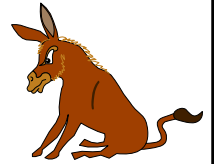


Town & Country Democrat



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Act Locally to Help Katrina Victims by Art Torres

We've all seen the devastating news reports out of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi resulting from Hurricane Katrina. We have heard countless human stories of loss and tragedy and we can feel the pain in these brave citizens' voices as they recount their stories - missing loved ones, entire homes and communities destroyed. It seems like the reports reaching us show a grim situation becoming grimmer by the hour.

It's difficult to imagine entire cities and their infrastructure just totally gone. It's sometimes hard to watch, but we must. These communities may be thousands of miles away, but they could be our neighbors down the street, our own families - they could be us. Let us not forget that.

However, we can turn our feelings of sadness and hopelessness into action. These people need our help, and they need it now. And they will need it tomorrow and for many weeks and months to come.

So please take that first step and do what you can to help.

Monetary Donations

The fastest, easiest way to help is with a monetary donation of any amount.

Because of the outpouring of assistance, the American Red Cross web site and phone lines have been jammed. So the fastest, most direct way to donate might be to send a check - you can mail it to American Red Cross - National Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 37243, Washington D.C. 20013.

To donate online, go directly to the American Red Cross online at www.redcross.org. Spanish speakers can go to www.cruzrojaamericana.org.

To make a donation by phone, call 1-800-HELP-NOW (435-7669). Spanish speakers can call 1-800-257-7575.

Blood Donations

Local blood donation centers are responding to this crisis by asking people to donate blood and platelets. The need for platelets is especially urgent because they only last for five days, compared to blood which can last for 42 days. For more information visit the Sacramento Blood Source at www.smfbc.org or call (916) 456-1500.



Sen. Art Torres (ret.)

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T&C to Welcome Rick Wathen - Sac Area Director for Alliance for a Better CA Sept. 14

Town & Country Democratic Club will welcome Rick Wathen, the Sacramento Area Director for the Alliance for a Better California at its general membership meeting on Wednesday September 14th meeting. Mr. Wathen will be providing a progress report on the organization's efforts to defeat several of Governor's Schwarzenegger's

initiatives that will be on the special election ballot in November.

In addition to his efforts with the Alliance, Mr. Wathen also serves as Chairman of the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee when he is not too busy with his job as a political

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From the President...

I just got back from my first visit to "The Valley" of Yosemite National Park. Isn't it amazing that a fifth-generation Californian and an Eagle Scout to boot has never been to the Valley. For those of you who have never been, it would be impossible for me to describe it in appropriate terms. You really just need to go.

Of course, when I returned, the email box was flooded with 100 messages. I tried to tune out politics while I was gone even though newspapers were available everywhere. I knew of the terrible natural devastation in the south from Hurricane Katrina before I left, but I had no idea of the terrible "man-made" disaster that followed.

Email after email of unbelievable ineptitude by our government. Some of the emails had video clips of exasperated reporters including usual Fox mouthpieces Sheppard Smith and Geraldo Rivera just overwhelmed with the degree to which our country's disaster relief leaders (Bush appointees) were screwing things up and hampering rescue operations.

I tuned into the Randi Rhodes Show on TalkCity 1240 AM today and heard numerous clips of interviews with our alleged political and disaster relief leaders and quietly shook my head. Randi said she spent most of the weekend crying for those she saw being interviewed on TV. I couldn't help but be moved by her emotion even though she was in a small room 3,000 miles away. Her voice teemed with emotion.

After all the finger pointing, there will still be hundreds dead, thousands injured and families that were destroyed by the actions and inactions that led us to Katrina. Please give all that you can by donating blood or by donating money to a charity like the Red Cross.

Dean Predicts Changes for '08 Primaries

Democratic National Party Chairman Howard Dean says there may be some changes in the 2008 presidential primary calendar, but nothing radical.

"There will be a little surgery, not major surgery," said Dean, a doctor, former Vermont governor and presidential hopeful in 2004. For decades, the Iowa caucuses have been the first nominating contest, followed closely by New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary.

A commission was appointed to study the nominating process amid arguments that Iowa and New Hampshire lack the diversity to represent the country's interests and that no two states should have such influence on the presidential

nomination. Defenders of their special status argue that candidates must meet their party's supporters and other voters face-to-face for the most personal politicking of the campaign. The commission is to give its recommendation to Dean by the end of the year.

Dean told the Concord Monitor on Monday that he was reluctant to share his opinions because the commission is still debating what to do.

