



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRAT

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TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Angelides unveils major proposal to crack down on HMOs

California State Treasurer and Democratic nominee for Governor Phil Angelides unveiled a plan to put the state government back on the side of middle class families and businesses by prohibiting HMOs from spending more than 10 percent of health care premiums on wasteful and excessive HMO overhead, executive payouts, and

profits. The plan would cut health care costs for families, businesses, and government agencies by \$4 billion and save more than 12 million Californians an average of about \$300 a year.

"I'm running for Governor for a single, simple, fundamental reason: to put an end to the Bush-Schwarzenegger policies that favor the special interests over

this state's interests," said Angelides. "The rising cost of health care - of the simple ability to keep your children and yourself healthy and strong - may be the most glaring injustice of the Bush-Schwarzenegger era."

Unlike Governor Schwarzenegger, Treasurer Angelides pledged to stand up to the HMOs, crack down on

(Continued on page 10)

T & C to nominate 2007 club officer candidates

As is customary, the Town and Country Democratic Club officer elections will be held at its November membership meeting, which has been moved to the third Wednesday, November 15, due to conflicts with the General Election.

The Nominating Committee will present its recommendations for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer at the Oc-

tober 11 membership meeting.

All Town & Country Democratic Club members are encouraged to consider running for one of these positions.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for office, contact

Don Harper, chair of the Nominating Committee at 916-489-5669 no later than Friday, October 6.

Nominations may also be made from the

floor. In order to run for office, candidates must be members in good standing.

Ballots will be mailed with the November newsletter and may be returned by mail or brought to the November meeting.

As usual we will meet at 7:00 at the Deterding Park Clubhouse, located at 1415 Rushden Dr. (see map, page 11)

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CONTRIBUTION POLICY

The opinions expressed in editorials or other contributions are not necessarily those of the Town & Country membership.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity, space and liability.

Contributions are due by the 25th of the month preceding the next issue and should be sent to:

Tiffany Craig Brown
tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com

COMMENTARY

Governor wrongly vetoes single-payer health care bill

By JOAN LEE

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, as expected, vetoed SB 840 (Kuehl-S-Santa Monica), which would have implemented a single payer system of health care for all Californians, saying that he could not support a "government run health care system".

Democrats can be proud, however, that the Legislature, controlled by our party, became the first in the nation to pass a comprehensive single payer health care bill. The measure, if enacted, would have had a significant impact on the healthcare of hundreds of thousands of children, adults with developmental, physical, and mental health needs, as well as seniors.

The Governor displayed his partisan view by saying in his veto message that "Socialized medicine is not the solution to our state's health care problems. This bill would require an extraordinary redirection of public and private funding by creating a vast new bureaucracy to take over health insurance and medical care for Californians - a serious and expensive mistake. Such a program would cost the state billions and lead to significant new taxes on individuals and businesses, without solving the critical issue of affordability. I won't jeopardize the economy of our state for such a purpose." These remarks in spite of the fact that independent fiscal research about the Kuehl plan showed it would actually save the state money!

Sen. Kuehl in an earlier press statement said, "It is a mistake for the Governor to reject the only concrete plan now on the table to reform healthcare coverage. In his statement,

the Governor says that he cares about 'affordability,' but SB 840 would make healthcare coverage affordable, while preserving quality. SB 840 would have protected, by law, the right of consumers to choose their own doctor, making healthcare more competitive than ever.

Perata, Senate President pro Tem, stated "SB 840 would [have] open[ed] affordable, quality health care to all Californians while maintaining private enterprise and respecting personal choice. Signing Senator Kuehl's bill would have been a bold and responsible way for the governor to cap this successful session and make a real difference in people's lives. Despite the misinformation campaign by opponents and the misguided veto by the governor, California families should be encouraged that this fight will continue."

The Kuehl bill would have established the Health Insurance System to be administered by the newly created Health Insurance Agency under the control of a Health Insurance Commissioner appointed by the Governor. It would have made all residents eligible for health care benefits under the Health Insurance System, which would, on a single-payer basis, negotiate for or set fees for health care services provided through the system and pay claims for those services.

