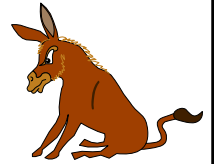


Town & Country Democrat



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Sacramento's Liberal Airwaves in Motion

Just a few months past its first anniversary as Sacramento's Air America radio station, TalkCity 1240 AM has been cut loose by the liberal radio network.

Air America announced last week that its partnership with TalkCity would end on September 30th and after a month hiatus from Sacramento's airwaves, its programming would resume November 1st on KCTC 1320 AM.

Relations between TalkCity and Air America had soured in recent months but no one on either side is revealing the details of what went wrong. Only a brief comment from TalkCity's general manager, Paula Nelson-Redfield, stating that she was surprised by Air America's decision.

Only a few months ago, Air America dispatched the Al Franken Show for a live broadcast at the Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento for TalkCity's first anniversary celebration - an event that, by all accounts, went extremely well.

But according to Air America, the

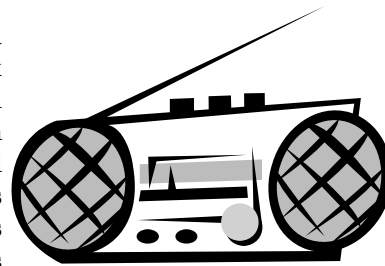
move to 1320 will give its programming a broader geographical reach as the station has a stronger signal that will allow Air America to reach Yuba City and Stockton.

While TalkCity will be losing Al Franken, Randi Rhodes and Mike Malloy, the station is not going quietly into the night. It will retain local talk show favorites Christine Craft and Mary Jane

Popp and will add several other hosts through Washington DC-based Democracy Radio. These will include Stephanie Miller, Thom Hartman & Ed Schultz.

No announcement has been made by KCTC 1320, which currently broadcasts big band and popular music of the 40's, 50's and 60's, acknowledging the move or if its current format will move to another Sacramento radio station.

In other Air America news, Al Franken Show regular Katherine Lanpher recently left the show to write a book about her experiences in moving to New York to work on the show. Lanpher came to the show from Minnesota Public Radio. Her final day was October 7th.



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The State of Education in California - T&C Welcomes Larry Miles on October 14th

Town & Country is proud to welcome one of its own to the club's general membership meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm.

Larry Miles, a member of Town & Country, was elected to the San Juan Unified Schools District Board of Education last fall. Larry will be talking about the health of local school districts

and the impact of the Governor's plans to continue to provide less resources to our education system.

Larry has graduated from UCLA, Occidental College and received his law degree from University of California, Davis, School of Law. After serving in

Continued to page - 6

From the President...

Best laid plans. So much to do and so little time. These are two of my favorite phrases.

I recently announced to the club that I would be stepping down as President at the end of this year. While I would love to continue on, time is not on my side. I will be continuing on as editor of the newsletter and will fill the role of "past President" on the Steering Committee, a position that has been largely ignored the past few years as the past President usually comes back the next year as another officer!

A few years ago I attended a lecture by John Cleese. Anyone out there that is familiar with British comedy knows Cleese from his work with the "Monty Python" players and his wonderful show "Fawlty Towers" in the 1970's. Even though he continues to work in movies to this day, he always had a sideline - corporate training films. His favorite subject is time management.

His lecture proposed the following hypothesis: time is the only resource that we cannot replenish, therefore it is our most valuable. Money, manpower, etc. can always be increased but our time on earth is always finite. That thought has stuck with me for several years and it continues to sink in as time becomes more important in my life.

While I feel good about what we have accomplished as a club over the past two years, there is so much more I hoped we could do. But now my time is up and it will be up to the next group of officers to continue our recent growth spurt and our rededication to our Democratic ideals in the face of next year's elections.

Maybe now you have the time to commit to Town & Country's future success. If you are interested in running for an office, contact Arnie Godmintz at (916) 332-5980.

Sheehan Arrested in Anti-War Protest

Cindy Sheehan, the California mother who became a leader of the anti-war movement after her son died in Iraq, was arrested along with hundreds of others protesting outside the White House.

