



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRAT

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TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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ARENA DEBATE HELD BY T & C

By NANCY TRONAAS &

At the August 9 Town and Country meeting, members and visitors listened to a lively debate on the proposal for a new 18,000-seat Downtown sports and entertainment complex.

The primary funding for the new center would be supplied by a quarter-cent county-wide sales tax.

Sacramento County Supervisor Roger Dickinson, represented the side in favor of public funding of a

new arena, while State Assemblyman Dave Jones represented the opposition to the sales tax measure that will appear on the November ballot.

According to Supervisor Dickinson, the sales tax should generate just over \$1 billion in 15 years, and the building of a new arena for the estimated \$540 million at the Union Pacific railroad yard will kick-start development in the area.

He argued that the complex would bring in new conventions and larger events to Sacramento, and that, with the hopes of hosting 200 plus events a year, the new arena will be the centerpiece of the sports and entertainment district.

Two million people are forecast to come to the arena located within walking distance

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Clean money, fair elections and ice cream . . .

How about winding down the hot summer months with some cold ice cream and cool conversation? Town & Country Democratic Club's Ice Cream Social will be held Wednesday, 9/13.

Ice cream will be served at 7:30 p.m.

While you enjoy a bowl of chocolate, vanilla or even rocky road ice cream, Bonnie Martin from the California Nurses Association will explain how

Proposition 89, The California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, will affect California politics in the future. Bonnie's presentation will be followed by a brief question/answer session.

We will also hear from two Democratic candidates for California Assembly - Brandon Bell, running in the 5th District and Rob Haswell in the 4th.

Michael Seaman, candidate for the Fulton-El

Camino Recreation and Park District Board and T & C's very own Lyn Stueve, who is running for the Arden Manor Recreation and Park District Board, will address the audience as well.

So join your fellow Democrats for a fun and interesting evening! As usual, we'll meet at the Deterding Park Clubhouse, located at 1415 Rushden Dr. (see map, page 11).

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DEMOCRAT**

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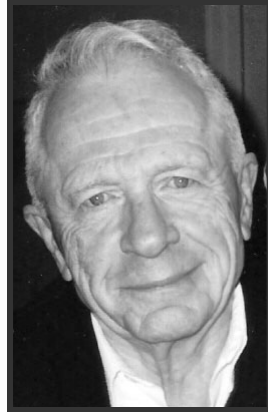
CONTRIBUTION POLICY

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:

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Paying homage to Dr. Pratt

By JOHN BERNIER

The death of Dr. Fred Pratt was not only a great loss to the Town & Country Democratic Club but to the thousands of people, mostly children, all over the world who will be deprived of his healing hand. He passed away at home on August 26.

Fred truly earned the title of humanitarian. Whenever he was missing from a T&C club meeting, he most likely could be found in such places as Guatemala, Uganda, the Philippines, or a couple dozen other countries around the world, doing volunteer work as a plastic surgeon.

He used his specialty for and expertise in congenital cleft lip, palate and nasal deformities to make the lives of countless children worth living. Fred's wife Patricia was frequently at his side, putting her skills as a surgical nurse to good use as she assisted him with his activities.

A long time member and former president of Town & Country Democratic Club, Fred was also a dedicated peace activist. He was a member of

(Continued on page 9)

COMMENTARY

Say no to arena deal in November

By BILL EMERSON

After the debate about whether or not Sacramento County should fund a new arena through a sales tax increase, the audience had a chance to ask questions of the panelists. One audience member asked about allegations recently printed in the *Sacramento Bee*, which stated this "deal" is so bad, the city would be better off giving the arena away and collecting rent versus the proposed plan.

Although Supervisor Dickenson gamely attempted to answer multiple astute and often quite pointed questions, logic was not the primary means he used to defend this project.

It became obvious he and other arena supporters are captured by this vanity project because they envision transforming Sacramento into a met-

ropolitan powerhouse in California. Their reasoning goes, how can Sacramento be a major (read as high-status) city if it doesn't have a major sports franchise? If the majority of our intrepid local officials don't give up the farm and beg the Maloofs to keep the Kings in Sacramento, then with the Kings departure, their dreams of a "high status" Sacramento will never be realized.