"At this point, my position is pretty delicate," Dean said. "If I come out in the newspaper (with my opinion), it may not end up helping New Hampshire's position."

FEC Lets Lawmakers Raise Unlimited Funds Against Redistricting

The Federal Election Commission voted Thursday to let members of Congress raise unlimited donations of so-called soft money to fight Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's redistricting initiative.

The 6-0 decision by the commission came in response to a request from U.S. Reps. Howard Berman, D-North Hollywood, and John Doolittle, R-Rocklin, both of whom oppose the redistricting plan.

The decision will allow federal officeholders to raise unlimited sums from unions, corporations and other donors to support or oppose any measure on the Nov. 8 special election ballot.

In general, federal campaign finance law limits federal officeholders to donations of \$5,000 from individual contributors for nonfederal electoral issues. Commissioners decided those limits, which lawmakers enacted in 2002, should not apply in the case of the special election, in part because there are no

federal candidates on the ballot.

"I just have to conclude that they did not mean to get into the ballot initiative kind of question," Commissioner Danny L. McDonald said.

The redistricting initiative, Proposition 77, would take the responsibility of drawing boundaries for congressional and state legislative districts away from lawmakers and give it to a panel of retired judges.

Schwarzenegger believes the plan would lead to more competitive districts and electing lawmakers who better represent voters. Of 153 state legislative and congressional seats up for grabs in California last November, none changed party hands.

Schwarzenegger hopes to have new districts drawn before California's June 2006 primary election, a timeline that others have said is unrealistic. Redrawing district lines normally would occur after the 2010 census.

Halliburton Subsidiary Gets Katrina Deal

A Halliburton Co. subsidiary that has come under fire for its reconstruction work in Iraq has begun tapping a \$500 million Navy contract to do emergency repairs at Gulf Coast naval and Marine facilities that were battered by Hurricane Katrina.

The subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown & Root Services Inc. of Arlington, Va., was awarded the competitive bid contract last July to provide debris removal and other emergency work associated with natural disasters.

Jan Davis, a spokeswoman for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said Sunday that KBR will receive \$12 million for work at Naval Air Station Pascagoula, Naval Station Gulfport and Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. It will receive \$4.6 million for work at two smaller Navy facilities in New Orleans and others in the South.

But KBR has been at the center of scrutiny for receiving a five-year, no-bid contract to restore Iraqi oil fields shortly before the war began in 2003.

Halliburton has reported being paid \$10.7 billion for Iraq-related government work during 2003 and 2004. The company reported its pretax profits from that work as \$163 million. Pentagon auditors have questioned tens of millions of dollars of Halliburton charges for its operations there.

Late last month three congressional Democrats asked Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to investigate the demotion of a senior civilian Army official who publicly criticized the awarding of that contract.

Bunnatine H. Greenhouse, who had been the Army Corps of Engineers' top procurement official since 1997, was removed from her position last month for what the Corps called a poor job performance. The lawmakers said the demotion "appears to be retaliation" for her June 27 testimony before Congress in which she detailed her objections to the award of contracts for Iraq projects.

Vice President Dick Cheney headed Halliburton from 1995 to 2000.

Patriot Act Update

The most important thing you need to know about this summer's battle to reform the Patriot Act is that the fight isn't over yet.

In the days before the August recess, both houses of Congress passed bills to reauthorize the expiring provisions of the act.

The Senate's Specter-Feinstein bill was a truly bi-partisan effort and takes modest but important steps toward reforming the Patriot Act, though some significant flaws remain. The House bill, by contrast, does not offer any meaningful reforms, makes some parts of this flawed law even worse, and makes all but two provisions of the Patriot Act permanent.

These two bills now go to a joint conference. This is the Congressional process for reconciling differences between bills passed by both houses on the same issue. The House and Senate will vote on a final bill, likely in September.

Be ready to take action when the bill leaves the conference!

Westly Camp Calls Angelides 'Slimy Developer'

From the Sac Bee

Whoops: Call it an oversight. The campaign manager for state Controller Steve Westly said Friday the controller didn't mean to imply that his chief rival in the race to become the Democratic nominee for governor in 2006 is a "slimy developer."

Never mind that the Westly camp e-mailed to Democrats across the state an anonymous quote in a newspaper saying as much about state Treasurer Phil Angelides.

