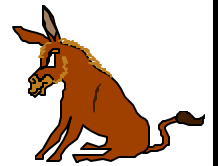


# Town & Country Democrat



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

Volume 53, Issue II

On the Web: [www.tandconline.org](http://www.tandconline.org)

May 2005

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## Largest CDP Convention Convenes in LA

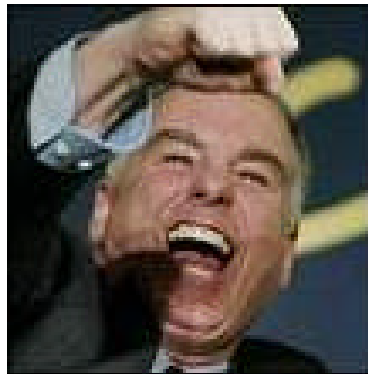
With over 2,000 attendees, the on Saturday was headlined by Senator California Democratic Party took over nearly half of the Los Angeles Convention Center the weekend of April 15 - 17.

Town and Country was well represented as well with approximately ten members in attendance.

The convention kicked off Friday night with caucus meetings, spanning interests from New DNC Chair Howard Dean brought his infectious enthusiasm to Los Angeles to labor and young democrats. A welcome reception hosted by party chair Art Torres was held at 7:00pm followed by more caucus meetings and hospitality suites.

Saturday featured several speakers and town hall meetings with topics on education and the state budget. The party welcomed House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Barbara Boxer, State Treasurer and candidate for governor Phil Angelides, State Controller Steve Westly and many others.

The Legislative Leadership Luncheon



Dianne Feinstein as she heads into a reelection campaign next year. Congressman Zoe Lofgren and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez also spoke.

During the afternoon, two more town hall meetings were scheduled with the topics being healthcare and social security. Speakers included Insurance Commissioner and candidate for Lt.

Governor John Garamendi, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamonte, and Senator Deborah Ortiz. Deborah Berger from the California Nurses Association and Tyrone Freeman, President of the California Homecare Council also spoke.

Saturday evening was built around the arrival of newly elected DNC Chair Howard Dean. Dean addressed the audience at the complimentary showing of the movie "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" and then

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## T&C Enters End of Life Issues Fray— Welcomes Devara Berger on May 11th

Our speaker at the May meeting will be long-time health policy advocate Devara Berger. Devara will speak on AB 654, legislation authored by Assemblymembers Berg and Levine, which would give terminally ill patients control over the end of their lives and allowing physicians to give them a prescription to end their

suffering.

Ms. Berger has had 30 years experience in the field of health policy, including end-of-life issues and brings the unique perspective of one with personal experience on the issue.

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## From the President...

As you couldn't help but notice from the front page, the California Democratic Party held its annual convention last month in Los Angeles. It was my fourth convention and I was very proud that ten other Town and Country members were also there.

CDP conventions are exciting albeit chaotic events—finding your way to the hotel, from the hotel to the convention center, from the parking lot or loading zone to registration, etc. Along the way you run into old friends, people passing out literature (those Lyndon LaRouche supporters mostly), and usually an elected official or two surrounded by an entourage of ten.

This year's gathering had an interesting feel to it and I think that most convention veterans in attendance would agree with me. The group seemed even more diverse than normal. The difference, I think, was the number of people who became energized or reenergized by politics in this country last year. Many of the first-timer attendees were former "Deaniacs" or new members of groups like Move On or Democracy for America.

Indeed many of these "progressive" groups organized and hosted hospitality suites and parties each night of the convention. The Progressive Democrats of America and Hands on Democracy were just two of these organizations.

On the shuttle bus back to the hotel on Saturday evening (very late on Saturday evening) I had a chance to sit next to a man from the Peninsula Democratic Club near San Francisco. He told me some of the "old-timers" were worried about these new comers.

I told him that I was very enthusiastic about them. The energy these folks have brought to the party have reenergized not only the party, but all of us "old timers."

## Lockyer Will Now Run for Treasurer

Attorney General Bill Lockyer dropped plans to run for governor recently and said he would instead run for state treasurer, citing a wish to avoid the character attacks and money chase required to take on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Lockyer said he was confident he could have won the Democratic nomination for governor and was eager to see Schwarzenegger defeated. But he said he had little appetite for a nasty campaign and the partisan nature of the

governor's job.