Sheehan, carrying a photo of her son in his Army uniform, rallied with other protesters in a park across the street from the White House and then marched to the gate of the executive mansion to request a meeting with President Bush.

The protesters later sat down on the pedestrian walkway in front of the White House - knowing they would be arrested - and began singing and chanting "Stop the war now!"

Police warned them three times that they were breaking the law by failing to move along, then began making arrests. One man climbed over the White House fence and was quickly subdued by Secret Service agents.

Sheehan, 48, was the first taken into custody. She smiled as she was carried to the curb, then stood up and walked to a police vehicle as protesters chanted, "The whole world is watching."

"It's an honor to be arrested with this group of people," said Gary Handschumacher, 58, of Crawford, Colo., who was waiting for police to arrest him.

Sgt. Scott Fear, spokesman for the U.S. Park Police, said about 370 protesters were arrested over four and a half hours. All but one were charged with demonstrating without a permit, a misdemeanor. One person faced a charge of crossing a police line.

Sheehan's 24-year-old son, Casey, was killed last year in an ambush in Sadr City, Iraq. She attracted worldwide attention last month with her 26-day vigil outside Bush's Texas ranch.

The demonstration was part of a broader anti-war effort on Capitol Hill organized by United for Peace



and Justice, an umbrella group. Representatives from anti-war groups met with members of Congress to urge them to work to end the war and to bring the troops home.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush is "very much aware" of the protesters and "recognizes that there are differences of opinion" on Iraq.

"It's the right of the American people to peacefully express their views. And that's what you're seeing here in Washington, D.C.," McClellan said. "They're well-intentioned, but the president strongly believes that withdrawing ... would make us less safe and make the world more dangerous."

The protest followed a massive demonstration that drew a crowd of 100,000 or more, the largest such gathering in the capital since the war began in March 2003.

Another rally supporting the war drew about 500 people. Speakers included veterans of World War II and the war in Iraq, as well as family members of soldiers killed in Iraq.

"I would like to say to Cindy Sheehan and her supporters: Don't be a group of unthinking lemmings," said Mitzy Kenny of Ridgeley, W.Va., whose husband died in Iraq last year. She said the anti-war demonstrations "can affect the war in a really negative way. It gives the enemy hope."

The Town & Country 2005 Special Election Voter Guide



NO on Proposition 73. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and all parents want what is best for their children. But government cannot mandate good family communication. Mandatory notification laws have resulted in teens – who for whatever reason can't go to their parents -- resorting to dangerous measures, like back-alley or self-induced abortions--instead of getting the medical help and counseling they need. While mandatory notification laws may sound good, in the real world they put teenagers in danger. Here's why: This law puts vulnerable teenagers—those who may be from troubled homes and who most need our protection—in harm's way. This law would force teens to go to court and try to navigate an overcrowded and complicated judicial system. Teens don't need a judge, they need a counselor.



NO on Proposition 74: The "Punish New Teachers Act."

This measure would do nothing to improve public education or deal with the real problems facing our schools. It unfairly attempts to blame teachers for the problems in our public schools, ignoring the realities of underfunding, overcrowding, and the lack of materials and resources needed for effective teaching and learning. If this measure passes, new teachers would serve a 5-year probationary period rather than the current two years, and would lose the right to even have a fair hearing on their dismissal for a full 5 years. Current law already allows for firing teachers who are not performing in the classroom, no matter how long they've been on the job.



NO on Proposition 75: "Paycheck Deception Act."

Proposition 75 is a deceptive measure put on the ballot by the big corporations and out of state billionaires who support Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's destructive agenda for California. It unfairly targets teachers, nurses, firefighters, police and other public employees with restrictions that don't

apply to other groups or corporations, which regularly spend shareholder money on politics without permission. Prop. 75 is designed to reduce our ability to respond when politicians would harm education, health care and public safety, effectively clearing the opposition to the Governor's education and health care cuts.