So, if as a voter, logic, fairness, equitable and responsible expenditures of our tax revenues sway you, then vote "no" in November. On the other hand, if creating a "high status" Sacramento is so important your willing to ignore the shameless handout of our precious public funds to the millionaire Maloof family, then I urge you to stay home on November 7.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Honoring the Labor Movement

As we all prepare for another Labor Day weekend, let's take a few moments to ponder what the holiday really means and to appreciate the contributions American workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our nation.

Many U.S. citizens take for granted the labor laws that protect us from the evils of unregulated industry. Perhaps the majority of those who argue for "free enterprise" and the removal of restrictions on capitalist corporations are most unaware that over the course of this country's history, workers have fought and often died for protection from capitalist industry. In fact, the United States has the bloodiest history of labor of any industrialized nation on Earth. But, while it is a story rich in human drama and tragedy, it is also one of progress and hope.

Thanks to the labor movement that began more than a century ago, we saw an end to child labor practices, improved worker safety, increased wages for both union and non-union workers and a reduction to the number of hours in a work week, all of which raised our entire society's standard of living and created what we now know as the middle class.

Today, the term "labor" can be applied to strong professional unions, the national holiday, and even academic departments in colleges and universities. The modern American labor movement has grown from its roots in the colonial craft guilds to national professional associations with membership numbering millions.

For many, Labor Day may simply signal the end of the summer months. But for the American workforce, the holiday remembers those who have labored for our country since its founding.

The observance of Labor Day began over 100 years ago. Conceived by America's labor unions as a testament to their cause, the legislation sanctioning the holiday was shepherded through Congress amid labor unrest and signed by President Grover Cleveland as a reluctant election-year compromise.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor described the holiday this way:

Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country. All other holidays are, in a more or less degree, connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day . . . is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation.

The vital force of labor has added significantly to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy.

In this day and age, when certain political parties and their leaders attempt to diminish these accomplishments and take us back to the days before the triumphs of Labor, it is even more appropriate to stand with them and honor their continuing commitment to a strong and free labor force in America.



DEMOCRATS PLEASED JOE GOT BEAT IN CONNECTICUT

ZOGBY POLL: Dems nationwide think their party is stronger for Lamont's victory and want their candidates to tout anti-war credentials

An overwhelming majority of likely-voting Democrats nationwide said they are glad three-term Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman was walloped by anti-war challenger Ned Lamont in that state's Democratic primary election on August 8.

They also said the Lamont victory over one of the few pro-war Democrats in Washington makes them optimistic they can win control of at least one of the two houses of Congress in November.

The Zogby Interactive survey was conducted August 9-10, 2006, and included 1,229 Democratic respondents nationwide. It carries a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points.

It found that nearly four out of five Democrats (79%) were happy the former Democratic vice presidential nominee was knocked off by Lamont, a wealthy cable television executive whose campaign focused almost exclusively on his opposition to the war - and Lieberman's support of it. Just 12% said they were not pleased with the results of the primary, which riveted political junkies across the nation. Another 10% of Democrats said they were not sure what to think.

Nearly two in three - 62% - said they believe the results of the Connecticut primary will hold national implications for the elections coming up this fall. In addition, 70% said they think the Lamont victory makes the Democratic Party stronger heading into the important election season.

A majority of Democrats said they believe the Lamont victory points to a Democratic takeover of at least one house of Congress this fall, while 27% said they believe it is a precursor to victories that will result in Democratic control of both the U.S. House and Senate. Republicans now hold control of both the House and the Senate.

The Connecticut election highlights what Democrats across the country said they want to hear from their candidates - a resolute opposition to the war in Iraq. More than three-quarters of Democrats (78%) said they want

candidates who opposes the conflict, while just 6% said they think their Democratic candidates should support the war. Another 13% said they want their candidates to take a middling stance somewhere between support and opposition.

Pollster John Zogby: "This election is all about the war. This has been all about the war for years. Democrats have suspected this for a while, and Lamont's victory this week reinforces those suspicions. Democrats have mostly failed so far to define themselves in this midterm election, but the Lamont victory may be a turning point for them. The voice of Democrats nationwide is loud and clear. This was a small state election, but the ramifications could impact races across the country this fall. One thing is clear - the Lamont win was an important development on the road to the midterm elections this November."