In the past, Lockyer has boasted of a friendship with Schwarzenegger and surprised many supporters when he announced he'd voted for the Republican in the 2003 recall election. But he now says Schwarzenegger's performance in office has convinced him that he needed to be replaced.

Other candidates for State Treasurer include Sen. Joe Dunn; John Chiang, a member of the state Board of Equalization; and Assemblyman Dario Frommer.

## Curbs on Union Campaign Cash could be Key in Special Election

As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's special election agenda to reshape California appears to be losing ground, attention is shifting to a ballot measure aimed at Democrats that would limit the use of union dues in political campaigns.

Supporters of the so-called Paycheck Protection initiative said Thursday they will turn in more than 600,000 signatures early next week - far more than the 373,816 required for qualification.

If so, the little-noticed initiative could displace the governor's own weakening platform and become a focal point of the expected fall election.

"Paycheck protection is designed and written with one goal in mind: to take union members and union organizations out of the California political process," said Gale Kaufman, strategist for Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, and an adviser to the California Teachers Association. "It goes right to the heart of working men's and women's ability to participate in politics."

The measure, which is opposed

by unions and Democrats, would require public sector labor groups such as the teachers union, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association and the Service Employees International Union, to get written permission from members to use dues for political purposes.

Schwarzenegger has not endorsed the measure, but its sponsor thinks he will support it as part of his broader plans to change California's political landscape.

The measure is sponsored by tax activist Lewis Uhler, who said he is trying to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees.

"Can you imagine the outcry if corporations were to require their employees to contribute to a (political action committee) and only the corporate leaders can decide how to spend it?" Uhler said.

The idea of limiting union political influence was raised in 1998, when Proposition 226 backed by former Gov. Pete Wilson was soundly defeated by voters. But some political analysts believe it has a better shot if it gets Schwarzenegger's backing.

# Town & Country Democratic Club Proudly Presents Its 11th Annual Awards Luncheon



**Keynote Address by  
California State Treasurer & Democratic  
Candidate for Governor  
Phil Angelides**

**Saturday, June 25th, 2005, 11:30am to 2:00pm  
Eskaton Village Ballroom  
3939 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael**



**Town & Country's Robert T. Matsui Award  
for Public Service to be presented to  
former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin**

**Town & Country's Great Grass Roots Award  
to be presented to Arnold Godmintz**



**Tickets: \$35 per person. Sponsorships available for \$1,000, \$500, \$250 & \$100.  
All levels include tickets. The top three levels include marketing/program ads.**

**For more information please contact Kevin Murphy  
Phone: (916) 536-4212, Email: [skamurphy@hotmail.com](mailto:skamurphy@hotmail.com)**

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## Town & Country 11th Annual Awards Luncheon Registration Form

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ PAC# \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the sponsorship level or the number of individual tickets:

\_\_\_\_\_ Platinum - 10 Tickets (\$1,000)      \_\_\_\_\_ Silver - 3 Tickets (\$250)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gold - 5 Tickets (\$500)      \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze - 2 Tickets (\$100)

Number of Individual Tickets (\$35 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to "Town & Country Democratic Club" and mail to.....  
Town & Country Democratic Club, PO Box 1286, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286.**

*Town & Country Democratic Club—PAC#: 981637 On the web: [www.tandconline.org](http://www.tandconline.org). Contributions are not deductible for tax purposes.  
Flyer printed in house*

## Club News

### Rudin Selected for T&C's first Robert T. Matsui Public Service Award

For many years, we referred to her as "Madam Mayor."

On June 25th, Anne Rudin will become know as the first honoree to receive Town & Country's Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service.

A former Mayor and City Councilwoman for the City of Sacramento, Anne may be out of the public spotlight but she is not out of the public eye.

For many years she has supported Democratic and progressive causes and candidates, becoming a mentor to many current elected officials. She has also been honored by several

organizations. Indeed, the League of Women Voters has a scholarship named for Anne that assists women who are pursuing a career in public service.

Anne will receive the award at the club's annual luncheon on June 25th. T&C Vice President Arnie Godmintz will be honored when he receives the club's Great Grass Roots Award.



### Delegates Needed for CDC/Congress of CA Seniors

Town & Country is an organizational member to the California Democratic Council and the Congress of California Seniors. As such, we are permitted to send delegates to their conventions.

The Congress of CA Seniors will be meeting in Sacramento this month from May 23 - 24. The price to attend is \$65, not including optional meals you may purchase.