NO on Proposition 76: The "Cuts School Funding Act"

This measure would devastate our public schools and other vital services, cutting school funding by over \$4 billion every year - \$600 per student, leading to more overcrowded classrooms, teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials. Our schools lost two billion dollars when Governor Schwarzenegger broke his promise to repay the money he took from education, and if this initiative passes, the Governor will never have to repay that money to our schools. It also overturns the voter-approved Proposition 98, eliminating the minimum funding guarantee for education. It also cuts funding for local government — cutting police and firefighters, as well as local health care services that protect children and the elderly. This initiative hurts our most vulnerable populations including the sick, the elderly and the young.



NO on Proposition 77: Redistricting

Prop 77 was put on the ballot by politicians who want to change the Constitution's redistricting rules and give themselves more power. They want to hand over redistricting to three unelected and unaccountable retired judges. But redistricting California, a diverse state of 37 million people, is too big and too important a job for just three unaccountable retired judges. Giving one set of politicians more power over another is no reason to change the Constitution. Say NO to the Redistricting Power Grab.



NO on Proposition 78: The Drug Companies "Bad Prescription" Initiative.

The big drug companies are going to spend millions trying to fool

voters and keep them from passing the real prescription drug relief contained in the Alliance-backed Prop. 79. This phony measure says only that drug companies can enter a "voluntary" program to reduce prices...but why will they? They have no real incentive to lower the sky-high cost of prescription drugs. A "No" vote on this measure is necessary to provide consumers with real relief from soaring drug prices, because whichever measure gets the highest number of votes becomes law.



YES on Proposition 79: The "Cheaper Prescription Drugs for Californians Act."

Sponsored by consumer, senior, and health organizations, Proposition 79 would provide deeper, enforceable discounts to twice as many Californians than the drug industry-backed Prop. 78. Proposition 79 would use the purchasing power of the state of California to negotiate the best price for up to ten million Californians, who now pay more than anybody else in the world for prescription drugs. Prop. 79 saves taxpayers money by reducing prescription drug costs by 50% or more, and ensuring that more people can afford needed medications now, rather than get more expensive care later. Proposition 79 is supported by Consumers Union, Health Access California, Breast Cancer Action, Congress of California Seniors, the League of Women Voters of California, and many other organizations.



YES on Proposition 80: The "Affordable Electricity and Preventing Blackouts Act."

This is a common-sense consumer initiative that will help prevent energy blackouts and massive fraud by unregulated private energy producers like Enron. It will override the failed energy deregulation policies, put utilities back in the business of serving the public, and encourage development of more renewable energy sources. The ultimate result will be more affordable energy for ALL Californians.

Club News

Dues Increase Proposed by Steering Committee

Town & Country's Steering Committee has proposed an increase in club dues, the first increase in many years.

President Kevin Murphy said the need to increase dues was necessitated due to postal increases and paying for meeting space.

"We've really done a good job balancing our income and expenses but the last few increases in postage and the fact that we now pay for our meeting space is catching up with our pocket book," Murphy said.

Town & Country is one of the least expensive Democratic Clubs in the Sacramento area. Other

clubs and party organizations usually charge a minimum of \$20 to \$25 per year to join and only one level of membership.

According to Murphy, Town & Country's system of six different options really confuses people and makes bookkeeping a challenge.

The new membership levels proposed by the Steering Committee will be \$25 per individual, \$30 per family, \$20 per senior individual and \$25 per senior family. The levels of Full-Time Student/Unemployed and Newsletter only will be dropped.

Approval of the new levels must come from a simple majority vote at the November club meeting.

Time For Phonebanking & Precinct Walking!!!

Come Join Town & Country Democratic Club as we work together with the San Juan Teachers Association and The Mira Loma High School Young Democrats. Telephone bankers and precinct walkers are desperately needed to help increase awareness & turnout for the Special Election.

EVERY Saturday in October from 10:00am to 3:00pm, precinct walkers are needed. Meet at the San Juan Teachers Association Office, 5820 Landis Court in Carmichael. Directions: Manzanita Blvd turns into Fair Oaks coming from Madison / Right on Landis Court past Post Office. The office is located all the way back on left.

Phonebankers are also needed on most late afternoons and evenings until election day. You will be well fed for your efforts!!!

Please contact Arnie Godmintz at (916) 332-5980 to volunteer to walk a precinct or work a phonebank shift. Let's turnout our voter base and send Governor Schwarzenegger a loud, clear message on November 8, 2005 that nurses, teachers, firefighters and other working families will not be silenced!!!