Candidates in many races support universal, single-payer healthcare and we have no doubt that one day we will prevail over the big corporate interests of the insurance lobby that blocks all efforts to date.

From the President

Vets run for office as Democrats—speak out against war

Service in Congress used to go hand-in-hand with service in the armed forces. For decades after World War II, a majority of Senators and Congressmen were veterans, and the proportion of vets in Congress was 10-15 percent higher than in the American population at large. The trend, which peaked during the Vietnam Era, when over 75 percent of congressional reps were veterans, continued as recently as the first Gulf War, when more than half had served.

But today the numbers tell a different tale. Although a few prominent members of Congress are Vietnam vets (e.g. John Kerry, Chuck Hagel, and John McCain), the 2002 and 2004 cycles produced the smallest number of vets in decades. In today's Congress, only 26 percent of members have military experience.

That's about to change, however. Ninety five military veterans are running for Congress this year. About 40 of the candidates are Republicans, while at least 55 are Democrats. By one count, at least 11 veterans of the Iraq war or Afghanistan are hoping to get elected to the House or Senate, *all but one of them* Democrats.

Because of their military experience, these *Fighting Dems* have the credibility to criticize the war without automatically being dismissed out of hand by the GOP as naive and weak on defense.

For the past four years, the Bush Administration has shown no respect for the military and its members, regardless of how high-ranking they are. Now that arrogance is coming back to bite them.

On September 25, three retired U.S. Army Officers, addressed a congressional committee on the war in Iraq using starkly harsh words.

"I believe that Secretary Rumsfeld and others in the administration did not tell the American people the truth for fear of losing support for the war in Iraq," retired Maj. Gen. John Batiste told a forum conducted by Senate Democrats.

A second military leader, Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, assessed Rumsfeld as "incompetent strategically, operationally and tactically."

A third officer—retired Col. Paul Hammes joined Batiste and Eaton in testimony before the U.S. Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

All three officers who testified served in Iraq, and

Batiste was senior military assistant to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

Batiste, who commanded the Army's 1st Infantry Division in Iraq and is a self-proclaimed Republican, also blamed Congress for failing to ask "the tough questions." He said Rumsfeld at one point threatened to fire the next person who mentioned the need for a postwar plan in Iraq.

"Mr. Rumsfeld and his immediate team must be replaced or we will see two more years of extraordinarily bad decision-making," General Eaton said.

Last March General Eaton said the Secretary of Defense should resign. General Eaton wrote in a commentary in *The New York Times* that "Rumsfeld is not competent to lead America's armed forces," and that President Bush should accept the resignation that Rumsfeld has offered in the past. Mr. Eaton was in charge of training the Iraqi military from 2003 to 2004.

In an Op/ED in *The New York Times*, Eaton wrote, "Rumsfeld has put the Pentagon at the mercy of his ego, his Cold Warrior's view of the world and his unrealistic confidence in technology to replace manpower.

Eaton also said of Mr. Rumsfeld, "his failure to build coalitions with U.S. allies from what he dismissively called 'old Europe' has imposed far greater demands and risks on American soldiers in Iraq than necessary." Hammes was also critical of the equipment available to the Army world-wide. He said all the good equipment had gone to Iraq, leaving troops training to go without their full complement. Hammes said that not providing the best equipment was a "serious moral failure on the part of our leadership."

Hammes was responsible for establishing bases for the Iraqi armed forces. He served in Iraq in 2004 and is now Marine Senior Military Fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, National Defense University.

One of the officers told the committee, "I was shocked to come home to find nobody was involved in this war at home. It is business as usual in the United States."

Interestingly enough, only one Republican, Rep. Walter "freedom fries" Jones (R-NC) participated in the committee hearing.

Tell me again which party cares more about our national security . . .

T & C Legislative Committee on the Propositions . . .