The CDC is meeting in San Bernardino June 17—19. Registration is \$50. You also have to pay for air and hotel. Call Kevin at (916) 536-4212 for more info.

## Convention Memories



A fine time was had by all at the California Democratic Party Convention held in Los Angeles April 15—17th. Clockwise from top, T&C member Peggy Gorman mugs for the camera with former 5th AD Democratic Committee Treasurer Marty Maskall at the Chair's Reception on Friday evening. Next is Margie Metzler and Lynn Stueve who were probably on their way to another "Hospitality Suite." Finally, State Senate candidate Kristine Lang-McDonald buddies-up with T&C President Kevin Murphy at the Angelides for Governor booth. Kristine was recently hired to be the statewide volunteer coordinator for Phil's campaign for governor.

## Meeting Minutes from April 13th

President Murphy led the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written. Treasurer Jim Nakata stated that \$3,459.26 remained in the treasury.

V.P. Arnie Godmintz reported very little came out of the Central Committee meeting, however the 5th AD is organizing committees and working on a fundraiser.

President Murphy introduced Sam Catalano—Director of the new Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign. Sam gave a spirited talk on the importance of working together on every level. Many clubs have donated to the permanent downtown campaign office. Neighborhood leaders are being sought to reach out to the community. Motion made, seconded and passed to have T & C sponsor the Coordinated Campaign.

President Murphy introduced the evenings speaker, Susan McKee, Chair of the 5th AD. Detailed by Susan as issues to consider: "family values" is not just a Republican issue; all Democratic factions should work together; elected Democrats forget voters once they are elected; more support for local candidates.

Joan Lee, the club's Legislative Chair spoke on the effect of cutting out cost of living raises to in-home support workers and the possibility that Medicare participants will be forced into HMO's if the Governor's budget cuts are accepted. Also, end-of-life issues were discussed.

Awards Luncheon update: Phil Angelides has been confirmed as the speaker and Arnie Godmintz will be honored with the "Great Grassroots" Award. Fred Pratt endorsed Ann Rudin for honoree.

A meeting to discuss the details for the Awards Luncheon will be on April 20 at Kevin Murphy's home.

Bylaws update: work ongoing.

Upcoming Democratic party convention in Los Angeles will feature party leader Howard Dean, April 15—17..

The Jefferson-Jackson dinner will be held, April 30 in Loomis. John Garamendi featured.

The Folsom Democrats will be leading protest against Dan Lundgren's appearance in Folsom on April 25 to push Bush's social security privatization plan. Members are asked to join the protest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Krings, Secretary

## Sac Coordinated Campaign Update

The Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign is moving forward with its Voter Registration and Messaging efforts. Ralph Cyfers has secured 7 sites for each Saturday in April and May. He has training every Saturday at 9 am at our office at 1331 21st Street.

We are also starting our efforts to train folks to become our new Neighborhood Leaders (precinct captains). This is where we ask you to adopt your neighborhood and go out and speak to your Democratic neighbors and help get him motivated and educated and engaged.

We will also be hosting a "Message House Party" on Sunday, May 7th at 4 pm at 1861 Pebblewood Drive in Sacramento. We will talk and work on what it means to be a Democrat; how do we say that; what do we say; what sells; what works. Mark your calendars.

For more info on how to help call the office from 1 to 4 pm Monday to Friday at 443-4923. Better yet, come on down! - Sam Catalano