This Could Be You!!!



Ever dream of the fast-paced career of a Democratic club officer? Then Town & Country Democratic Club may be for you! There's no salary, no vacation and certainly no benefits (remember, this is the Democratic Party)! What Town & Country can promise you is respect of your peers and elected officials (the ones with the "D" after their names) for your tireless work on their behalf. Town & Country has a 40-year history of spreading the Democratic Gospel, supporting candidates for office, voter registration and the like. If you are interested in taking the next step and are considering a run for club officer, contact Arnie Godmintz at (916) 332-5980. All names are confidential until they appear on a ballot!

Thanks...to all the T&Cers who helped out at Carmichael's Founders Day and Citrus Heights' Sunday Funday! We registered voters and got the word out that Democrats are not dead in the suburbs—Andy Alderman, Ken Budman, Bill Emmerson, Laure Olson, Jane O'Donnell Perry Metzger, Mary Anne Willard, Arnie Godmintz, Jim Nakata, Ralph Cyfers, and Jan Brown!

Meeting Minutes from September 14th, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Murphy with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by asking and receiving approval of the evening's agenda and the previous meeting's minutes.

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported \$7,672.18 was in treasury.

V.P. Arnie Godmintz reported on the Central Committee meeting: no endorsement in the Antelope School District recall.

President Murphy reported on Kristine Lang McDonald's note thanking T&C for sending \$300.00 to help with campaign expenses.

Joan Lee gave an interesting presentation on upcoming legislation: Medicare Part D advance information indicates a total disaster; HR 1517 allows more campaign spending; and Treasurer Phil Angelides is against the Pacificare and United Health Care merger.

V. P. Godmintz welcomed Eddie Kirby and Christine Smith, two visiting students from Mira Loma High School.

Rick Wathen, Chair of the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee and Sacramento Area Director for the Alliance for a Better California, was

introduced as the evening's speaker. Rick urged better cooperation between the Central Committee and all clubs in defeating Gov. Schwarzenegger's special election initiatives.

There was a call for volunteers to organize and staff T&C booths at Carmichael Founders Day and Citrus Heights Sunday Fun Day. Answering the call were Andy Alderman and Arnie Godmintz.

There was a clarification on voter registration policy: the state Democratic Party will pay \$2.00 for each registration without a phone number and \$2.50 for those with a phone number. The program ends Feb. 20, 2006.

Introduced by President Murphy: Dana Williamson speaking for Assemblymember Dario Frommer, who is running for the office of State Controller. Dana asked for support for her candidate.

Ralph Cyfers from the Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign HQ gave basic instructions on how to fill out voter registration forms. Volunteers are needed for continuing voter registration every Saturday

President Murphy reminded members that CDC membership is

still questionable for T&C in the future.

Volunteers are needed for the Nominating Committee for club officers for 2006. Anyone interested in becoming an officer of being on the committee should contact Arnie Godmintz at (916) 332-5980.

Announcements: Cindy Sheehan's Camp Casey meeting is September 19th at St. Marks Methodist church at 7:00 PM. The Central Labor Council is hosting phone banking and precinct walking on Saturdays until the election.

Howard Beeman alerted members that direct TV has Free Speech TV programming and it is great.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Krings, Secretary



Welcome New Members!!!