The e-mail has angered Angelides, who himself has been criticized for bare-knuckles campaign tactics in the past, prompting him to demand an apology. And Republicans are delighted to watch the Democrats

beat up on each other instead of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

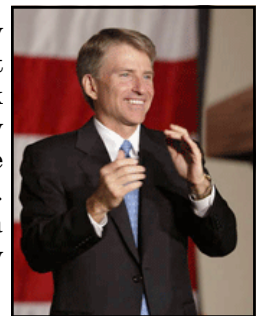
The note at issue was distributed late Thursday and encourages Westly supporters to get the word out about a poll of "30 California political experts" published in the Capitol Weekly, a Sacramento publication for state workers and political insiders. The poll concludes that the controller is the toughest potential Democratic opponent for Schwarzenegger.

The e-mail goes further than just spreading that news. It also urges Westly supporters to be sure to tell fellow Democrats about "some of the candid things" the anonymous "experts" had to say about the race in the news article. Among them:

Westly "can say that he at first tried to work cooperatively with the governor. Angelides is a s l i m y developer."

Chalk it up to a bad editing judgment, Westly campaign manager Jude Barry now says. He said he was merely trying to let the world know about all the positive things these experts had to say about Westly.

So why include the "slimy developer" swipe at the treasurer? A mere oversight, says Barry.



Club News

Col. Jim Cook Announces for 10th AD

Col. Jim Cook has recently announced that he will be seeking the Democratic nomination for the California Assembly's 10th District. Cook ran as a write-in candidate in 2004 when the 10th AD was unable to field a Democratic candidate.

Cook's website is now up and active and can be visited at www.jimcook.org. Cook is looking for support for fundraisers, dinner parties, coffee parties, meet-ups, etc. to raise money for his campaign to take back the 10th AD

He is also looking for two campaign volunteers to coordinate

his campaign in Stockton, Lodi, Elk Grove, Amador County, Ione, Rancho, Rosemont, and El Dorado Hills. He is also seeking individual endorsements as well as group endorsements.

For more information about Jim and his campaign visit his website.



Jim Cook

T&C Endorses Sac Schools Change

At the August general membership meeting, the members of Town & Country voted to endorse a proposal to change the rule governing the election of trustees to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education.

Currently, constituents vote for trustee members based on geographical districts. The change will permit trustees to be elected as "at-large," that is, residing anywhere in the district.

Several organizations lined up behind the effort including the College-Glen Neighborhood Association, the Sacramento City Teachers Association and the Sacramento Leadership Coalition on Public Education.

The Sacramento County Office of Education Board recently voted to allow the change to move on to the voters and the issue should be seen on the ballot for the next regularly scheduled election of 2006.

T&C to Co-Sponsor Election Forum

Town & Country Democratic Club is proud to announce that it will be co-sponsoring a Special Election Voter Forum next month.

The forum will be held on October 3, 2005 from 7-9 PM at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T St., in Sacramento. This forum is a chance to ask insider questions about the Special Election including...

How does Proposition 74 really work?

Which voters are likely to vote in this special election?

Who is paying for all of those Proposition 78 ads I keep seeing?

Where did Propositions 79 and 80 come from and why is the Democratic Party supporting them?

Why does the script against

Proposition 76 talk about school funding?

How will we avoid a repeat of the recall election?

How can we build upon this special election to take back the Governor's Office in 2006?

The list of other Democratic organizations who will also be co-sponsoring the event includes the 5th AD Committee, the 9th AD Committee, the Folsom Democratic Club, the Sacramento Young Democrats, the Stonewall Democratic Club and the Truman Democratic Club.

Please put October 3rd on your calendar and plan on attending this very informative meeting!

Volunteers Needed for Voter Reg!!!

Town & Country is in desperate need of volunteers to register voters on Sat., Sept. 17th at Carmichael's Founders Day and Sun., Sept. 25th at Citrus Heights' Sunday Funday.

Shifts on both days will be two hours long. Shifts begin at 9:00am on the 17th until 5pm and from

11am to 5pm on the 25th. Contact Kevin at (916) 944-0669 or email skamurphy@hotmail.com.

Ralph Cyfers is also in need of a volunteer coordinator to help register voters in the 5th AD. Contact Ralph at (916) 812-7225 or email to ralphcyfers@comcast.net.

T&C writes check to Lang-McDonald

Town & Country members voted to donate money to former State Senate Candidate Kristine Lang-McDonald and to the Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign at its last meeting.

Lang-McDonald has struggled to pay off a campaign debt that was estimated to be several thousands of dollars. T&C sent her a check for \$300.