## 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

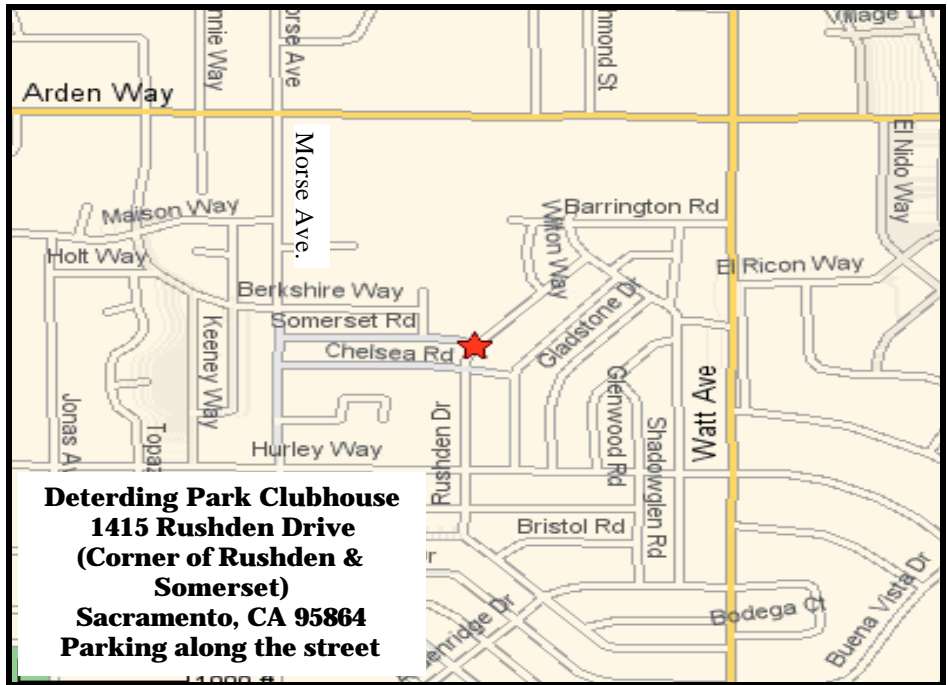
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## May 11th Meeting con't: Don't miss the "Arnold" video!

The proposed bill has proved highly controversial, in spite of the fact that 78% of Californians support giving incurable ill patients the right to ask for and receive life-ending medication.

We will also hear from Marty Maskall on the topic of cohousing which is clustered housing with a strong emphasis on shared amenities and creating an old-fashioned neighborhood.

We will also take a few minutes to view a funny video about Arnold Schwarzenegger's record so far as Governor of California that premiered at the recent state democratic convention. The raffle prize for the evening will be a calendar of "Bushisms" or infamous sayings from GW Bush.



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Joan Lee

In mid-May the Federal Government will send out notices to current Medicaid/Medicare beneficiaries, called the Dual Eligibles; these notices will advise them that they will be automatically enrolled in the much touted "low-income Medicare subsidy" for their medications. These notices are to let them know that they have no need to re-apply. Shortly thereafter other notices will be sent to the remaining majority of Medicare recipients, telling them how to determine if they would be eligible for those same low-income benefits.



These mailings will be the initial steps toward the full implementation of Part D of last year's the Medicare Modernization Act. It is quite disturbing that the government itself doesn't, at this late date, seem to have all the systems in place, nor are they able to give answers as to how people in different situations will be

impacted.

I will be trying to give you the latest information and help as we come up to the inaugural date, January 2006, when those infamous drug discount cards are no longer needed and Part D kicks in. No particular data has been put out about just how well that whole first part of the MMA - the drug cards - went. We suspect that it was less than a roaring success.

As the MMA moves ahead, Congress has at least 50 bills in the hopper that would in some way attempt to "fix" the new law. Of particular note is S. 239 (Snowe - Maine, Co-sponsored by Feinstein) would reduce prescription drug costs under Medicare by unleashing to the government's vast purchasing power, currently restricted, in order to negotiate "best prices". It would be worth your time to send a note of support to Feinstein in DC.

## Convention con't...

provided the keynote address to the Convention Dinner. Dean repeated the message that vaulted him to his landside DNC Chair election victory: we must compete in every state and do a better job explaining to voters why voting republican is against their best interests.

Several more hospitality suites were open on Saturday night, hosted by Phil Angelides, Bill Lockyer, Cruz Bustamonte and many others. Bus transportation to local hotels was provided into the wee hours of the morning and very much appreciated.

The convention closed on Sunday with two more town hall meetings on the topics of "communicating the message" and environmental, consumer and civil rights. Elected officials present included Attorney General Bill Lockyer and Senator Jackie Speier. Guest speakers included author and columnist Arianna Huffington and Wes Boyd, Co-Founder of Moveon.org.

## Sacramento Federal Courthouse Renamed for Matsui

President Bush signed legislation Friday naming the federal courthouse in Sacramento after the late Rep. Robert Matsui.



Matsui, a Democrat who represented the Sacramento area in Congress for 26 years, died Jan. 1 of complications from a rare bone marrow disease. He was 63.

His widow, Doris, was elected last month to replace him in the House of Representatives.

Doris Matsui said naming the courthouse after her late husband "means a great deal to me and my family. Bob fought for equality and rights for everyone throughout his lifetime," she said. "And this specific courthouse ... was one that he worked to get the funding for."