The following includes a description of the propositions that will appear on the November ballot, along with the Town & Country Legislative Committee's suggested stance on each:

Prop 1A: Prohibits the use of sales taxes on motor vehicles for anything other than transportation funding targeting traffic congestion. *No position*

Prop 1B: \$19.9 billion in transportation funding to relieve traffic congestion on roads and highways and improve bus, rail and transit systems. *Support*

Prop 1C: Authorizes \$2.9 billion in housing bonds to provide shelters for battered women, low-income seniors, veterans and working families. Consistent with statewide growth management guidelines. Strongly supported by housing advocates. *Support*

Prop 1D: \$10.4 billion in bonds for K-12 school improvements and new construction to relieve overcrowding and expand the state universities and community colleges. Attempts to bring back open access to higher education by providing stable funding tied to enrollment. Defines Community Colleges as part of Public School System. *No position*

Prop 1E: Allocates \$4.4 billion for levee repairs and bring flood protection in Sacramento, Marysville, Yuba City to \$200-yr. flood level. Central Valley support! The package of bonds was devised by the Governor and legislators. However, the LAO (Legislative Analyst) warns they make take money from the General Funds to pay interest on 30-year loans! They say that 1E may also impact property tax revenues. *Support*

Prop 83: Asks if sex offenders and violent predators must spend their entire lives with Global Positioning System monitoring and be banned from living within 2,000 feet of a school or park. In addition to social justice concerns, the LAO suggests spiraling costs and lack of defined monitoring responsibilities. *Oppose*

Prop 84: Pays for state park improvements, anti-pollution and safe drinking water programs and promote public access to natural resources with a \$5.4 billion bond program. Money formerly designated for this purpose almost gone. Has a very diverse list of supporters, including Sierra Club. *Support*

Prop 85: Would require doctors be required to notify a parent or guardian before they performed an abortion on a girl under 18. Forces a mandatory 48-hr. waiting period. Minor would have to go to court

to block requirement. Rejected in 2005 by an overwhelming majority. Permanent Constitutional amendment. Supported by evangelicals and right-to-lifers. Opposed by doctors, "right to choose" advocates, Planned Parenthood. *Oppose*

Prop 86: Provides a 13 cent per pack tax on cigarettes (\$2.60 per carton) for hospital emergency services, nursing education, health insurance for children. Support from Amer. Lung Assn, opposed by tobacco companies. Potential to cost more in Medi-Cal dollars to Healthy Families program from changes to Medi-Cal rules. *Support*

Prop 87: \$4 billion program to reduce oil and gas consumption by 25% through promotion of energy efficient technologies/research and production incentives for alternative fuel vehicles, funded by 1.5-6% taxes per barrel of oil on producers of oil extracted in California. Would cut into Prop 98 money. Strongly opposed by the Oil Industry. *Oppose*

Prop 88: Seeks increase K-12 school funding by charging \$50 tax on real property parcels, exempting certain elderly and disabled homeowners, potentially raising up to \$500 million annually for public school programs. Projects over time may cost more than revenues, according to LAO. *No position*

Prop 89: Would impose new limits on campaign contributions, increase tax rate on corporations and financial institutions 0.2% to raise over \$200 million for public financing of political campaigns for state elected officials. Those who break rules could be thrown out of office or even jailed. Known as the Campaign to Stop Political Corruption or the Clean Money Campaign. Similar laws working in Arizona and seven other states/ two municipalities. Appear to have forwarded minority and women candidates. Gray Panthers supporter. *Support*

Prop 90: Those opposed believe in protection from eminent domain abuses, too full of loopholes, taxpayers pay litigation costs and payments. Claims to protect communities and prevent overdevelopment with new "consumer protections. Opponents say it could make agencies reluctant to regulate uses that affect environmental quality and would prevent living wage ordinances. Supported by Americans for Limited Government. Gray Panthers opposes. *Oppose*

SEPTEMBER, 2006 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order to by President Tiffany Craig Brown at 7:05 PM. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Officers Arnie Godmintz, Jim Nakata and Laure Olson. The minutes from the August meeting were MSMP as written.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported that there was \$9729, not counting a \$500 check just received.

Arnie Godmintz reported for the Central Committee. A Democratic headquarters office is opening its downtown office, in Elk Grove. The committee has also made their endorsements of candidates. The endorsements in their entirety can be found on the Central Committee website. Kudos were voiced for our last fundraiser and up and running headquarters. The arena endorsement was voted down after a debate between Daryl Steinberg and Dave Jones.

