



Town & Country Democrat

Volume 55, Issue 10

On the Web: www.tcdems.org

Dec. 2007

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Town & Country Joins Forces with Women Dems/JFK: Holiday Party 2008, Wed., Dec. 19!



Once again, this year we are combining resources with the Women Democrats of Sacramento County and the JFK Democratic club to present an all-out Democratic Holiday Party!



And... YOU ARE INVITED!!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

7:30—9:30 PM at the Carmichael Veteran's Memorial Hall
5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael
(at Carmichael Park, just east of Fair Oaks Blvd, 1/2mi. south of the Manzanita Ave.
& Fair Oaks Blvd. intersection)

** MUSIC ~DANCING ~ 50/50 RAFFLE **

HONORED GUESTS :

California State Senator Darrell Steinberg
Assemblyman Dave Jones
Dr. Bill Durston

POTLUCK DINNER

Please bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert
and
an unwrapped toy valued at \$5-10 or a \$5 cash donation per person for the Western
Service Workers

Hosted by:

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB
WOMEN DEMOCRATS OF SAC. COUNTY
JFK DEMOCRATIC CLUB

For more information, contact : Nancy Tronaas at n.tronaas@att.net or
916.386.1170



From the President...



We in the Town and Country Democratic Club wish every one of you a wonderful holiday season, whatever flavor that takes for you. We hope that your celebrations include a visit to our holiday party on Wednesday, December 19! We are again combining resources with Women Democrats and JFK, and it will be a potluck with each participant bringing a child's gift, unwrapped. Details are on Page 1 of this newsletter; our flyer to this event can be downloaded at <http://www.tcdems.org/documents/2007DemClubHoliday.pdf>, and please note that there will not be any other December event held by our club.

Most celebrations also include presents, and we suggest that you give yourself and family and friends the gifts of love, tolerance, compassion, education and hope. Personally, I am giving these three books:

- Naomi Klein, *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot*, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2007. 177 pages; paperback, \$13.95.
- Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine: the Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, Metropolitan Books, 2007. Hardcover, 557 pages, \$28.00.
- Paul Krugman, *The Conscience of a Liberal*, W.W. Norton & Company, 2007. Hardcover, 296 pages, \$25.95.

These are not very cheery books, but they do seem essential to me, and they are beautifully written. My original goal was to force Ann Coulter off the Best Sellers list, and while I doubt I made a huge difference, she is now gone! (See Jim Nakata's article on page 3 regarding Naomi Klein's book.)

I am also going to send contributions to my favorite candidates as part of my gift giving, with the hope that this will help out all of us!

Happy celebrations, be safe, and we will pick up our battles in 2008. We all know how important that year will be!!

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Whatever Happened to 'We the People'?

By Thom Hartmann (an excerpt from Thom Hartmann's new book, *Cracking the Code: How to Win Hearts, Change Minds, and Restore America's Original Vision.*)

We the people

The traditional American liberal story is the story of We the People.

As Americans, the most important part of our social identity is our role as citizens. To be a citizen means to be part of, and a defender of, the commons of our nation. The water we drink, the air we breathe, the streets we drive on, the schools that we use, the departments that protect us — these are all the physical commons. And there are also the cultural commons -- the stories we tell ourselves, our histories, our religions, and our notions of ourselves. And there are the commons of our power systems (in the majority of American communities), our health-care system (stolen from us and privatized over the past twenty-five years, our hospitals in particular used to be mostly nonprofit or run by mostly city or county governments), and the electronic commons of our radio and TV spectrum and the Internet.

Most important for citizenship is the commons of government — the creation and the servant of We the People.

Franklin D. Roosevelt understood this commons. In his "Four Freedoms" speech, he said, "Necessitous men are not free men." Hungry people aren't free people, no matter what you want to call them. Hungry people can't be good citizens: they're too busy taking care of the hungry part of themselves to care about the citizen part.

Republicans don't want to fund FDR's social safety net because they fundamentally do not believe in the concept of We the People collectively protecting all of us in anything other than a military/police way. They don't believe that "the rabble" should run the country. They want big corporations to run the commons of our nation, and they think that the most appropriate role for citizens is that of infantilized consumers — of both commercial products and commercially produced political packaging.