Robert Matsui was the third-ranking Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. He also was chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

He helped pass President Clinton's North American Free Trade Agreement and authored

1988 legislation apologizing to Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. As a child, Matsui was held in an internment camp.

He also was a leading critic of Bush's plan to replace some Social Security benefits with private investment accounts.



A contest sponsored by Moveon.org produced the above billboard that has been placed throughout Tom DeLay's Congressional District in Texas.

## Sen. Jeffords Won't Seek Re-Election

Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords, an independent who triggered one of the most dramatic upheavals in Senate history when he quit the GOP four years ago, intends to retire at the end of his term next year. The announcement is expected soon.

Jeffords, 70, has been adamant in saying he will seek re-election, but there have been increasing concerns voiced about his health in recent weeks. He has suffered from a bad back and neck for years and lately has seemed confused by some questions in several news interviews.

His spokesman, Erik Smulson, said just over a week ago that Jeffords was in excellent health and looking forward to "a spirited campaign."

Sources say Jeffords will also cite

the ill health of his wife, Liz, as a factor. She has been battling cancer.

Jeffords' surprise decision will unleash a host of candidates to replace him in the predominantly Democratic state. U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders, the state's only congressman and the only independent in the House, has said he would run if Jeffords did not. Like Jeffords, he votes with the Democrats. Vermont's other member of the Senate is Democrat Patrick Leahy.

"In order to best represent my state of Vermont, my own conscience and principles that I have stood for my whole life, I will leave the Republican Party and become an independent," said Jeffords on May 24, 2001.

## Franken Moves His Radio Show to MN for Senate Run?

As reported in Salon, Al Franken is buying an apartment in Minneapolis and moving his Air America radio show to the Twin Cities. Franken is still a little cagey about his ambitions, but only a little. "I can tell you honestly, I don't know if I'm going to run (for Senate)," he says. "But I'm doing the stuff I need to do, in order to do it."

Democrats inside and outside Minnesota are excited by the idea; Joe Trippi says a Franken campaign would be a lot like Howard Dean's because he's "really somebody" who could get people involved

## Contribution: The Rules of the Senate—Why They Matter by Chris Cillizza

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist plans later this month to amend the most richly prized and roundly despised of the Senate's regulations—Rule XXII—to force up or down votes on a handful of judges put forward by President Bush. Amending Rule XXII would effectively abolish the filibuster for judicial nominations. Democrats refer to it as the "nuclear option" because, they argue, it would utterly devastate the Senate. Republicans refer to it by the equally loaded phrase "the constitutional option," noting that the Constitution allows the Senate to make its own rules. If Republicans manage to amend Rule XXII, Democrats threaten to retaliate by invoking other Senate rules that would snarl and disrupt the chamber.

The 43 rules of the Senate, and the thousands of precedents derived from those rules, exercise an extraordinary and peculiar influence over the body. What are the rules? Where did they come from? How are they changed? And why is the fight over Rule XXII such a big deal?

In 1789, the Senate passed 20 rules to govern itself, a power given solely to it by Article 1, Section 5 of the Constitution. Since that time, there have been seven full-scale revisions of the rules—the most recent of which came in 1979—and numerous smaller changes and amendments. The rules, which cover everything from the language used to swear in new members to the value of gifts senators can accept, can be changed at anytime by a simple majority vote. If there is opposition to the change, a two-thirds vote is needed to end debate (or bring cloture, in Senate-ese).

Riddick's Senate Procedure, a 1,500-plus-page tome, is the chamber's unofficial bible, offering an authoritative history of rule-making—and breaking—over the

past 125 years. Sen. Robert Byrd, West Virginia Democrat and self-styled parliamentary guru, claims to have read the work cover-to-cover 16 times. The latest revision of Riddick's was released in 1992 by the Government Printing Office.

In general, most Senate rules and precedents are peripheral to the day-to-day functioning of the body, because both parties waive their requirements in order to speed up the Senate's functioning. For example, Rule IV states that every morning the journal of the previous day's session—an accounting of all the action on the Senate floor—must be read in its entirety. To expedite the already molasses-slow legislating process, both parties agree to waive the reading of the journal through a "unanimous consent agreement." Those agreements, by which all 100 senators agree to parameters for bringing a bill or nomination to the floor, are the backbone of an effective Senate. Usually the result of significant backroom bartering, the agreements often limit debate time or the number of amendments that can be offered for a piece of legislation. UCs, as they are known, have helped the chamber run smoothly since its formation.