Ralph Cyfers reported that the Northeast Democratic Headquarters is functioning at 4142 Sunrise with Sam Catalano as director, between the hours of 10 AM -6 PM, Monday through Sunday. Members were asked to please drop in any time to volunteer. For the three weekends left in October, there is a major push for voter registration. 900 Democrats were registered in the past month. Of those, 400 were registered at the Democratic booth at the state fair; 130 changed parties, 60 Republicans to Democrat. The rest were Decline-to-State. The bounty program is still in effect offering \$3.50/4.00 per registration. Volunteers are always welcome for Saturdays and Sundays drives. A class is offered on Fridays at 6:30 PM, all materials supplied. Ralph reminded us that this Sunday at Southside Park downtown, there will be a "Rock the Vote" rally and that T & C will have a booth at the Carmichael's Founder's Day celebration. Members were encouraged to sign up to work the booth and register voters.

The Legislative Committee, as reported by Joan Lee, again spoke vigorously against the Social Security provisions hidden in legislation. She introduced another comment card to add to fundraising envelopes regarding the Medicare Part D situation. She also talked about the Governor's veto of the single-payer bill. Joan invited us to join the Donut Hole Day Rally on September 22 at 1215 K St and passed a sign up

list/information sheet. She also had the CARA scorecard denoting all candidates' stand on the propositions. The Legislative Committee endorses Propositions 87 and 89. Look to the next newsletter for their recommended positions on all the propositions.

The Communications and Membership Committees had no report.

The results of the online T&C vote regarding the measure to increase our sales tax to finance a new downtown arena were five (17%) in favor and 25 (83%) opposed.

We all enjoyed the fattening but delicious ice cream social served in the outside patio area.

New Business

The T&C election will be held at the November 15 meeting. The Nominating Committee consists of four members so far - Don Harper (Chai), Warren Harding, Nancy Tronaas and Tiffany Craig Brown, who will not be running for any office.

Based on Steering Committee recommendations, there were motions to approve the following campaign contributions: \$250 Brandon Bell, \$500 Charlie Brown, \$1000 Bill Durston and \$50 Lyn Stueve. MSMP

Motions were also made to endorse the following candidate: Patrick Kennedy for SMUD Board, Larry Carr for SMUD Board; Lisa Kaplan, Natomas School Board; Lyn Stueve and Warren Harding for Arden Manor Recreation & Park District Board. MSMP.

We had a motion to donate \$100 to the Agape Foundation, in memory of long-time T & C member and former president, Fred Pratt. MSMP

Program/Speakers

Bonnie Martin from the CA Nurses Association spoke passionately, urging us to endorse Proposition 89, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act. She pointed out how money talks and talked about the influence of money on health issues. She also mentioned clean air, Medicare, teachers, healthcare and tax law issues. She spoke about stopping corporate money to politicians, to curb corruption, and to level the playing field, while returning the focus to the people. Bonnie stated that we need to have public campaign financing to limit

(Continued on page 11)

- CAMPAIGN

Bell for Assembly

Join the Bell for Assembly campaign *Neighbor to Neighbor* training and phone banking every Monday and Wednesday at the Northeast Sacramento Democratic Headquarters, located at 4142 Sunrise Blvd. in Fair Oaks—or call voters from the comfort of your home or volunteer with us at the office at your convenience.

Ring a bell for Bell. For more information, call 673-1386.

Brown for Congress

The Charlie Brown for Congress campaign is set for the stretch run of the 2006 campaign. With a recent poll showing the campaign in a statistical dead heat, Charlie is in a perfect position to pull off an amazing victory and send one of Washington D.C.'s most corrupt Congressmen into early retirement!

Charlie's campaign will be moving at full speed during October and will be looking for help from all Democrats in the Sacramento area to put the finishing touches on John Doolittle's last campaign.

If you have time to help with a phone bank or a canvass, please call Nick Shepard, Charlie's Field Director, at 916-782-7696. And please consider helping with Charlie's GOTV efforts over the final weeks of the campaign.

To keep up with campaign events please visit the campaign's website - www.charliebrownforcongress.org.