Additionally, T&C sent a check for \$500 to the Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign to help defray costs for voter registration for the special election scheduled for November 8th.

Meeting Minutes from August 10th, 2005

President Kevin Murphy opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by asking and receiving approval of the evening's agenda.

Because of July's highly successful ice cream social there were no meeting minutes to be approved.

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported \$8,550.80 in the treasury.

Central Committee report from V.P. Arnie Godmintz: Nothing to report.

Report on The Stonewall Democratic Club's Four Freedoms Award Dinner featuring speaker Chrissy Gephardt, from V.P. Godmintz: a glittering success with many prominent political luminaries.

V.P. Godmintz also reported on the Sacramento County Central Labor Council dinner commenting that Senator Barbara Boxer rocked the house.

Joan Lee's legislative report: Attendance was urged for the California Nurse's Association rally. A reminder was given that Medicare Part IV becomes effective 1/1/06. Joan said that reports are needed from individual experiences.

V.P. Godmintz introduced the

well-qualified and credentialed Executive Director of CA Congress of Seniors, Gary Passmore. Gary pointed out that the origins of the Congress were in the labor movement of 1977 and now boasts 167,000 members. Legislation is being considering to help consumers by lowering drug costs and deserves support. The "Within Our Means Act" is a disaster.

Alliance for a Better CA (ABC) representative David Bouie was introduced. ABC is actively fighting the Schwarzenegger power grab by doing precinct walking every Saturday and Sunday through August. Training is provided at the Central Labor Council office. The special election is an attack on working people. Government is needed for the people not special interests. Commitments were sought to work to defeat special interest issues.

Robert Dawa gave a state e-board update: Caucuses can only raise money for themselves and their own work. Assembly District status is still up in the air. Questions regarding the Southern California meeting not following state by-laws were raised.

A motion was made to give the

Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign office \$500.00. Seconded and passed.

A motion was made to give former Democratic candidate for the 1st Senate District Kristine Lang-McDonald \$300.00 to offset her campaign debt. Seconded and passed.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Sacramento City Council urging the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Seconded and passed.

President Murphy put out a call for volunteers for the 2006 Nominating Committee. Volunteers are also needed to register voters at Carmichael's Founders Day (9/17) and Citrus Heights' Sunday Funday (9/25).

Announcements: Congressman Dan Lungren is appearing at the La Sierra Community Center on August 16th at 7:00 PM. Members were urged to attend and be prepared to ask tough questions.

Also, members were encouraged to attend the Alliance for a Better California's voter registration kick-off on Saturday, Sept. 10.

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 _____

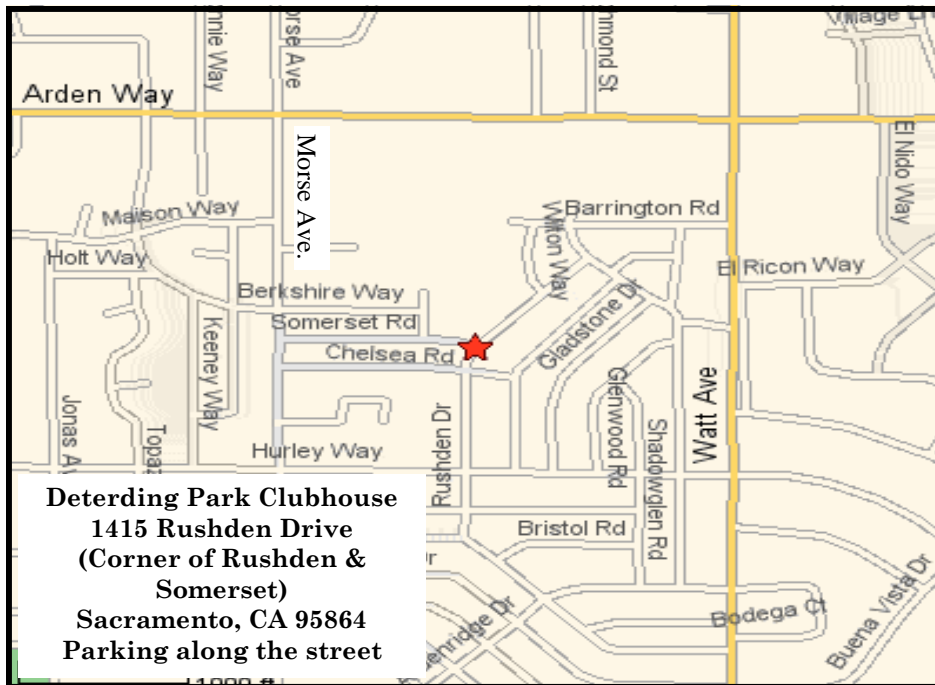
Town & Country Welcomes Rick Wathen on Sept. 14th con't...

officer with the California State Employees Association.