Withholding unanimous consent is the strongest weapon Senate Democrats have should they choose to strike back against the nuclear option. Refusing consent for picayune bits of business such as the reading of the daily journal would effectively grind the Senate to a dead stop, leaving members unable to introduce new legislation until one side blinks. Putting a "hold" on a bill is a common way to deny unanimous consent, and any senator can do that by informing his party leader of his opposition. Democrats responding to the possibility of a nuclear option have said they will not bring the Senate entirely to a halt for any considerable period of time, but

rather will pick their legislative battles.

Rule VI offers the Democrats another potential stalling tactic. It states that anytime the chamber is in session, a senator can suggest the absence of a quorum, or a simple majority. The roll is then called, and if 51 of the 100 members are not on the floor, the senators who are present can stop further debate until enough of their colleagues arrive to constitute a majority. Because there are rarely more than a few senators on the floor at any one time, except during scheduled votes, repeated requests for a quorum would delay legislation for days or even weeks, as well as infuriate senators by forcing them to troop constantly to the floor.

Rule changes are few and far between in the Senate because the votes of two-thirds of the members are needed to end debate and force a vote. The Republicans' nuclear option would be the exception to the rule (ahem). Instead of trying to directly change Rule XXII, a move that could be filibustered by his Democratic opponents, Frist will instead seek a ruling from the Senate's presiding officer on whether filibustering judges is unconstitutional. That judgment would be made by Vice President Dick Cheney, who oversees the Senate during major floor fights. If Cheney rules judicial filibusters unconstitutional—a move that itself cannot be filibustered, according to Ritchie—his decision could be upheld by a simple majority. Traditionally, neither party has fiddled seriously with the rules because of an understanding among senators that even the most durable majority won't last forever. We'll find out soon whether that understanding still holds.

*Chris Cillizza is a political reporter with Roll Call newspaper in Washington, D.C.*

## The Final Word: Don't Be Fooled by Bush's SS Plan by Molly Ivins

Attention, all campers! "Progressive indexing" is just another word for "cutting Social Security benefits." Do not be fooled by this idiot locution. Just as sure as "extraordinary rendition" now means "shipping the guy to another country so he can be tortured," progressive indexing means cutting benefits. Got it?

In another interesting development from President Bush's news conference, if you make more than \$20,000 a year, you are wealthy. That's what the president said -- "wealthy."

Would you hire this man as an investment consultant? Bush said, "I know some Americans have reservations about investing in the stock market, so I propose that one investment option will consist entirely of treasury bonds, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government." These are exactly the same treasury bonds that currently guarantee Social Security and have been described by Bush, including in the very same press conference as, a cabinet full of "worthless IOUs."

He continued, "Options like this will make voluntary personal retirement accounts a safer investment that will allow an American to build a nest egg that he or she can pass on to whomever he or she chooses." Nope, under that option, what you get is not a nest egg, but a rotten egg.

Brad DeLong, the blogging economics professor who specializes in this subject, ran the numbers. "The safest long-term investment the U.S. Treasury offers is the 20-year, inflation-protected TIP. ... What Bush is not telling you is that, under the Bush plan, if you divert \$1,000 from your Social Security to private accounts, that amount is clawed back -- charged to an account associated with your normal Social Security benefit, that amount is then compounded at 3 percent per year plus the rate of

inflation, and then after you retire, deducted over time from your normal Social Security benefit.

"If you are 45 and if Bush's plan were available today ... follow George W. Bush's advice, divert \$1,000 into your private account, invest it in TIPS, and at the 1.85 percent per year interest rate you will indeed be able to collect an extra amount worth \$10.11 a month in today's dollars when you retire at 65. ...

"But the clawback would reduce your normal Social Security benefit by \$14.16 a month. You're \$4.05 a month behind."

That's why privatizers never mention the clawback.

Basically, you have to beat 3 percent plus inflation to come out ahead, and the only way to do that is to gamble in the stock market.

Further technical analysis by Jason Furman shows how really badly the plan screws the middle class and that it would not close 70 percent of the shortfall problem, as Bush claimed, but 57 percent, including cuts for the disabled. Bottom line, it's a bad deal.

By the way, to the bird-brain on television who said it's only 4 percent of your Social Security and who wouldn't take some risks with a mere 4 percent? -- jeez. The 4 percent they are talking about is 4 percent of the 12 percent in total Social Security tax. Four is one-third of 12, and that comes to 33 percent. It's not that hard, honey.