Democrats nationwide said they were unhappy with Lieberman's decision to run for his seat as an independent in the November general election, as 71% said they were displeased with the move. Another 24% said they approved of his decision to seek a fourth-term in Washington. Among progressives, 85% disapproved of the Lieberman independent effort to keep his job. Even among self-described moderate Democrats, 66% were opposed with the new Lieberman candidacy.

A wider Zogby Interactive survey of both Republicans and Democrats nationwide showed that terrorism and security was the top issue facing the nation, eclipsing the war in Iraq - the poll was in the field for the first hours of aftermath following the arrest of suspected terrorists who were allegedly planning to blow up airliners headed for America. Apart from such developments, the Iraq war has dominated as the most important issue in the minds of Americans for years.

Slightly more than a third - 35% - said they thought the nation was headed in the right direction, while 54% said things are off on the wrong track. The wider survey carries a margin of error of +/- 1.9 percentage points.

“ The voice of Democrats nationwide is loud and clear. This was a small state election, but the ramifications could impact races across the country this fall. ”

Why Medicare Part D spells disaster

By MARGIE METZLER

Medicare Part D, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, has been one of the most contentious laws passed this century. The bill was the product of an undemocratic process from the beginning, its design was fundamentally flawed, changes are slow in coming, and its implementation in January was a mess.

By allowing private insurance companies to bid for the prescription dollars of Medicare recipients, the bill was touted as an addition to Medicare to provide financial help to eligible seniors and Medicaid recipients for the purchase of prescription drugs.

In California alone, there are 47 such plans and seniors have been frantically trying to make sense out of their options since January 2006. They must pay deductibles, monthly premiums, and co-pays on all prescriptions, and many will fall into the "donut hole." This is a strange situation in which, after the costs of all a senior's medications reaches \$2250, he must pay all prescription drug costs up to \$5100, after which he or she will get real help. However, while in the donut hole, the consumer is still paying premiums.

Undoubtedly, there are people who have benefited from the program. Seniors who had no prescription coverage will see lowered costs, and low income seniors who don't qualify for Medicaid particularly may be better off. But Medicaid recipients were unfortunately moved into the plan in January, many without being aware of it, and immediately had to pay co-pays when none were previously required. Because this group is the most vulnerable, this has caused real suffering.

The system itself is fatally flawed:

- Why is a plan designed for seniors, only 25% computers users, completely dependent on using the internet?
- Why did the government choose the most vulnerable (and non-computer literate) people in our country, Medicaid recipients, as the first group to participate and in essence, act as a test group?
- Why has no one thought of hiring more people to answer phones and provide other help to seniors?

- Why were no special avenues of access provided for the blind, homebound, non-English speakers, TTY users, people who are functionally or cognitively impaired?

The process of creation of the program was an undemocratic and unmitigated disaster. According to *Common Cause*, the Medicare bill is the product of a process that included:

- Charges of bribery, delayed votes, inappropriate cabinet member lobbying and censoring of C-SPAN cameras.
- The Administration misleading Congress by withholding its own cost estimates for the prescription drug legislation — estimates that greatly exceeded what the President was telling the public.
- A career civil servant being threatened with his job if he told Congress the truth.
- Congressional Members excluded from the House-Senate conference committee that finalized the bill. Only a "coalition of the willing" was invited to participate.
- A principal author of the bill was forced to step down as head of a powerful House committee after it was reported that he was negotiating a \$2 million a year lobbying job with the drug industry while he was moving the proposal through his committee. And a key Administration official involved in pushing the legislation was also offered lucrative private sector healthcare jobs.
- The drug industry showered Congress with campaign contributions and spent millions of dollars on highly paid lobbyists who swarmed Capitol Hill while the bill was being considered.
- A propaganda campaign waged by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Administration paid people to pose as journalists in television segments that praised the benefits of the new Medicare law, and spent tens of millions of dollars on a campaign promoting the new program.

(Continued on page 11)

COMMITTEE



CORNER

Volunteers needed to staff T & C booths

The Carmichael Founders Day celebration will be held at Carmichael Park on Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Citrus Heights Sunday Funday on Sunday, September 24 from 12:00–5:00 p.m. at Rusch Park.

Town & Country will again have a presence at each event and we need volunteers to register voters and distribute literature.



To volunteer, please contact Ralph Cyfers at 916-812-7255 or ralphcyfers@comcast.net.