The meeting will begin at 7:00pm at the Deterding Park Clubhouse (see map at right).

Other business before the club will include discussion of the club's co-sponsorship of a forum to discuss the fall ballot initiatives on October 15th. The club will also be soliciting volunteers to help register voters at Carmichael's Founders Day on September 17th and at Citrus Heights' Sunday Funday on Sunday, September 25th.

Finally, the club will be asking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2006 club officers. Please plan on attending this important meeting.



Editorial: Shhh! President at Work

Americans hold the Tuesday after Labor Day in a unique regard. It is the time to put away the shorts, store the toys of summer and get back to work.

This Tuesday morning, the American who most needs to get back on the job is President Bush.

Consider what has happened since the president headed for his Texas ranch a month ago. The price of oil rose and continued to rise. The insurgency in Iraq continued to take the lives of Iraqi citizens and American troops. Public support for the war dropped. So did the president's approval rating.

And all of that was before Hurricane Katrina did what scientists had been saying some hurricane eventually was bound to do and obliterated New Orleans.

The president's response, and that of the federal government he heads, was belated, feeble and dismayingly incompetent. Those responses left residents of New Orleans and other Gulf Coast communities feeling abandoned.

They laid bare the deep rifts of race and class that still exist in this country. Four years after the attacks of 9/11, they made clear to the world, to our friends and enemies alike, how vulnerable we remain to calamities, both natural and man-made.

So the president has plenty to do. He needs to clean house at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Department of Homeland Security needs a shake-up, too.

Then there are bigger questions that the nation, and the president as its leader, must consider: the ongoing effects of the war in Iraq; the lack of investment in basic needs in this country; the corrosive effects of a political culture in which shared sacrifice is never mentioned; the costs of valuing political connections and partisan loyalty above competence and experience when picking people for key government jobs; the growing gap between rich and poor; the list goes on and on.

from the Sacramento Bee

But before any of that can be considered, before changes at FEMA and Homeland Security can be meaningful, the president has a much more difficult task. He must convince the American people not only that he is back on the job but that there is some reason to feel good about that. The record of the past few weeks makes clear just how monumental that task is.

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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A letter from Karen Bernal from her Crawford Experience

My friends,

I had promised a few people that I would write about why I was going to Crawford before I left. I thought that I would be able to do that on the first day I got here --- I was wrong. I have been incredibly busy as the person drafted to be the Crawford Peace House volunteer coordinator that I don't think I've gotten to post anything in about 3 days. I apologize for the void in communication, and I realize people are wanting to know about what's going on!

First, Cindy and Dede's Mom is okay, considering she had a stroke --- it was not life threatening. Dede (Cindy's sister) will stay with her from here on out, and Cindy should be back by tomorrow. There's no such thing as good timing when it comes to something like that, but this weekend is particularly trying because they are trying to move the encampment at the site to the plot of land that a lone sympathetic rancher has so kindly allowed the vigil keepers to stay on. In addition, Amy Goodman just got here last night, in addition to an AirAmerica affiliate from San Diego. There are celebrities scheduled to arrive here this weekend besides Lance Armstrong; unfortunately, I am not at liberty to say who they are.

Because Crawford is so small, it has been a real struggle to be able to handle the influx of people coming to the Peace House and Camp Casey from a logistical point of view, so advertising who may show up is not being pushed right now. Just handling the parking situation is an ongoing challenge because the House is actually located on the main road going in to Crawford, and they are without a parking lot. Many of the neighbors are not exactly thrilled by our presence, so coming up with space can often be a headache. Add that

to food, porta potties, water, ice..... Well, you get the idea.

But that's not why I'm writing this. Let me just tell you a quick story illustrating a part of the why.

A few days ago, one of the two mail carriers that deliver mail in town whispered to our Parking Queen, Barbara (from San Diego), that any mail that only had "Crawford Peace House" without the actual numbered address, was being 'returned to sender.' Apparently, the Crawford Post Office was in the habit of holding on to the mail and then every now and then, sending them back to the people who had written either Cindy or CPH. Barbara, a retired postal worker, informed me that while that was technically possible, to do so was a real indication of their attitude towards what was happening here. After a few well placed phone calls to various Congressional reps, Postal Inspectors from Dallas and regional offices paid a visit to the post office here in town. It's true many pieces of mail were returned to people, but we found out that a large amount had also just gone back to the main Dallas-Ft Worth Post Office. It was just sitting there.