Ken & Sheila Budman
Ann Livesay
Diane Murphy

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

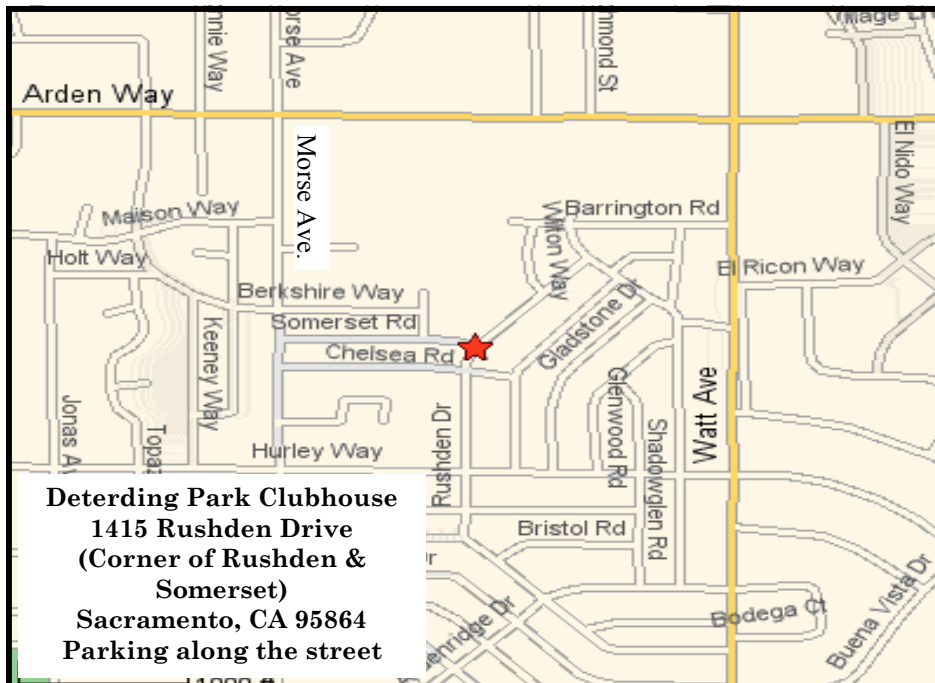
Date _____

T&C Welcomes Larry Miles in October con't...

many capacities he now heads The Miles Law Firm. Larry has performed hundreds of arbitrations and mediations, including recent mediations involving aviation law and employment law.

At the October meeting we will also be discussing the upcoming special election (see the T&C voter pamphlet on page - 3) and will have an initial discussion of raising the club's dues beginning in 2006.

Nominations will also be officially opened for club officers for 2006 with a presentation of a slate of proposed officers from the Nominating Committee. Other nominations can be made until the club elections in November.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MARCH/RALLY TO SUPPORT VETERANS BENEFITS SAT. OCT. 29, 2005 9:30-11 A.M. STATE CAPITOL (NORTH STEPS)

*TODAY'S MILITARY WILL BECOME
 TOMORROW'S VETERAN*

*PLEASE JOIN OUR RALLY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR
 CURRENT AND FUTURE VETERANS AND MAKE AN ACTION
 STATEMENT THAT ALL VETERANS GET THE BENEFITS THEY
 DESERVE AND EARNED*

THE GOVERNMENT MUST LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND

GUEST SPEAKERS

CONGRESSMAN PETE MCCLOSKEY (RETIRED)

RETIRED COL. JIM COOK (MARINE CORPS)

RETIRED LT. COL. CHARLES BROWN (AIR FORCE)

Various Veterans Service Organizations

*FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DON HARPER
 GOVIA@COMCAST.NET · 916-489-5669*

Make the Pie Higher

*This following poem is composed
 entirely of actual quotes from
 George W. Bush. It was compiled
 and arranged by Washington Post
 writer Richard Thompson.*

I think we all agree, the past is
 over.

This is still a dangerous world.

It's a world of madmen

And uncertainty

And potential mental losses.

Rarely is the question asked

Is our children learning?

Will the highways of the internet

Become more few?

How many hands have I shaken?

They underestimate me.

I am a pitbull on the pantleg of
 opportunity.

I know that the human beings and

The fish can coexist.

Families is where our nation finds
 hope

Where our wings take dream.

Put food on your family!

Knock down the tollbooth!

Vulcanize society!

Make the pie higher!

Make the pie higher!

An Open Letter to Chris Stampolis, President of the CDC

Dear Town & Country Members:

The following is a response to a letter sent to me by Chris Stampolis, President of the California Democratic Council, several weeks ago. The letter outlines several concerns myself and other members of the club have expressed at the recent turn of events in the CDC since prior to the convention held in San Bernardino in June.

As was announced at the last general membership meeting and in an email to all T&C members last week, Jeri Lacayo, Central Area South VP for the CDC attended the club's August Steering Committee meeting in August. Unfortunately, as is stated in the letter below, more questions about how the CDC has been operating were raised than answered.