We have fewer than 60 days left until the election. Be a part of the effort to register as many new Democratic voters as possible!

T & C Membership roles continue to grow

By NANCY TRONAAS
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Town and Country's Membership Committee welcomes all ideas from our members to help increase our club membership.

Stay tuned for upcoming events! We currently have over 145 members, and we encourage everyone to bring potential new members to upcoming monthly meetings.

Welcome to our newest members—Maggy Krell, Cary Huxsoll, Sally Schwettmann, and Rosa Vais—to the Town and Country Democratic Club! Want to help out on the Membership Committee? Just contact Perry Metzger, Andy Alderman, Laure Olson or Nancy Tronaas.

Vets prepared to serve again

By DON HARPER, VETERANS CAUCUS CHAIR

Four Sacramento-area military veterans are currently running for office as Democrats. Charlie Brown is running for Congress in the 4th Congressional District. After a distinguished 26-year Air Force career, during which he was involved in every U.S. military conflict from Vietnam to Desert Storm, Charlie retired as a Lt. Col. As a rescue helicopter pilot based in Thailand at the end of the Vietnam War, Charlie participated in the evacuations of Saigon, Phnom Penh, and the infamous Mayaguez Incident—for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bill Durston, candidate for Congress in the 3rd Congressional District, enlisted in the U.S. Marines at the height of the Vietnam War. He served in Vietnam with the Marines 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company and received the Navy Commendation medal for bravery under combat.

Jim Cook is the Democratic candidate for the 10th Assembly District. Immediately following his college graduation, Jim entered the U.S. Marines as an officer. Thirty years later, he retired from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Colonel.

Running for Assembly in the 5th District, Brandon Bell carried on his family tradition of military service by serving as a U.S. Army Infantry Officer in both the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Although of age during the Vietnam War, three of their four opponents never answered the call to military service. It is no wonder they lack any understanding of those who are willing to sacrifice their lives in service to their country. It is no wonder they fail to understand and provide for the needs of our current soldiers in Iraq or the veterans of previous wars.

Democrats should show our gratitude to these veteran candidates for their continued willingness to serve by putting our time and energy toward their worthy campaigns.

They served us once with distinction in the military and they will again serve us proudly as our political leaders come November.

AUGUST, 2006 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order to by President Tiffany Craig Brown at 7:05 p.m. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were officers Jim Nakata and Laure Olson. Arnie Godmintz was absent. The minutes from the July meeting were MSMP.

Officer and committee reports:

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported that there was \$13,422.61 in funds but more is to be counted.

Leonard Thomas, reported in lieu of Arnie, for the Central Committee. A fundraiser is scheduled for 8/30/06 where special awards are to be given to two T & C members, Tiffany Craig Brown and Ralph Cyfers. Special thanks were given to Ralph Cyfers for his consistent voter registration efforts. Darrell Steinberg donated \$500 to the Sacramento Northeast Democratic Headquarters. Greg Larkin is in charge of the Labor Union picnic taking place on Monday, September 4.

Lyn Stueve reported that the Communications Committee is planning for the upcoming ice cream social and invited members to join the committee.

For the Events Committee, Nancy Tronaas reported that the Awards Dinner sponsorships were a great success. She reported that 7,000 of pledged sponsorships has been received so far. The silent auction raised over \$1,000 and the raffle about \$400. Nancy also reported that the committee is planning a KVIE phone banking event for T & C members.

Don Harper is coordinating the T & C phone banking day for the Charlie Brown campaign and needs more volunteers. The original date of August 12 was rescheduled to August 26 due to conflicts with the grand opening of the NE Headquarters and other events. The club will be phone banking from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Brown Headquarters in Roseville. Contact Don Harper to volunteer.

Margie Metzler reported on behalf of Joan Lee for the Legislative Committee. She said they had discovered that Medicare Part B includes a form of means testing and distributed literature about that. The information is also available on the T & C website.

Nancy Tronaas reported that the Membership Committee hadn't met since she became chair but would be meeting within the next week.

The evening's program included a spirited debate about a Downtown Sports and Entertainment Complex. County Supervisor Roger Dickinson spoke in favor, with State Assemblyman Dave Jones opposed. The Sacra-

mento County Board of Supervisors recently approved two measures for the November ballot. The first is a quarter cent increase in the sales tax and the second an advisory measure asking voters if a portion of the sales tax dollars received should be used to build a new arena, with the rest going toward other civic projects.