This is the fundamental debate in our society: Are we a nation of citizens or a nation of consumers? Are we a democracy run by citizens, or are we a corporatocracy that holds consumers locked in dependency by virtue of their consumption?

Consumerism appeals to the greedy and selfish child part of us, the infantilized part that just wants someone else to take care of us. The core message of most commercials is that "you are the most important person in the world." Commercial advertising almost never mentions "we" or "us."

What is at stake today is the very future of our democratic republic. If we accept an identity as fearful, infantilized consumers, we will be acting from our baby part and allowing

FASCIST AMERICA, IN 10 EASY STEPS

By Jim Nakata, adapted from an article and book by Naomi Wolf

From Hitler to Pinochet and beyond, history shows there are certain steps that any would-be dictator must take to destroy constitutional freedoms. And, argues Naomi Wolf, George Bush and his administration seem to be taking them all. He has systematically ignored the oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and has said that if he was a dictator, his job would be much easier.

1. **INVOKE A TERRIFYING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMY:** After the attacks on September 11, 2001, we were in a state of national shock. On Oct. 26, 2001 the USA Patriot Act was passed by Congress with little scrutiny and debate. Very few in congress bothered to read or comprehend it. The country was put on a war footing. A color code for the level of threat was established to keep everyone fearful and apprehensive. (Hitler used the Enabling Act to replace constitutional law).
2. **CREATE A GULAG:** Once you have got everyone scared, the next step is to create a prison system outside the rule of law. Bush has set up secret prisons in Cuba, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. (Gulags were used by Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, China and many other dictators.)
3. **DEVELOP A THUG CASTE:** . When leaders want to close down an open society, they send paramilitary groups of scary young men to terrorize its citizens. The Blackshirts roamed the Italian countryside beating up communists. The Brown shirts terrorized Jews and any opposition. The US employs private security companies in Iraq. Blackwater, CACI, Erinys and many others provide security for our embassy staff and business personnel. These companies operate outside our laws, Iraqi laws and international laws. Blackwater provide security in New Orleans during the hurricane Katrina disaster. They received contracts from the DEA for illegal drug interdiction and are trying to get contracts for border security. Blackwater has bases in the south, Midwest and is trying to establish a base near San Diego. Blackwater has every kind of weapons, including aircraft. Whose laws are they answerable to?
4. **SET UP AN INTERNAL SERVEILANCE SYSTEM:** In Mussolini' Italy, in Nazi Germany, in communist China and every closed society, secret police spy on their own citizens and encourage neighbors to spy on neighbors. Well before 9/11 Bush persuaded some phone companies to allow the FBI to spy on its customers. After 9/11 this became public. Bush has asked libraries to turn over customers reading lists. The FBI has 860,000 Americans on its terror watch lists, including peace groups and environmental groups.
5. **HARASS CITIZEN GROUPS:** The Bush administration began infiltrating and harassing any organization that opposes its policies, particularly the war in Iraq. The secret Counterintelligence Field Activity agency of the DOD has been spying on peace groups and other opposition groups.
6. **ENGAGE IN ARBITRARY DETENTION AND RELEASE:** Dozens of people have been rounded up and held in secret prison around the world without being charged for a crime or brought to trial. Many have been held and tortured, while others were released without explanation and dumped anywhere and left to fend for themselves.
7. **TARGET KEY INDIVIDUALS:** Threaten civil servants, artists and academics with job loss if they don't tow the line. This administration considers anyone who does not support the war in Iraq to be helping the enemy. Valerie Plame was outed because her husband did not support Bush's war.
8. **CONTROL THE PRESS:** All dictators control the press. The major news media are owned by a small group of powerful multinational companies. They toe the Bush line and ignore the truth, keeping us in the dark.
9. **DISSENT EQUALS TREASON:** Cast dissent as "treason" and criticism as espionage. Dictators always use this reasoning. Bush and the neocons have made this charge against Bill Keller of the New York Times.
10. **SUSPEND THE RULE OF LAW:** All dictators have use this tactic. When 9/11 happened, Bush used executive power to suspend the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 14th amendments of the constitution.