Johnny Wolfe, one of the co-founders of the Peace House went to the DFW office to pick the lot that had been sent back. When he walked into the place, he noticed that AirAmerica was cranked up in the front receiving area of the office. After he introduced himself at the counter and informed them that he was there to pick up the mail, the entire facility, including the processing center in the back, stopped and came to the front. They cheered and roared their approval in the loudest Texas fashion for everyone in Crawford who was there to take it to Bush. News of this brought tears to a few

of us back at the House. I can't begin to adequately describe what it's meant to get that kind of support. When I think of how difficult it's been, I just think of those moments that I couldn't even begin to imagine reading in a story.

Experiences like that have shown me that people everywhere, not just those that have gone out of their way to come here, are with us (and by that I mean all of you reading this, as well). Most of America truly understands that there is no light at the end of this dark, foul tunnel --- they want it to stop ---- and stop before it goes elsewhere.....

I am asking everyone who is reading this to please, please --- bring this subject up now and at the conferences. Talk about this! I know we have the special election to deal with (I've already walked precincts), and the issue of electoral integrity is major, but we can't let the issue of the war and occupation get away from us. It is bankrupting us in blood and treasure. As DFAers, we have an obligation to continue to raise difficult questions ---- and demand they be answered for the sake of making us and the Party better than it is now. To continue this silence for strategy's sake is morally impoverished as a part of a vision for 'taking our country back'. Choosing to not decide IS a choice.

Get this rolling! TALK! I'm going to really try to steal some moments where I can type today, but I'm already off to the first event of the day: the National Council of Churches will have an Interfaith Service at noon. 300 clergy bused in from everywhere will be at the site to lend solidarity to the efforts of the brave souls who have stuck in out in the unbearable heat.

Talk to you all soon,
Karen

Contribution: How Bush Spent His Summer Vacation by Amanda Long

Why did Bush vacation – cut wood, clear brush, bike, and read -- for days while the world watched Katrina develop then slam as a category 4 hurricane into the Gulf Coast? Just as he did on September 11, 2001, he froze. They don't have cable or telephones in Crawford? The unfolding catastrophe has Bush leadership skills, or lack thereof, written all over it. He treats his own citizens with the same contempt and callousness as he does the Iraqi civilians – as “collateral damage.”

If a category 4 hurricane is not a “bomb” dropping on American soil, what is? Bush remained on vacation one whole day after Katrina hit, WAITING FOR WHAT? The federal government was ‘missing in action’ and has failed its citizens abysmally. And Congress... where the hell are they? They rushed back to Washington over night for one woman's feeding tube, but can't seem to find the way back for a destructive hurricane that most likely killed thousands. Are these citizens too poor or not expounding the right religion to garner the attention the Trade Tower victims received? They all sat and watched this train wreck, now they are screwing up the rescue and salvage, probably busy searching for the ‘scapegoat’ du jour. Do the Bush administration and Congress want to create a situation where they could declare martial law?

New Orleans has become a war zone. Martial law declared. Since when is a policy of “you loot, we shoot” appropriate for people just trying to survive until help arrives? THEY ARE DYING. So are they ‘looters’ or ‘survivors’ (like the TV show “Survivor” Americans loves to love)? So what if in addition to food, water, diapers, and medical supplies, they take some jeans? They've been wearing oil, chemical and sewer-soaked clothes for days. They're wading

through floating, decaying dead bodies. New Orleans is and will be uninhabitable for three to six months at least, so the merchandise is already a write-off. Think about it? Would you want this merchandise? Let good come from it while it can.

The ‘survivors’ have obtained weapons and are using them. Escaped prisoners riot and hold hostages. People go ‘feral’ displaying ‘pack’ and/or ‘mob’ behaviors when threatened and their lives are in ‘great peril.’ Unfortunately, in America you can find a gun anywhere in virtually any caliber, so chaos reigns. A “loot-shoot” policy only exacerbates the problem. Relief workers received orders to divert efforts from ‘saving people’ to ‘crime fighting’. Why choose ‘property’ over ‘life’? The policy lacks common sense, compassion, or understanding of the survival instinct. CNN has images of people dead and dying on camera. Their reporters are watching people – children and elderly – die before their eyes. The sick, injured, dehydrated, starving, and scared feel abandoned. In the hot, stinking Superdome, where 25,000 refugees await evacuation, fires and fighting are breaking out. Fear, anger, and hopelessness will push conditions to a boil, and more people than necessary will die – mostly the innocent victims of this horrible disaster.