The deal: Maloof Sports & Entertainment will put \$20 million into a maintenance fund and pay \$4 million per year in rent for 30 years. The Maloofs will pay the operating expenses and receive all monies from events, concessions and parking at the arena.

There were arguments as to the actual percentage the Maloofs would be paying toward the cost of building a new arena.

Supervisor Dickinson argued that more employment would be stimulated because the site (the old railroad yards on Richards Blvd. downtown) would attract new supporting businesses. He pointed out some of the benefits: a sense of pride, the development of future venues, and the revitalization of Downtown due to new housing, retail. He said this would all add civic pride and increased identity for Sacramento.

In opposition, Assemblyman Jones said that it was a \$500 million dollar handout; that the arena should be built with private funds like AT&T Park in San Francisco and others. "We're being played," he argued. He explained that the NBA limits franchises to drive up their profits and then gets the public to pay. He argued we have other priorities and this whole issue is a distraction from the real issues, such as flood control.

Assemblyman Jones also mentioned that the deal doesn't provide a cap on construction costs or overruns and that there are hidden costs, "We don't need an arena to jumpstart development in that area," he pointed out. He quoted City Councilman Steve Cohn as saying that we would be better off to build our own arena and give it to the Maloofs because that way we would receive the money from property taxes which would total more each year than the amount received in rent.

The debate was followed by a question and answer period with spirited discourse between the speakers and members. There were so many questions and comments that it ran well over the allotted 20 minute period and had to be cut off.

(Continued on page 11)

ESSAY

HOW TO MAKE SURE CHILDREN ARE SCIENTIFICALLY ILLITERATE

By LAWRENCE M. KRAUSS; Published in *The New York Times*—August 15, 2006

Voters in Kansas ensured this month that noncreationist moderates will once again have a majority (6 to 4) on the state school board, keeping new standards inspired by intelligent design from taking effect.

This is a victory for public education and sends a message nationwide about the public's ability to see through efforts by groups like the Discovery Institute to misrepresent science in the schools. But for those of us who are interested in improving science education, any celebration should be muted.

This is not the first turnaround in recent Kansas history. In 2000, after a creationist board had removed evolution from the state science curriculum, a public outcry led to wholesale removal of creationist board members up for re-election and a reinstatement of evolution in the curriculum.

In a later election, creationists once again won enough seats to get a 6-to-4 majority. With their changing political tactics, creationists are an excellent example of evolution at work. Creation science evolved into intelligent design, which morphed into "teaching the controversy," and after its recent court loss in Dover, Pa., and political defeats in Ohio and Kansas, it will no doubt change again. The most recent campaign slogan I have heard is "creative evolution."

But perhaps more worrisome than a political movement against science is plain old ignorance. The people determining the curriculum of our children in many states remain scientifically illiterate. And Kansas is a good case in point.

The chairman of the school board, Dr. Steve Abrams, a veterinarian, is not merely a strict creationist. He has openly stated that he believes that God created the universe 6,500 years ago, although he was quoted in *The New York Times* this month as saying that his personal faith "doesn't have anything to do with science."

"I can separate them," he continued, adding, "My personal views of Scripture have no room in the science classroom."

A key concern should not be whether Dr. Abrams's religious views have a place in the classroom, but rather how someone whose religious views require a denial of essentially all modern scientific knowledge can be chairman of a state school board.

I have recently been criticized by some for strenuously objecting in print to what I believe are scientifically inappropriate attempts by some scientists to discredit the religious faith of others. However, the age of the earth, and the universe, is no more a matter of religious faith than is the question of whether or not the earth is flat.

It is a matter of overwhelming scientific evidence. To maintain a belief in a 6,000-year-old earth requires a denial of essentially all the results of modern physics, chemistry, astronomy, biology and geology. It is to imply that airplanes and automobiles work by divine magic, rather than by empirically testable laws.

Dr. Abrams has no choice but to separate his views from what is taught in science classes, because what he says he believes is inconsistent with the most fundamental

facts the Kansas schools teach children.