For more information, read Naomi Klein's terrific book, *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot*, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2007.

Children's Health Bushwhacked!

BUSH: HEY, THEY'RE ONLY KIDS, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEIR HEALTH

The battle to provide health care for children, now playing out in the hallowed halls of Congress, soon may switch to a less grandiose setting: the homes of low income families faced with the decision whether to buy food for the household, or pay for their children's health needs. This situation results from President Bush vetoing legislation to expand the children's health insurance program. It is expected that in California, federal funding for this program will be exhausted in early 2008. Consequently, state officials will be forced to send letters to 66,000 California low income families, telling them that their children will be losing their health coverage.

However, it would seem more appropriate that such letters, informing these families of the impending threat to their children's health, should be sent by Bush since he is the one who caused it all. The president's letter could be something like this:

Dear Kid:

Sure, you can kiss goodbye to your health coverage, but look at the bright side: the money that would have gone to get you well when you got sick, now can be used to support the war in Iraq. Now doesn't that make you feel better knowing that the folks at Blackwater and Halliburton are well paid.?

Best regards from your Compassionate Conservative president,

George W. Bush

California's children aren't the only ones with vultures circling over their health care. The Congressional Research Service estimates that 21 states will exhaust their federal support next year for this vital program, even if Congress simply keeps the funding at its current level.

—John Bernier



Whatever Happened to 'We the People'? (cont'd from page 2)

corporate America and an increasingly authoritarian government to fill the role of a parent part.

The story we are told is that we should surrender all of our power to corporations and just let them govern us because a mystical but all-knowing godlike force called "the free market" will eventually solve all of our problems.

That story fits in very well with the conservatives' other story: that we are children who need to be protected from evil humans; and because corporations are amoral and not human, they are intrinsically and morally superior to evil humans.

To save democracy we must crack that code and bring back the code so well understood by the Founders of this nation: that we're a country of barn-builders, of communities, of intrinsically good people who work together for the common good and the common wealth. We begin this process by speaking to the responsible part of us, the part that enjoys being grown up and socially responsible.

The story we have to tell is the story of citizenship derived from our best and most noble parts. It's the story of We the People.

We talk a lot about the features of citizenship, like the right to vote, but we sometimes forget what the benefits are. The main benefit of citizenship is freedom -- not freedom from external or internal dangers (although that is included in the package, it's only one of the six purposes listed in the Preamble to the Constitution) that conservatives obsess on, but freedom to think as we want, to pray as we want, to say what we want, and to live as we want to fulfill our true potential as humans (the other five things listed in the Preamble).

The question, ultimately, is whether our nation will continue to stand for the values on which it was founded.

Early American conservatives suggested that democracy was so ultimately weak it couldn't withstand the assault of newspaper editors and citizens who spoke out against it, leading John Adams (our second president and our first conservative president) to pass America's first Military Commissions Act-like laws: the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. President Thomas Jefferson, who beat Adams in the "Revolution of 1800" election, rebuked those who wanted America ruled by an iron-handed presidency that could -- as Adams had -- throw people in jail for "crimes" such as speaking political opinion, and without constitutional due process.

"I know, indeed," Jefferson said in his first inaugural address on March 4, 1801, "that some honest men fear that a republican government cannot be strong; that this government is not strong enough." But, Jefferson said, our nation was "the world's best hope" precisely because we put our trust in We the People.

Thom Hartmann is an author and nationally syndicated daily talk show host. His newest book is 'We The People: A Call To Take Back America.'

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Join the Town & Country Democratic Club!!!

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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 Strengths/Experience _____

**The Town & Country
 Democratic Club
 encourages the
 participation of
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Please check one box and circle the correct membership below: NEW RENEWAL

Annual Dues: \$25.00 Individual \$30.00 Family
 \$20.00 Senior Individual \$25.00 Senior Family

Signature _____

Please mail to: Town & Country Democratic Club
 P.O. Box 1286
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

Date _____

GOP UNIVERSAL HEALTH PLAN: SHOW ME THE MONEY

Three of the leading Republican presidential candidates, Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson, and John McCain, all are cancer survivors, and all have put forward health plans claiming to provide health insurance coverage for the 47 million Americans, now without such insurance. However, there is one small catch. In as much as the plans rely on private insurance companies for coverage, very likely, if they were to apply for coverage under any of their own health insurance proposals, they would be denied due to their pre-existing cancer history.