Do we need to request U.N Aid and Peace Keeping Forces? It appears we lack the expertise and leadership to prevent or deal with a major national crisis. Why aren't these convoys and helicopters dropping in water, food, and medicine to these trapped individuals? Yes, conditions are deteriorating, but our National Guard soldiers fly helicopters through Iraq every day taking gunfire for a far less legitimate cause. Is the relief necessary beyond the Bush administration's

capabilities? We do not possess the numbers of National Guard soldiers and relief workers necessary to get this situation under control. Just like Iraq – not enough bodies on the ground to do the job. Bush cut funding to New Orleans hurricane preparations by \$72.1 million and gave eight jets to Pakistan – FREE – valued at \$36 million each = \$288 million. Get the picture. ‘Survivors’ of this crisis sure could use that \$288 million and the \$5.6 billion per month [this breaks down to almost \$186 million a day] or \$672 BILLION PER YEAR the Neocons are throwing at Iraq, plus the billions in pork given to corporations this year alone.

Even worse, imagine you're a National Guard soldier in Iraq that has family, friends, and property in ‘harm's way, but are stuck policing the streets of Iraq. The irony of the situation is macabre. You were sent to fight an urban guerilla war based on a ‘buffet’ of evolving lies and rationales -- perhaps on your second or third tour -- and your family is back home dealing with this mess alone -- homeless, injured, starving, drowning, or dying -- and you are not there and you don't have a clue what their condition is because no one else does. Tragic irony.

A reckoning time is here. The ‘Hurricane Cowboy’ has a lot to answer for, as do the ‘knuckled-headed’ Neocons and the ‘do-nothing’ Congress. This tragedy should have been prevented. Hundreds of thousands of Americans lives completely destroyed while Bush ‘read’ a speech, ironically to a group of sailors and WWII veterans:

"This morning, our hearts and prayers are with our fellow citizens along the Gulf Coast," Bush said. "We know that many are anxious to return to their homes. It's not possible at this moment." His heart and prayers may have been there, but his ass sure wasn't.

The Final Word: The Hollow Man

by Robert Bryce

As the Iraq war becomes ever more futile, the similarities -- and more important, the differences -- between George W. Bush and Lyndon B. Johnson become more pronounced.

Both Texans will be tarred by history for having waged disastrous, unwinnable wars. Both holed up at their Texas ranches whenever they wanted out of Washington. Both were surrounded by a coterie of hawks who believed that America's techno-military machine could prevail over any enemy. Johnson had Robert McNamara as defense secretary. Bush has McNamara's body double: Donald Rumsfeld, a man whose demeanor, defiance and even eyeglasses are the spitting images of his Pentagon predecessor from 37 years ago.

There are other similarities between Bush and Johnson: their personal charm, their predilection for cowboy hats, their ability to dial up their "Texan-ness" whenever the moment required. They are even twins in the polls: A recent Newsweek poll shows that just 34 percent of Americans approve of Bush's handling of the Iraq war -- a number that is almost identical to the 32 percent who approved of LBJ's handling of Vietnam back in early 1968.

But these similarities are as nothing when comparing the two men on a more intangible quality: the ability to feel the pain of others. And it has taken a woman like Cindy Sheehan to reveal this stark difference. Sheehan is the antiwar mother of a soldier, Casey Sheehan, who was killed in Iraq last year. She has set up a camp outside Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, in the hope that Bush will meet with her to discuss the war. Bush has refused. On Saturday he told reporters that while "it's important for me to be thoughtful and sensitive" to people like Sheehan, it is also "important for

me to go on with my life."

Bush is the detached CEO, a man who got his position thanks to a lifetime of privilege; Johnson was a hands-on CEO who got the job after having worked his way up from the very bottom of the political world. Bush doesn't do details; Johnson pored over the aerial maps of Vietnam, hoping that he could pick a bombing target that would turn the tide of the war.

Bush doesn't go to funerals for our dead soldiers. Until last week, his administration had refused to release photos of the flag-draped caskets coming back to the United States. (The Pentagon caved as a result of a Freedom of Information Act suit.) When it comes to the second Iraq war, Bush displays no doubt, no anguish. And therein lies the key: It is that quality that made Johnson, for all his faults and failings, a great president. It's the same quality that exposes Bush as the wrong president at the wrong time, fighting the wrong war in the wrong place.