Another member of the board, who unfortunately survived a primary challenge, is John Bacon. In spite of his name, Mr. Bacon is no friend of science. In a 1999 debate about the removal of evolution and the Big Bang from science standards, Mr. Bacon said he was baffled about the objections of scientists. "I can't understand what they're squealing about," he is quoted as saying. "I wasn't here, and neither were they."

This again represents a remarkable misunderstanding of the nature of the scientific method. Many fields — including evolutionary biology, astronomy and physics — use evidence from the past in formulating hypotheses. But they do not stop there. Science is not storytelling.

These disciplines take hypotheses and subject them to further tests and experiments. This is how we distinguish theories that work, like evolution or gravitation.

As we continue to work to improve the abysmal state of science education in our schools, we will continue to battle those who feel that knowledge is a threat to faith.

But when we win minor skirmishes, as we did in Kansas, we must remember that the issue is far deeper than this. We must hold our elected school officials to certain basic standards of knowledge about the world. The battle is not against faith, but against ignorance.

Lawrence M. Krauss is a professor of physics and astronomy at Case Western Reserve University.

PRATT *(Continued from page 2)*

Peace Action of Sacramento, Amnesty International and Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. He was also a regular participant in Peace Action's demonstrations each Tuesday afternoon at 16th and J Streets.

A World War II veteran, Fred Attended the University of Vermont on the GI Bill where he earned BS and MD degrees. After four years of general medical practice in Folsom, he completed his residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Upstate New York Medical Center.

Dr. Pratt returned to the Sacramento area in 1962 and opened a private medical practice specializing in plastic surgery. He served as an assistant clinical professor at the UC Davis Department of Plastic Surgery and founded the Sutter Cleft Palate and Orofacial Anomaly Panel in Sacramento.

In order to help Sacramento's uninsured residents, he founded a plastic surgical clinic through the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society SPIRIT program

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Agape Foun-

dation; 1095 Market Street, Suite 304, San Francisco, CA 94103—www.agapefdn.org.

Agape is a Greek word meaning "unselfish love of one person or another," and there could not be a more appropriate description of Fred.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on October 1, at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, located at 2425 Sierra Boulevard in Sacramento.

Dr. Frederick P Pratt's greatest testament, however, is the countless number of children's lives that were changed for the better through his selfless efforts.

ARENA DEBATE *(Continued from page 1)*

of Sacramento's inter-modal transit station. The remaining revenue would be used on other public projects, such as libraries, roads, and transit.

Dickinson said the estimated impact to the average Sacramento County consumer is three to five dollars per month, which translates to five dollars on a \$2,000 purchase, roughly the cost of a fancy cup of coffee. He thinks this is a relatively small individual investment on a large return across Sacramento County.

Supervisor Dickinson claims the proposed financial participation of almost 30% by the Maloofs, owners of the Sacramento Kings NBA team and the Monarchs WNBA team, was reasonable and fair. He also stated the deal is comparable to others reached for new NBA arenas around the country, and that the Maloofs would be paying more than owners have in Memphis, Indianapolis and Charlotte, N.C. (three of the most recently-constructed arenas). He also cited

similar efforts in cities of Baltimore, Denver and San Diego. These cities rehabilitated parts of their communities around new sports and entertainment facilities, and , according to Dickinson, Sacramento shouldn't miss this opportunity to do likewise.

Assemblyman Jones countered by saying that, in reality, the Maloofs would be paying closer to 10 to 12 percent of the total costs—coming in the form of rent paid over 30 years.

Jones believes "the game is rigged," that the NBA is a monopoly. He says they purposefully limit the number of franchises, reducing the supply and increasing their profits. Consequently, the NBA plays local governments against each other, strong arming these communities to contribute a disproportional amount of the funds needed to build these sports arenas.

Jones is also concerned the wealthy Maloof family, who he says can afford to pay for a new arena without use of public tax dollars, will

pass along potential cost overruns, thereby putting the public on the hook for the extra money. Diverting county funds to make up the difference , claims Jones, will result in reductions in the revenue now being spent on essential services.

Other needs will go unmet, he says, beginning with flood control, a top priority for Assemblyman Jones. Although the state is poised to pour billions of tax dollars into shoring up Central Valley levees, he says the region will have to raise taxes within the next few years to pay its share. The sales taxes are also regressive, hitting the poor and near-poor the hardest, as a percentage of their income.

According to Jones, there's very little evidence of the economic value from a new sports arena.