Paul Franstin, an official of the Employees Benefit Research Institute, who reviewed the proposed health plans, confirmed that if any one of these three GOP presidential contenders tried to apply for coverage under any of the health plans they are advocating, very likely they would be rejected due to their medical history of cancer. Here again, the specter of private insurance companies casts a dark shadow on the prospects of health care for tens millions of Americans.

The so-called health plans that Giuliani, Thompson, and McCain are advancing, have a familiar ring in that they bring back memories of that old saying that banks only loan money to people who don't need it. In this situation, where the private insurance companies would be calling the shots, if you have no history of illness and have plenty of money, you then would have a good chance of qualifying for health insurance.

Actually, we shouldn't be too hard on these three particular candidates as they are just following the Republican Party line. The alleged health plans put forth by the other GOP candidates all would leave nearly 50 million American men, women and children, without adequate medical care.

—John Bernier

Bill Durston News (Meet him at our Dec. 19 Party!)

- The latest Durston campaign contact information: Website: www.durstonforcongress.org ; campaign e-mail: durstonforcongress@comcast.net ; Newsletter editor: r.hundrieser@comcast.net ; Office manager: msabin@sabwis.com; phone: 916-622-VOTE
- **New:** Bill Durston's acceptance speech at our Awards dinner (PDF file): <http://www.durstonforcongress.org/speeches/docs/Robert%20Matsui%20Award%20Acceptance%20Speech.pdf>
- His speech on video, posted on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqy-RP4rKHk>
- Bill Durston Newsletter: <http://www.tcdems.org/newsletters/DurstonforCongressNewsletter.htm>

PLEASE email information for future newsletters, such as Durston event photos, Letters to the Editor and Opinions from local newspapers, and local volunteer opportunities for the Durston campaign to: r.hundrieser@comcast.net or msabin@sabwis.com

Phone: 916-622-VOTE

HEALTHCARE REFORM PROPOSAL COMPARISON

SCHWARZENEGGER'S PIECEMEAL PLAN	SEN. KUEHL'S PLAN (SB 840)
Health insurance is REQUIRED . Everyone has to buy it from private firms.	Private health insurance firms ELIMINATED except for experimental treatments for extreme wealthy
Health insurance is NOT universal because not everyone will comply. Auto insurance is mandated but 25% of drivers in California are uninsured.	Everyone is AUTOMATICALLY covered by a single insurance plan.
Partial coverage offered--no dental, eye care, mental healthcare, home. Strong financial incentives created to offer "junk insurance"	Coverage is comprehensive, including medical, dental, eye care, mental health, home health, dialysis, therapy, substance abuse, elderly daycare, hospice care and more.
Insurance companies decide how much it will cost every year. Rates subject to whatever ins. Co.'s can get away with that year.	State board would set global health budget. Rates predictable and reliable
Insurance companies decide how much to charge above REQ. MINIMUMS for deductibles (\$5,000) and co-pays (\$7,500).	No deductibles, co-pays, or exclusions for pre-existing conditions.
Doctors and hospitals pay a percentage of their revenue to subsidize the uninsured.	Doctors, hospitals etc. are fairly compensated for all of their services and don't pay into system.
Insurance companies must cover everyone, but will 'red-line' districts and determine their own rates based on gender, age, etc	Costs to individuals and families DECREASE over current premiums.
Businesses with more than 10 employees must pay only 4% of payroll for health insurance, but those who currently provide coverage pay more than 8%.	Costs to employers DECREASE over current premiums.
Businesses with less than 10 employees (80% of businesses in California) PAY NOTHING ; coverage is up to individuals.	
People with incomes up to 250% of the poverty level (\$50,000/fam. of four) get subsidies but spend up to 6% of income on mandated insurance.	
The Federal government must increase subsidies for Cal. medical care. No guarantee this will happen.	Costs to California DECREASE .
Money now paid to hospitals to care for the poor will now go to ins. Co.'s to cover them, so at least 15% will go to overhead.	Hospitals and other healthcare providers are fairly compensated for all of their services and are not required to pay into the system.
Insurance companies' medical loss ratio (money spent on actual healthcare instead of profits and stock bonuses) is capped at 85%, but the premiums they may charge are unlimited.	ALL money collected for healthcare will be spent on healthcare.
Insurance companies DICTATE which doctors and hospitals patients may use.	Patients may CHOOSE any doctor, hospital, or healthcare provider they wish.
No controls on the cost of care . No controls on the cost of insurance premiums.	Global state healthcare budget to control ALL healthcare costs
No requirement for electronic record-keeping.	Secure electronic health records available to all licensed providers.
No budget for seismic retrofitting of hospitals.	Budget for seismic retrofitting of hospitals.
No incentive or regulations to stop fraud	An Inspector General to prevent fraud.
No negotiated rates for drugs and durable medical equipment. Californians will continue to pay 30-50% more than Europeans.	Negotiated rates for drugs & durable medical equipment saving billions