Johnson felt the ruin that came with the deaths of American soldiers in Vietnam. And he was devastated by it. In early 1968, according to Nick Kotz's magnificent book, "Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Laws That Changed America," the war in Vietnam was going from bad to worse. "Since the Tet offensive had begun the previous month, five hundred American soldiers were dying every week. Often, late at night, the president would go down to the White House Situation Room to check on casualty reports. At times, when Johnson sat with visitors in the Oval Office, he would weep openly as he read from the previous day's casualty lists."

Johnson felt the pain of others. And his courage and determination (along with the sharp prodding that came from Martin Luther King Jr.) to help the less fortunate forced Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act. In doing so, Johnson

achieved one of the great political -- and human rights -- victories of the last century.

W. doesn't do human rights. He doesn't do casualty lists. Nor, apparently, does he cry. And as noted by author James Moore, that's what makes Sheehan such a powerful figure. Sheehan has rendered the complexities and carnage of the war into a simple question: Are you on the side of a grieving mother of a dead soldier? Or are you on the side of a president who continues to insist that this war is noble?

Just as American troops are losing the war in Iraq, so is the Bush administration losing the war of public opinion here at home. But even as he is losing both wars, Bush continues to insist in his anguish-free manner that we are doing the right thing in Mesopotamia. And that certitude comes, he believes, from on high.

Bush's religiosity is the key element here. He has a total belief in the rightness of his position. But there again comes a key difference with LBJ. Like the born-again Bush, Johnson was a man of faith. But he was a man of many faiths, often attending two churches -- one Roman Catholic and one Protestant -- on a given Sunday. Raised a Baptist, he became an elder at the Disciples of Christ Church near his home in Johnson City. Johnson's intellectual curiosity led him to see that one religion, one worldview, didn't hold all the answers. As Johnson's biographer, Ronnie Dugger, put it, LBJ was "an ecumenical movement by himself."

Bush's blind faith in his own path -- religious and military -- leaves no room for ecumenism, or doubt. And that lack of doubt, that lack of anguish over the lives being lost in Iraq, is emerging as his fatal flaw. Cindy Sheehan has placed that flaw into the spotlight for all to see.



The Calendar



Alliance for a Better California Special Election Campaign Kick-Off

Saturday, September 10th, 9:30am
Sacramento Central Labor Council
2840 El Centro Road
Sacramento

5th AD Democratic Committee
Monday, September 12th, 7:00pm
Denny's at Greenback & Hazel
Contact: Ann Wangberg
(916) 966-3590

Gray Panthers
Tuesday, September 13th, 1:00pm
Hart Senior Center
27th & I Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joan Lee
(916) 332-5980
www.graypanthersacramento.org

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee

Tuesday, September 13th, 6:00pm
State Capitol Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chairman
(916) 442-0264
www.sacdems.org

Town & Country Democratic Club

Wednesday, September 14th, 7:00pm
Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushden Way, Sacramento
Corner of Rushden/Somerset
Contact: Kevin Murphy, President
(916) 944-0669
www.tandconline.org

Women Democrats of Sacramento County

Monday, September 19th, 6:00pm
Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento
Contact: Linda Rogaski
(916) 332-8732
www.wdsc.net

CDC Board of Directors Meeting

Sun., September 25th, 10am-4pm
Doubletree Hotel Bakersfield
Info: www.cdc-ca.org

Town & Country Steering Committee Meeting

Wed., September 28th, 7:00pm
Location: Kevin Murphy's Home
4211 Paradise Drive, Carmichael
Contact: Kevin, (916) 944-0669
All Members Welcome!
www.tandconline.org

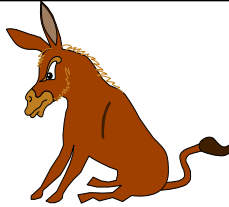
Sacramento Area Democratic Special Election Forum

Monday, October 3, 7-9 PM
Coloma Community Center
4623 T St., Sacramento.
Contact: Kevin (916) 944-0669

Sacramento For Democracy

Wednesday, October 5th, 7:00pm
Location: TBA
Contact: (916) 326-5850
www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org

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



Time Value Mail
Address Correction Requested



**Reminder: Volunteers
needed for Voter Reg on
Sat. Sept. 17th and Sun.,
Sept. 25th. See page - 4
for details!!!**