I want to thank Margie Metzler and Jan Brown, who were both at the convention, for attending the meeting. I hope that in time, Mr. Stampolis will elect to attend a T&C meeting in the near future to answer these questions personally - the most important of which is why Town & Country should renew its CDC membership dues next year.

-Kevin

Dear Chris:

I am so sorry it has taken me this long to reply to your email from July. Having two active children and a career in Real Estate in this day and age has taken up much of my free time - time I am not unhappy to part with. I now believe I have the time to respond.

I have read your last emailed letter several times. I have spoken with Arnie Godmintz, Town & Country's Vice President, with whom I believe you have spoken at least once since the June Convention. I have also spoken to Jeri Lacayo, Central Area South VP and CDC's new outreach

representative, at a meeting of Town & Country's Steering Committee last week.

As I mentioned in my last letter, I have several concerns about the CDC's recent direction and abilities. First and foremost, I am extremely distressed that communications between the CDC and my club has come to a dead halt, not including of course your last letter to me. Since the beginning of the year, Town & Country has received no correspondence from the CDC. I understand that one of your chief goals has been to improve CDC's website. I also understand that approximately \$3,000 (I believe this amount is correct after viewing a copy of the convention minutes on the CDC's website) has been expended thus far. While I have noted the improvements over the last website and the available information it has about the CDC, it costs nothing to send an email to club representatives directing them to the website when new information is available - to complete reaffiliation paperwork, for example. This was the first year that Town & Country did not receive its reaffiliation paperwork in the mail and we never received any instruction to visit the website to complete the paperwork. I cannot help but wonder how many other clubs have received no correspondence from CDC this year, especially clubs that are not as web savvy as mine.

This communication lapse also extended to the convention. You are correct that Town & Country was aware of the convention in June. However, again, we were waiting for paperwork to arrive to reaffiliate and paperwork to complete for our delegates to attend. Only after Mary Longmore attended our June meeting were we told that the paperwork was

available on the CDC's website. This was very disconcerting as the CDC's bylaws specifically state that calls to convention are to be in written form - we received nothing in the mail and no email. Again, were other clubs ever informed about the convention?

It is my understanding that, in this regard, you delegated the responsibility to inform northern California clubs about the convention to the CDC's local officers. Certainly as President of Town & Country, I am very aware of the value of delegation. However, I also understand that as President, when jobs are left unfinished and responsibilities unfulfilled, the buck stops with me. I certainly would have followed up with these officers to make sure they were doing the jobs they had been entrusted with. I also would have sent correspondence to clubs that had not registered for the convention. Certainly an email broadcast to club presidents would have taken very little, if any, effort on your behalf.

The convention presented its own problems. As I was not there, I have relied on the reports of the ten delegates Town & Country sent to the convention - reports I have taken with a grain of salt but reports, nonetheless, that have maintained an alarming consistency. I am most concerned with the severe lack of organization and structure. I understand there was no credentialing of delegates. Without credentialing, how can any vote taken at the convention be considered fair and equitable? I sent Town & Country's reaffiliation paperwork and certified delegate list with one of the delegates only to have her return it to me saying that no one asked for it and when she tried to present it to convention

Continued to page - 8

An Open Letter to Chris Stampolis con't...

staff, they said it was not necessary. I recently mailed this information to you. I hope you received it so that my delegates will receive future correspondence.

Aside from the convention, I am also concerned that as President of Town & Country and therefore a member of the CDC's Board of Directors, I have had no correspondence from the CDC - no invitations to meetings, no agendas for any future meetings, no copies of minutes sent to me, etc. Several high cost expenditures have been made recently (the expenditure of the website, the hiring of Josh Futterman as Chief Operating Officer with a contract of \$950 per week for 10 weeks, the hiring of Jeri Lacayo for a CDC outreach position of \$1,500 per month, etc.). I expect that the Board made these decisions or the Executive Committee did so, hopefully with Board approval. I understand that the convention attendees voted to payoff the \$1,500 balance of the \$3,000 total cost of the website but who approved the initial expenditure? Why have I not heard anything about the hiring of Josh Futterman and Jeri Lacayo? I would imagine there are minutes available for Board meetings taking place prior to and after the June convention (that outline how these expenditures were approved) but they are not available online. Nor are copies of treasurer reports although there is a link for them on the CDC website's "official documents" page. How much money does the CDC have?