The Calendar

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee

2nd Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 127, 6 PM. Contact: (916) 442-0264 or www.sacdems.org.

Auburn Area Democratic Club

1st Thursday, Auburn Public Library, 250 Nevada St., Auburn, 7 PM; Contact: Trish Grenfell, (530) 887-8873, pgrenfell@yahoo.com

Davis Democratic Club

2nd Tuesday, Yolo County Library-Davis, 14th St & B, 7 PM
Contact: John Chendo, (530) 758-3331 or jac07@dcn.org

Folsom Democratic Club

Last Monday, 7 PM; Contact Tessa Janian, tessa.janian@comcast.net for location

JFK Democratic Club

1st Saturday, 10 AM at the Raley's at Hazel and Madison; Contact: Mike Dillon, (916) 967-3157, mikedillon2@comcast.net

Lincoln Democratic Club

1st Thursday, Orchard Creek Lodge, Lincoln Hills, 7 PM; Contact: Della Sharief, (916) 408-5028

Rocklin/Roseville Area Democrats

3rd Monday, Rocklin Library, 5460 Fifth St., Rocklin, 7 PM; Contact: Glenda Wertenberger, (916) 723-9930, paulindaw@yahoo.com.

Sacramento County Young Democrats

(35 and younger) 1st Tuesday, State Capitol, Room 317, Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact scyd@yahoogroups.com

Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

2nd Monday, Lambda Players Theater, 2427 17th Street, Sacramento, 6 PM; Contact: (916) 441-1787, info@sacstonewall.org or www.sacstonewall.org

Sun City Democratic Club

4th Tuesday, Sierra Pines Recreation Center, Whistlestop Way, Sun City, Roseville, 9 AM; Contact: Myra Schimke, (916) 772-4371, mschimke@surewest.net
Town & Country Democratic Club

2nd Wednesday, Deterding Park Clubhouse, 1415 Rushden Drive, 7 PM; Contact: Margie Metzler, (916) 921-5008, margiemetz@hotmail.com, website www.tcdems.org

Women Democrats of Sacramento

County, 3rd Monday, SCTA Office, 5300 Elvas Ave., Sacramento, 6:30 PM; Contact: JoAnn Souvignier, (916) 971-9601, jossouvign@comcast.net, website www.wdsc.net

Other Progressive Clubs

Sacramento For Democracy

1st Wednesday, 7:00pm; Various locations. Contact: (916) 974-1960; lynette.stueve@earthlink.net
www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org

Gray Panthers of Sacramento

2nd Tuesday, 1:00pm, Hart Senior Center, 27th & I Streets, Sacramento; Contact: Joan Lee, (916) 332-5980, www.gpcal.org

Capital Area Progressives (CAP)

3rd Thursday, various locations; Cathlyn Daly, 479-5961; dalywood@comcast.net



Town & Country Democratic Club

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December 19: Democratic Clubs Holiday Party