**Attend the
"Rally for a Real Change"
Tuesday, October 3
(5:30 p.m. doors, 6:30 p.m. speeches)
in Loomis at the
Blue Goose Fruit Shed
3550 Taylor Road.**

Suggested donation—\$20 (no one turned away for lack of funds) and features free hot dogs and beans and a chance to meet Charlie and mingle with hundreds of your fellow Democrats.

Durston for Congress

The Durston campaign is in high gear with plenty of activities for volunteers. The 3rd Congressional District extends from Sacramento's suburbs through Amador, Calaveras, and Alpine counties. Republicans have held the seat since 1998, but the rumbling is getting louder: voters are ready to vote for change!

Phone banking schedule:

Tuesdays, Thursdays from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

NE Democratic HQ, 4142 Sunrise Blvd, Fair Oaks
Call Marilyn Sabin at 916-961-2866 to sign up.

SEIU office at 1111 Howe Avenue, Sacramento.

Call Ali or Susan Hosseinion at 916-631-0101 to sign up.

Every weeknight, except Friday, from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Elk Grove Office, 3137 Dwight Road, Suite 500

Call Peter Daly at 479-5962 to sign up.

Volunteers may also phone bank from their own homes. To get a list of people to call, contact Cathlyn Daly at 916-479-5961 if you're in the Elk Grove area or more southern parts of Sacramento County. Call Marlene Sarnat at 408-483-5002 if you're in Solano County. Otherwise contact Marilyn Sabin at 916-961-2866.

Precinct Walking:

Sats, 9:00 a.m. — NE Democratic HQ

Call Marilyn Sabin at 916-961-2866 to sign up.

Sats, 9:00 a.m.; Suns, 12:00 Noon — Elk Grove office

Call Cathlyn Daly at 916-479-5961 to sign up.

To volunteer for precinct walking on your own, contact Cathlyn Daly, Marlene Sarnat, or Marilyn Sabin by calling the numbers listed above for their respective areas.

Partial list of October Events

Sat, 10/01 - Freedom from War Peace Week begins

Tues, 10/04 - Peace Dinner, Bill Durston will be speaking (or debating Lungren if he accepts).

Wed, 10/05 - Scheduled League of Women Voters debate between Durston and Lungren; Robert Trigg Education Center, Elk Grove

Thurs, 10/06 - Max Cleland visit/appearance with Bill
Fri, 10/07, 2:00-4:30 p.m. - APAPA Voters Education & Candidates Forum, Radisson Hotel

Monday, 10/16 - Durston/ Lungren Debate (confirmed), Angel's Camp

Tuesday, 10/17 - Durston Town Hall Meeting in Folsom

Friday, 10/20 - Durston Town Hall Meeting in Fair Oaks

UPDATES -

Haswell for Assembly

Our *People before Politics* free picnic and rally at Camp Lotus this past Sunday marked the end the Whistle Stop tour of 4th assembly district. At the same time, this fun event kicked-off the final phase of the campaign where our focus is completely on getting out the vote.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers who planned and worked during the event to make it run so smoothly. Great speakers, food and music! More than 350 people from Georgetown, Lincoln, Sacramento, Placerville, Cameron Park, South Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Auburn, Roseville, Loomis and Rocklin attended showing their support for Rob Haswell's quest to provide real citizen representation in Sacramento.

It's now our task to take the energy and momentum generated by the Camp Lotus event and turn it into grassroots volunteerism likes of which has not been seen in our area. We will be canvassing, phone banking, and writing postcards to encourage voters to join us in sending Rob Haswell to the State Legislature. We urge everyone to help us in some way in the weeks ahead. Visit the website at www.RobHaswellforAssembly.com to find out how to get involved.

On October 4 at 7:00 a.m. be sure to tune in to the Morning Retort Show on 1320 AM to listen to Rob discuss his *People before Politics* pledge with Scott Forrington and Andy Sims.

To quote the late Senator Paul Wellstone, "The future will not belong to those who sit on the sidelines. The future will not belong to the cynics. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

No on Q & R (Arena Tax)

We only have six weeks left to let Sacramento County know that this is a bad deal for our community! Although the proponents for the arena tax appear to have no clear plan at the moment, we do know that their YES campaign still has millions to spend!

As always, phone banking is the most effective way to help our campaign! We phone bank six days a week, so there are plenty of opportunities to come out and volunteer!