As for the meeting we had with Jeri Lacayo, I'm afraid it presented more questions than answers. Here are some of the questions that my officers have for you as President of the CDC that Jeri could not answer...

1. We understand that an audit of the CDC's finances was

performed by two members of the executive committee. Why was a third/neutral party not used and why was Larry Truillenger, the most recent CDC Treasurer, not involved or consulted? Why is there not a copy of the treasurer's report on the CDC's website or, if this information is deemed too sensitive, why have board members not been sent a copy?

2. Who approved the initial expenditure for the new/improved CDC website? Was the original cost \$1,500 or \$3,000?

3. When will the CDC begin to communicate with Town & Country - with written mail or email updates or directing the club to the CDC's website for more information?

4. When will Town & Country's president be sent correspondence regarding Board meetings?

5. When will Town & Country receive a copy of the CDC's strategic plan - a copy of which was promised to all member clubs according to the press release on the CDC's website's home page under "new strategic plan?" Why is there no copy available on the website?

6. Who hired Josh Futterman as the CDC's Chief Operating Officer at \$950 per week for ten weeks? Jeri stated that a written agreement for the employment was in place. Who prepared the agreement? Who approved the agreement?

7. Who hired Jeri Lacayo as the CDC's outreach coordinator at \$1,500 per month?

8. What efforts are being made to find CDC representatives for northern California?

9. Comments have been made that the CDC will be "supporting" clubs. How exactly? Will money be sent to the clubs, training, voter registration materials? How is the CDC planning on helping clubs?

10. If your strategic plan succeeds, how do you see the CDC's future relationship with the California Democratic Party?

11. Why should Town & Country renew its membership with CDC next year?

Jeri told me that I would be sent information about the upcoming Board of Directors meeting last Wednesday, but at this time I have received nothing. I have seen the information on the website and will expect that further information will be available shortly as the press release on the website implies.

I expect that an agenda will include a most recent copy of the treasurer's report. I also fully expect that a report will be given to the Board that outlines what Josh Futterman has done to earn a \$9,500 contract he recently completed for the CDC as well as Jeri Lacayo's efforts for outreach.

I look forward to your response, or better yet, your presence at a future Town & Country meeting. The club meets every second Wednesday at 7:00pm in Sacramento. You are also welcome to attend a Steering Committee meeting at my home, usually held on the last Wednesday of the month, also at 7:00pm.

-Kevin Murphy, President
Town & Country Democratic Club

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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The Final Word: All the President's Friends

by Paul Krugman

The lethally inept response to Hurricane Katrina revealed to everyone that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which earned universal praise during the Clinton years, is a shell of its former self. The hapless Michael Brown has become a symbol of cronyism.

But what we really should be asking is whether FEMA's decline and fall is unique, or part of a larger pattern. What other government functions have been crippled by politicization, cronyism and/or the departure of experienced professionals? How many FEMA's are there?

Unfortunately, it's easy to find other agencies suffering from some version of the FEMA syndrome. The first example won't surprise you: the Environmental Protection Agency, which has a key role to play in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, but which has seen a major exodus of experienced officials over the past few years. In particular, senior officials have left in protest over what they say is the Bush administration's unwillingness to enforce environmental law.

Yesterday *The Independent*, the British newspaper, published an interview about the environmental aftermath of Katrina with Hugh Kaufman, a senior policy analyst in the agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, whom one suspects is planning to join the exodus. "The budget has been cut," he said, "and inept political hacks have been put in key positions." That sounds familiar, and given what we've learned over the last two weeks there's no reason to doubt that characterization - or to disregard his warning of an environmental cover-up in progress.

What about the Food and Drug Administration? Serious questions have been raised about the agency's coziness with drug

companies, and the agency's top official in charge of women's health issues resigned over the delay in approving Plan B, the morning-after pill, accusing the agency's head of overruling the professional staff on political grounds.