Following both position statements, Supervisor Dickinson and Assemblyman Jones answered questions from the audience.

All in all, the debate was enlightening and informative .

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.tandconline.org

T & C members weigh-in on downtown arena

Town & Country members were recently afforded the opportunity to voice their opinion on the arena issue, via an email vote. Members were asked to vote either in support of or in opposition to an increase in the sales tax to fund a new arena/sports complex in Downtown Sacramento.

The votes have been tallied; the outcome is as follows:

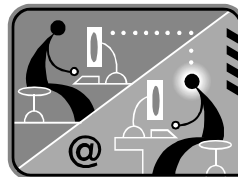
Support an increase in the sales tax	17%
Oppose an increase in the sales tax	83%

Based on these results, Town & Country Democratic Club will send an official letter expressing its opposition to the ballot measure.

Town & Country Bulletin Board

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Because T & C's regularly-scheduled membership meeting for November falls on the evening after the election, it has been rescheduled for the third Wednesday, November 15.



Have a computer to spare?

The Northeast Democratic Headquarters is in need of more computers. If you have one to donate, please contact Arnie Godmintz or Sam Catalano at 916-961-8877

MEDICARE (Continued from page 5)

Sacramento’s late Congressman Robert Matsui reported to constituents weeks before he died on a deliberate process of intimidation, which included freezing out all dissenting Senators and Congresspersons from the entire process, and demanding they actually leave the building during deliberations and voting. Matsui and others refused to leave until they saw the bill, sleeping on the floor of the Library of Congress and resisting attempts to evict them. He said that the only way we could ever fix this disastrous legislation was if the grassroots rose en masse and demanded changes.

So what are the bill’s most egregious problems?

- There are too many insurers, many of which are not licensed. Consumers have no way to determine their financial viability and states are specifically prohibited from regulating them in any way. There is no easy way to get information or to compare plan features.
- The Late Enrollment Penalty is enormously punitive. If you didn’t sign up by May 15, you can’t sign up at all until the open enrollment period in November, at which time you will pay a penalty of 1% penalty per month, *or 7% by that time.* You will pay this penalty forever.
- Some retirees who had good private coverage outside the program mistakenly signed up for Part D and found that they not only lost the drug coverage on their existing plan, *they lost all their coverage.*
- The Donut Hole.
- The bill specifically prohibits Medicare from negotiating for best prices. The insurers themselves can negotiate, but since they don’t have huge volume, they aren’t getting values similar to the VA.
- Originally, insurers could change premiums, formularies, deductibles and co-payment amounts at any time, while consumers could only change in November. Recently, in response to consumer pressure, this policy was changed to require that insurers continue to provide any medication up to the enrollment period so that seniors were not left high and dry.

MINUTES (Continued from page 7)


Following the debate, we heard from Patrick Kennedy, candidate for SMUD, Ward 6, who began by labeling himself, “an anti-climax”, referring to the preceding debate. He has been with SMUD 10 years, is a clean air “public power nut” activist, especially in support with low-income people.

Lisa Kaplan, who is running for re-election to the Natomas School Board also spoke to the group. Lisa is a public servant, mother, educator, Rotary member and mentor for vocational programs

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. MSMP.


Respectfully submitted,

Laure Olson
Secretary

TOWN & COUNTRY

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

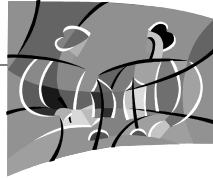
JOIN US!

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, September 12— 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, September 12— 6:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chair
916-442-0264
www.sacdems.org

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Wed, September 13— 7:00 p.m.
Ice Cream Social—7:30 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, September 11— 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, September 18— 6:00 p.m.
Sacramento Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento
Contact: Linda Tuttle
President
www.wdsc.net

5TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE

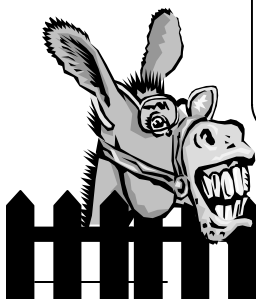
Mon, September 18— 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Ann Wangberg
916-966-3590

TOWN & COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

Wed, September 27— 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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO REGISTER VOTERS!

Saturday, September 16
Sunday, September 24

See page 6 for details . . .