Phone Bank Schedule

Mondays through Thursdays 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays 11:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays (NEW HOURS!) 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Campaign headquarters: 2125 19th Street
(between U and V Streets on left-hand side)

Parking: Lighted, enclosed parking lot next to building.

We are simply calling voters to poll how they will be voting in November – our volunteers are often amazed at how easy it is!

NO on the Arena Tax Fundraiser

Saturday, October 14; 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Home of Eric Vega & Jane Vining

3932 Downey Way

between UCD Medical Center & Sacramento High School

For more information, call 916-880-1233 or visit www.stopthearenatax.org.

“We talk a great deal about patriotism. What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility which will enable America to remain master of her power — to walk with it in serenity and wisdom, with self-respect and the respect of all mankind; a patriotism that puts country ahead of self; a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime. The dedication of a lifetime — these are words that are easy to utter, but this is a mighty assignment. For it is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them.”

-ADLAI STEVENSON, August 27, 1952

Mosquito Control re-launches *Fight the Bite* website

New Design Is More User Friendly

In an effort to continue to provide excellent community service to the residents of Sacramento and Yolo Counties, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District has revamped its Web site.

The new Fight the Bite Web site is designed to deliver information in a more user-friendly manner for visitors from all walks of life. "Our new site is laid out in a manner where the public can easily access information that is pertinent to them. Visitors can peruse with ease and flexibility." District Manager, David Brown said.

"Scientific information can be daunting for many visitors so we modified the format and made it simple. We encourage the public to start visiting our new Web site today at FIGHTtheBITE.net," Brown said.

The public is strongly urged to practice the District's 7Ds: DRAIN any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors. DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions! DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition. This will

prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

DISTRICT personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visit the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

West Nile virus

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States.

Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in the western hemisphere in 1999 in New York City. Since then it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever and severe neurological disease.

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds.

West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, to

date, five dead birds, two mosquito pools, zero sentinel chickens, zero equines and zero humans have tested positive for West Nile virus.

The District is at LEVEL 2 of their response plan. Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

FIGHT THE BITE BY FOLLOWING THE 7Ds



DRAIN any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.



DAWN and **DUSK** are times to avoid. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active.



DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.



DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as **DEET**, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!



DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent

NEW YORK TIMES OP/ED

THE TORTURE OF LIBERTY

By **BOB HERBERT**, September 21, 2006

I can't believe that most Americans think it is all right for our government to strip away the hallowed safeguard of habeas corpus.

After traveling to Ottawa to interview Maher Arar last year, I wrote: "If John Ashcroft was right, then I was staring into the malevolent, duplicitous eyes of pure evil ... But all I could really see was a polite, unassuming, neatly dressed guy who looked like a suburban Little League coach."

It turns out John Ashcroft was wrong. After an exhaustive investigation, a government commission in Canada ruled definitively and unequivocally this week that Maher Arar was no terrorist. He was nothing more than a quiet family man who found himself sucked into a vortex of incompetence, hysteria and a so-called war on terror that has gone completely haywire.

He's lucky he survived. Mr. Arar, a Canadian citizen who was born in Syria, was snatched by American authorities as he waited for a connecting flight home from Kennedy Airport in September 2002. The Americans apparently were acting on bad information fed to them by Canadian investigators.

As in the witch hunts of old, no one seemed to care whether there was any factual basis for the allegations against Mr. Arar. Without even a nod in the direction of due process, the Americans put him on a government jet and shipped him off to Jordan, where he was promptly driven to Syria, where he was tortured.

Welcome to extraordinary rendition, a reprehensible practice in which people are kidnapped by the U.S. government and sent off to countries that specialize in the evil arts of torture.

Mr. Arar lived in torment for nearly a year, confined most of the time to a tiny underground cell, about the size of a grave. Despite the torture, the Syrians were unable to connect him to terrorism in any way. The Canadian government managed to secure his release in October 2003.

If this were just a bad but honest mistake, we

might be able to simply wish Mr. Arar well and vow never to let it happen again. Instead, the United States is about to ensure that many more individuals who are falsely accused are deprived of the single most fundamental tool they need to establish their innocence.

