voters to vote for Democratic candidates. When asked why they voted for Senator John Kerry for President, even lifelong Democrats responded, "He is not George Bush." We should have had a better message than that!

From our perspective, there was a lack of coordination among the various Democratic entities: the Presidential Campaign, the DNC, the California Democratic Party and the Orange County Democratic

Central Committee. There was a complete lack of focus and the Party, in our opinion, never identified the customer. There was a complete lack of leadership at all levels. The DNC used the internet extensively and effectively as a fund-raising tool as evidenced by the sevenfold increase in small donor base from 400,000 donors in 2000 to 2.7 million donors in 2004. This is a remarkable achievement.

The internet was not, however, a two way communication. We did not receive marching orders, message or infrastructure directions through the internet, or through any other medium. Our Democratic Club of Central Orange County activities were chosen and directed from within the Club and our information for swing state activities came not from the Democratic Party but from outside groups like the Orange County Central Labor Council, Main Street Moms Opposed to Bush, and MoveOn.org.

The Democratic Party did not lack for funds but it is clear that the Democrats must be as serious about grassroots organizing as they are about grass roots fundraising. Over \$158 million was raised in California by outside Democratic candidates, the DNC and 527's. Not one cent of that \$158 million was spent in California.

The above recommendations are presented for your consideration and our club is eager and ready to continue to support the Democratic Party. We are anxious for help and direction and look forward to hearing from you with both. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Sharon O'Hara
Chair

Jeanne Costales
Vice-Chair

The Final Word: Why Should Iraq Be Happy About Us by Molly Ivins

A substantial nit to pick with President Bush's second Inaugural Address and some questions about his theme.

"From the day of our founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on this Earth has rights, and dignity, and matchless value, because they bear the image of the maker of heaven and Earth. Across the generations we have proclaimed the imperative of self-government, because no one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave."

Oh dear. It took us almost 100 years to get rid of slavery right here in the Land of the Free, it took us another 100 years to get rid of legal discrimination based on race and gender, and how long it will take us to achieve equal opportunity for all in this country no one can say. At least we're working at it. Or we were.

The Bush theme of what someone else christened "evangelical democracy" is rather like the "From the day of our founding ..." passage — actually, it's more complicated than that. I, too, am happy to proselytize for freedom and democracy, but I don't think we can export it by force and I don't think we can expect the world to accept our noble intentions.

Nor is democracy necessarily the cure for terrorism. As a British journalist pointed out, if Britain had been following the Bush plan, it would have nuked us years ago for being the largest single source of money for the Irish Republican Army. Reality is so often much more complicated than George W. Bush thinks it is.

Why didn't the Iraqis welcome us with flowers? Wasn't Saddam Hussein about as nasty a dictator as you can find? Because we invaded their country and are now occupying it. It is extremely difficult to convince people that you are killing them (and torturing them) for their own good. How would you feel? The British medical magazine *Lancet* estimates Americans have now

killed about 20,000 Iraqis. We don't know for sure, because America has several policies that prevent anyone from keeping an accurate count.

Unfortunately, because of the violence in Iraq, we have achieved very little in the way of reconstruction there, so many Iraqis are actually worse off today, in terms of basic services like water and electricity, than they were under Saddam Hussein. We can still hope that the elections work out well in most of the country, but it's silly to say things are going well in Iraq, as some of my more delusional colleagues claim.

Actually, we have already tried foreign policy based on idealism: In one case, it didn't work worth a damn, and in the second, it produced pretty handsome results based on a pragmatic application of principle.

The first great foreign policy idealist in the presidency was Woodrow Wilson, everyone else having pretty much stuck to the Monroe Doctrine (except our unfortunate venture into the Philippines, a sort of early Vietnam). Wilson got us into the insanely named "War to End War." (As A.J. Muste, the great pacifist, observed, "The way to peace is through peace.")

After that hideous slaughter, Wilson signed a treaty that set up the same war to happen all over again 20 years later. He was famously unable to get his own Senate to join the doomed League of Nations.

A rather better effort was made by Jimmy Carter, who based much of his foreign policy on human rights, the equivalent of Bush's "freedom." This consistent emphasis, applied over time, resulted in every country in Latin America (though not Central America) becoming a democracy.

Unfortunately, the rest of the world is skeptical of Bush's benign intent, mostly because he invaded a country that not only hadn't done anything to us, but also was no threat to us. (There is a new line on the right that goes, "But everybody in the whole world was saying Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction." Actually, everybody wasn't. Hans Blix and the

U.N. inspectors had been unable to find any, even though we claimed we knew exactly where they were and had pictures of them. Quite a few people were beginning to doubt the existence of WMD, and what "everybody in the world" was saying at the time we went to war was, "Give the inspectors more time." (In retrospect, it was quite good advice, wasn't it?)

At other points in the speech, one was left wondering, as one so often is, about Bush's grip on reality. Talking about his "ownership society," he said, "By making every citizen an agent of his or her own destiny, we will give our fellow Americans greater freedom from want and fear, and make our society more prosperous and just and equal."

He's delusional: He cannot possibly believe his tax cuts are making this country more just and equal — they are making it more unjust and unequal every day, not to mention getting us ever deeper into debt. One does not provide "freedom from want and fear" by privatizing Social Security. We've been there, we've done this — we tried unregulated capitalism at the end of the 19th century, and it was awful.

Molly Ivins is a syndicated columnist.

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.....

Kevin Murphy, Editor
Town & Country Democrat
4211 Paradise Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608
Fax: (916) 944-4027
E-Mail: skamurphy@hotmail.com



The Calendar



Gray Panthers

Tuesday, February 8th, 1:00pm
Hart Senior Center
27th & I Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joan Lee
(916) 332-5980
www.graypanthersacramento.org

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee

Tuesday, February 8th, 6:00pm
State Capitol Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chairman
(916) 442-0264
www.sacdems.org

Town & Country Democratic Club

Wednesday, February 9th, 7:00pm
Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushden Way, Sacramento
Corner of Rushden/Somerset
Contact: Kevin Murphy, President
(916) 944-0669
www.tandconline.org

Democratic National Committee Annual Meeting

February 10—12, 2005
Washington, DC
www.dnc.org

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Thursday, February 17th, 6:00pm
Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento
Contact: Linda Rogaski
(916) 332-8732
www.wdsc.net

Last Day to Register for 5th Congressional District Special Election

February 22nd, 2005

Town & Country Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 2nd, 7:00pm
Location: Kevin Murphy's Home
4211 Paradise Drive, Carmichael
Contact: Kevin, (916) 944-0669
All Members Welcome!

Sacramento For Democracy

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00pm
SEIU Local 250
1911 F St, Sacramento
Contact: (916) 326-5850
www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org

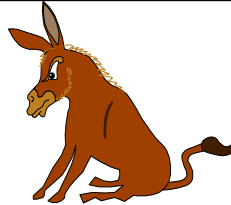
5th Congressional District Special Election

March 8th, 2005

Dean Con't...

popularity among the grassroots being impossible to fight against. Recently, longtime Bill Clinton confidant, Harold Ickes, came out in support of Dean. While Bill and Hillary Clinton have steadfastly maintained their impartiality in the race for DNC Chair, many believe they are still trying to find a party insider to give Dean competition. Ickes' split, however, may signal the Clintons have given up.

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



Time Value Mail
Address Correction Requested



**We're On The Web!!!
www.tandconline.org**