Bush used another common disinformation claim out of Washington -- we are not cutting the benefits, we are merely slowing the rate of growth in the benefits. This is a perennial form of government lying.

"Of course we are not cutting Head Start. We are spending more money on Head Start than ever -- look, here's this figure in our budget, it is more than it was last year, and so that is an increase."

Except, since there are ever more kids who qualify for Head Start (even at the lowest level, the program has never been fully funded), when the increase in funding is way too small to

cover the increase in the number of most needy kids, what you have effectively done is decrease the spending per child in the program, and that is, in fact, cutting the program. It will not work as well. That this old dog still hunts is a shame on the arithmetic teachers of America.

Look, Social Security has a long-term financing problem that is not particularly dire and in fact not nearly as troubling as the Medicare shortfall. The Social Security shortfall can be solved by any one of a number of combinations of benefit cuts and tax increases. One thing you could do is let the Bush tax cuts expire at the end of 10 years, as they were originally supposed to do, or you could take the cap off Social Security taxes, which is now set at \$90,000. That means at present any income you make over \$90 K is not subject to Social Security taxes, one of the most flatly regressive features in the tax code. Removing the cap would solve the projected Social Security deficit, despite right-wing claims to the contrary.

And all I can say for Bush's energy plan is, if he thinks Americans want to give even more huge tax breaks to the oil companies when they are already making obscene profits, he's been talking to people on the wrong planet.

### 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](mailto:skamurphy@hotmail.com)



# The Calendar



## 5th AD Democratic Committee

Monday, May 9th, 7:00pm  
Home of Kevin Murphy  
4211 Paradise Drive, Carmichael  
Contact: Kevin (916) 944-0669

## Gray Panthers

Tuesday, May 10th, 1:00pm  
Hart Senior Center  
27th & I Streets, Sacramento  
Contact: Joan Lee  
(916) 332-5980  
[www.graypanthersacramento.org](http://www.graypanthersacramento.org)

## Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee

Tuesday, May 10th, 6:00pm  
State Capitol Room 127  
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chairman  
(916) 442-0264/[www.sacdems.org](http://www.sacdems.org)

## Town & Country Democrats

Wednesday, May 11th, 7:00pm  
Deterding Park Clubhouse  
1415 Rushden Way, Sacramento  
Corner of Rushden/Somerset  
Contact: Kevin Murphy, President  
916-944-0669/[www.tandconline.org](http://www.tandconline.org)

## T&C Luncheon Committee

Thursday, May 12th, 6:30pm  
Home of Peggy Gorman  
11150 Trinity River Dr., #24  
Rancho Cordova  
Contact: Peggy at 638-9022 or  
[chicagocubs7@aol.com](mailto:chicagocubs7@aol.com)

## Progressive Town Hall Meeting III

Sunday, May 15, 2pm-5pm  
Lemon Hill Boys & Girls Club  
5212 Lemon Hill Ave., Sacramento  
Contact: (916) 456-4840 or  
[progressivesacramento@yahoo.com](mailto:progressivesacramento@yahoo.com)

## Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Thursday, May 19th, 6:00pm  
Sacramento Teachers Association  
5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento  
Contact: Linda Rogaski  
(916) 332-8732  
[www.wdsc.net](http://www.wdsc.net)

## Town & Country Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 25th, 7:00pm  
Kevin Murphy's Home  
4211 Paradise Drive, Carmichael  
Contact: Kevin, (916) 944-0669  
All Members Welcome!  
[www.tandconline.org](http://www.tandconline.org)

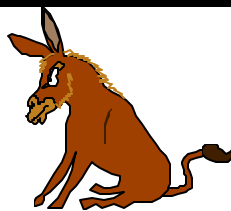
## An Introduction to CoHousing

Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 - 8:30pm  
Fair Oaks Community Library,  
11601 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks  
Contact: Marty Maskall  
(916) 967-2472

## Sacramento For Democracy

Wednesday, June 1st, 7:00pm  
SEIU Local 250  
1911 F St, Sacramento  
Contact: (916) 326-5850  
[www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org](http://www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org)

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



Time Value Mail  
Address Correction Requested



**Reminder: Listen to  
TalkCity 1240 AM for  
your chance to see Al  
Franken at The Crest  
Theater on May 11th!!!**