In the push to enact legislation dealing with the interrogation and prosecution of terror suspects, both the White House and dissident Republicans in the Senate intend to strip away the hallowed safeguard of habeas corpus for some non-citizens held in U.S. custody outside the United States.

Habeas corpus (literally "produce the body") is a legal proceeding that allows one to challenge his or her detention in a court of law. It is the most significant safeguard against arbitrary imprisonment. Someone deprived of this right — which is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and has been recognized by various societies all the way back to the Middle Ages — can be locked up, whether innocent or guilty of any offense, and never heard from again.

I can't believe most Americans think this is all right.

"This is recognized as a broad common-law and constitutional right," said Bill Goodman, the legal director for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, which has been fighting to secure basic legal protections for prisoners in American custody at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

At a minimum, said Mr. Goodman, "A person has a right to know what crime he's being charged with. And a court can demand that the government produce evidence indicating that there is a reason to hold that person." The authority to demand that even the highest officials in a nation — even the president, even the king back in the days of the Magna Carta — justify the detention of a human being is powerful, and essential in a free society.

(Continued on page 10)

TOWN & COUNTRY

DEMOCRATIC CLUB



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Committee Interest (check all that apply):

- Communications Fundraising/Events
- Legislative Membership

Other skills/interests _____

Annual Dues

- \$25 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Senior Individual
- \$25 Senior Family

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail checks to:

Town & Country Democratic Club
P.O. Box 1286
Citrus Heights, CA 95611
www.tcdems.org

ANGELIDES (Continued from page 1)

their wasteful overhead costs, and pass on the savings to individuals, businesses, and governmental entities that are currently saddled with high premiums. The Angelides plan will:

Require that no health plan divert more than 10 percent of premiums--one dime on every dollar--to overhead and profit by enforcing and strengthening existing law (the Knox-Keene Act) that prohibits "excessive" HMO administrative costs.

Save an estimated 12.6 million Californians about \$4 billion a year in health insurance premiums--an average of over \$300 per enrollee. A family of four would see annual savings of over \$1,200, and a business that pays 80% of the premiums for its employees would save \$12,000 each year for every 50 enrollees that it covers.

Make health coverage more affordable and open the door for more families to afford health insurance and for more businesses to provide health benefits to their employees.

"As Governor, I will expand health coverage step-by-step," said Angelides. "I will start by ensuring that all children in the State of California can see a doctor when they're sick. And I will not rest until every Californian is covered."

TORTURE (Continued from page 9)

The right to file for a writ of habeas corpus, insisting that this authority be exercised, is a crucial check on naked governmental power. It's a check on injustice.

In Washington, instead of saluting this cornerstone of freedom, politicians are about to deep-six it for some people without even much in the way of debate.

Talk about freedom is cheap. We hear it all the time. Real protection against tyrannical behavior by powerful government officials is another matter.

I spoke to Mr. Arar by phone yesterday. He said now that the Canadian government has publicly cleared his name, he would like the U.S. government to follow suit. But the U.S. government is busy trying to make sure that other innocents, trapped unfairly in a cage, have absolutely nowhere to turn. No recourse at all.

MINUTES (Continued from page 5)

the amount corporations can award. She described the fundamentals of the clean money act; candidates who pledge to run a clean campaign get that designation and will receive five times the amount collected in matching funds.

Brandon Bell, candidate for State Assembly, 5th District, was set to speak but could not appear due to illness.

Rob Haswell, candidate for State Assembly, 4th District, gave a rousing speech which left no room for doubt as to what his message is. He is a big supporter of Proposition 89, for political reform in a very vocal and strong way. He is for "public servants serving people". He is conducting a canvas, door-to-door campaign. He called Doo-little a "crony" and developer pimp. He spoke in support of Brandon Bell, who couldn't be at the meeting.

Michael Seaman, Candidate for Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District Board, introduced himself. His opponent has dropped out, but he still came to speak to us. Regarding Proposition 90, he called it "bad news" that wipes out people's rights and supports sprawl, a program brought here by people from out of state.

Lyn Stueve, Arden Manor Park and Recreation District Board, honored us with her first stump speech, to much applause. "Our parks are part of the commons", she said. Inspired by Howard Dean, she felt compelled to add her voice and run for office herself.