Then there's the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, whose Republican chairman hired a consultant to identify liberal bias in its programs. The consultant apparently considered any criticism of the administration a sign of liberalism, even if it came from conservatives.

You could say that these are all cases in which the Bush administration hasn't worried about degrading the quality of a government agency because it doesn't really believe in the agency's mission. But you can't say that about my other two examples.

Even a conservative government needs an effective Treasury Department. Yet Treasury, which had high prestige and morale during the Clinton years, has fallen from grace. The public symbol of that fall is the fact that John Snow, who was obviously picked for his loyalty rather than his qualifications, is still Treasury secretary. Less obvious to the public is the hollowing out of the department's expertise.

Many experienced staff members have left since 2000, and a number of key positions are either empty or filled only on an acting basis. "There is no policy," an economist who was leaving the department after 22 years told *The Washington Post*,

back in 2002. "If there are no pipes, why do you need a plumber?"

And finally, what about the department of Homeland Security itself? FEMA was neglected, some people say, because it was folded into a large agency that was focused on terrorist threats, not natural disasters. But what, exactly, is the department doing to protect us from terrorists?

In 2004 Reuters reported a "steady exodus" of counter-terrorism officials, who believed that the war in Iraq had taken precedence over the real terrorist threat. Why, then, should we believe that Homeland Security is being well run?

Let's not forget that the administration's first choice to head the department was Bernard Kerik, a crony of Rudy Giuliani. And Mr. Kerik's nomination would have gone through if enterprising reporters hadn't turned up problems in his background that the F.B.I. somehow missed, just as it somehow didn't turn up the little problems in Michael Brown's résumé. How many lesser Keriks made it into other positions?

The point is that Katrina should serve as a wakeup call, not just about FEMA, but about the executive branch as a whole. Everything I know suggests that it's in a sorry state - that an administration which doesn't treat governing seriously has created two, three, many FEMA's.





The Calendar



4th Annual Voters' Education Forum—Sponsored by the Asian Pacific Alliance

Sunday, October 9th, 1pm-5pm
Radisson Hotel Sacramento
500 Leisure Lane
Keynote Speaker: Jerry Brown
Speakers: Cruz Bustamante, Phil Angelides & Charles Poochigian
Info: www.apapa.org

Gray Panthers

Tuesday, October 11th, 1:00pm
Hart Senior Center
27th & I Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joan Lee
(916) 332-5980
www.graypanthersacramento.org

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee

Tuesday, October 11th, 6:00pm
State Capitol Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chairman
(916) 442-0264
www.sacdems.org

Town & Country Democratic Club

Wednesday, October 12th, 7:00pm
Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushden Way, Sacramento
Corner of Rushden/Somerset
Contact: Kevin Murphy, President
(916) 944-0669
www.tandconline.org

Event for Assemblymember

Dave Jones

Friday, October 14th, 5:30-7:30pm
Fairytale Town, 3901 Land Park Dr.
Sacramento
\$100 per ticket/Sponsorships avail.
RSVP: (916) 456-4098

Event for Darrell Steinberg for State Senate

Tuesday, October 18th, 6-8pm
Home of Tina Thomas & Bill Abbott
2722 Coleman Way, Sacramento
\$100 per ticket/\$40 Student/
Sponsorships available
RSVP:(916)443-7284

Women Democrats of Sacramento County Welcome Senator Deborah Ortiz

Thursday, October 17th, 6:30pm
Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento
Contact: Linda Rogaski
(916) 332-8732
www.wdsc.net

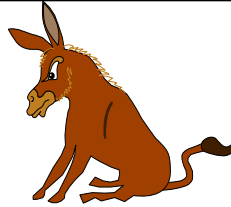
Town & Country Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 26th, 7:00pm
Location: Kevin Murphy's Home
4211 Paradise Drive, Carmichael
Contact: Kevin, (916) 944-0669
All Members Welcome!
www.tandconline.org

Sacramento For Democracy

Wednesday, November 2nd, 7:00pm
Location: TBA
Contact: (916) 326-5850
www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org

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



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Reminder: Now is the time for all good men & women to come to the aid of their party!!!