Warren Harding is running for re-election to the same board. He said the Board currently consists of four Republicans and him - the only Democrat. He has been active in government for 28 years and has helped develop three of the four parks in the District, including sidewalks for seniors and many other benefits.

Cortez Quinn, Grant School Board candidate, appeared as well. He is currently Vice President of the Truman Club and chief of staff for Roger Dickinson. He would like to be part of the Board and part of a positive momentum. He said test scores are improving in the district. He informed us that six people are running for three seats and he has the endorsement of the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee.

Announcements

Diane Durston gave Town & Country special thanks for all our support.

Books and various other items donated for our silent auction at the Awards Dinner were raffled off. Jim Nakata will report on the proceeds at the October meeting.


T & C will have booths at Carmichael Founders Day, Sat. 9/16, 9 AM - 5 PM and at Citrus Heights Sunday Funday, Sun, 9/24, 12 - 5PM.

Since the regularly-scheduled date for the T&C November meeting/officer election would be the night after the General Election, it was moved to November 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

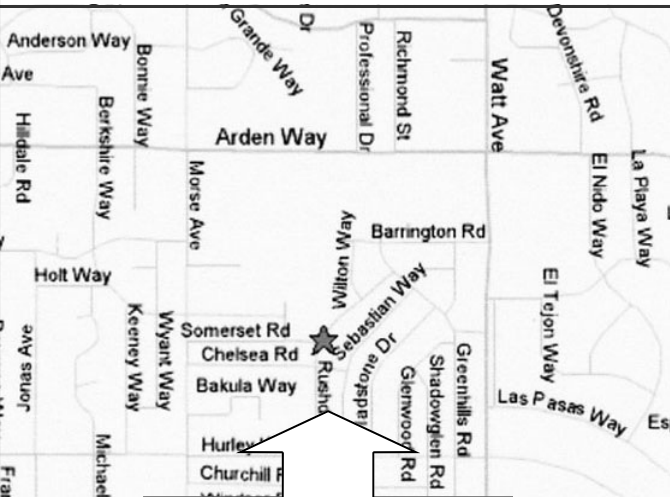
Respectfully submitted,

Laure Olson, Secretary

TOWN & COUNTRY  **DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

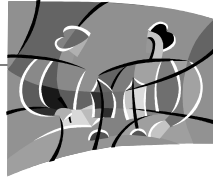
JOIN US!

We meet the second Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m.
Deterding Park Clubhouse



Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushden Drive
(Corner of Rushden & Somerset)
Sacramento, CA 95864
Parking along the street

MONTHLY



MEETINGS

SACRAMENTO STATE COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

Thursdays—4:30 p.m.

weekly during Spring & Fall semesters

University Union;
6000 J Street, Sacramento
Contact: Kelli Farr, President
sacstatedemocrats@yahoo.com

GRAY PANTHERS

Tue, October 10— 1:00 p.m.

Hart Senior Center
27th & J Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joan Lee
916-332-5980
joanblee78@lanset.com
www.graypanthersacramento.org

SACRAMENTO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Tue, October 10— 6:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chair
916-442-0264
www.sacdems.org

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Wed, October 11— 7:00 p.m.

Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushdon Dr., Sacramento
Corner of Rushden/Somerset
Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown
tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com
916-419-4064
www.tcdems.org

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Mon, October 9— 6:30 p.m.

Lambda Players Theatre
2427 17th St., Sacramento
Contact: Dr. Darrick Lawson
President
info@sacstonewall.org
916-441-1787
www.sacstonewall.org

WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Mon, October 16— 6:00 p.m.

Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento
Contact: Linda Tuttle
President
www.wdsc.net

5TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Mon, October 16— 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Ann Wangberg
916-966-3590

TOWN & COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Wed, October 25— 7:00 p.m.

Home of Arnie Godmintz
5313 Fernwood Way., Sacramento
- All Members Welcome -
Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown
tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com
916-419-4064
www.tcdems.org



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. Box 1286
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95611-1286

REMEMBER!

T & C's November meeting
and officer election has
been moved to
Wednesday, November 15

