



Town & Country Democrat

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Our Fundraiser has been postponed

Due to scheduling difficulties, The Steering Committee last week had to postpone our annual fundraiser to a later date that will be determined by Lt. Gov. Garamendi's schedule (we'd still love him to be our speaker). This was unavoidable; because our printing date was slipped and the Memorial Day holiday loomed, we realized we could not get out all the information in time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but we look forward to a truly successful and fun event in early autumn. Our honorees will still be Dr. Bill Durston, who ran for Congress in 2006, and Ralph Cyfers, our fearless leader of all Voter Registration activities.

And.... We will still need lots of help!

- From our members, help setting up, organizing, and running the event. (Volunteers, contact Arnie Godmintz, 916-332-5980 or arniegod@sbcglobal.net).
- From sponsors, we welcome financial contributions. (Contact Nancy Tronaas at 916-386-1170 or n.tronaas@att.net.)
- From everyone, we really want you to join us at the Fundraiser! (We'll get you the date as soon as we get it; to register, contact Nancy Tronaas at 916-386-1170 or n.tronaas@att.net.)

You can also contact Margie Metzler, 916-921-5008 or margiemetz@hotmail.com!

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Next Monthly Meeting: July 11, 2007

Our next monthly meeting will be Wednesday, July 11, 7 pm, Deterding park Clubhouse, 1415 Rushden Drive.

We hope to have Sara Rodgers, Aide to Sheila Kuehl, talk to us about the single-Payer Health Plan that many of us think is the only real solution to our health-care crisis.

August 8 will be our annual Ice Cream Social, and we will also have a special guest! More later.



From the President...



Well, we're deep in the heart of summer now... vacation times, swimming (water aerobics at Deterding Pool for me!), bike riding, long, languid days.... And if it were not for the changed California Primary date, we'd be seeing a lessening of political intensity.

Instead, the campaign for President in the 2008 election is really heating up. One of the most interesting phenomena for me has been the candidate debates. Watching the Democrats has been terrific. Our candidates are brilliant, articulate, attractive and personable. The fact that one of the frontrunners is Black and another is a woman really gives me hope for the future of America.

On the other hand, the Republican candidates, cranky older white men all, are just amazing to me. They all agree that we shouldn't change "don't ask don't tell", they are all apoplectic about the "immigration crisis", they disapprove of gay marriage, they froth at the mouth when talking about "socialized medicine", in spite of the fact that not one of the plans being discussed, nationally and at the state level, comes close to actually being that. They all defended the war in Iraq and the continued existence of Guantánamo,.

On the other hand, watching them run madly from George W had me shocked and highly amused. When asked by the moderator how they would "use President George Bush if they were elected, their responses ranged from "Well, I wouldn't send him overseas," to Tancredo saying said at the Republican presidential debate Tuesday night that he would tell President Bush to not "darken the doorstep of the White House" if he were to win the presidency. He said Karl Rove once told him the same thing when he was at odds with Bush. Asked whether the current president would play a role in his own administration, Tancredo said, "I would have to tell George Bush exactly the same thing Karl Rove told me." This is the first time I had actually heard about Karl's strong-arm tactics from a Republican victim and it was riveting.

If you would like to work for a specific candidate,

here are the websites:

- **Joe Biden:** <http://www.joebiden.com/>
- **Hillary Clinton:** www.hillaryclinton.com/splash/
- **Chris Dodd:** <http://www.chrisdodd.com/>
- **John Edwards:** <http://johnedwards.com/>
- **Mike Gravel** (not present at the convention): <http://www.gravel2008.us/>
- **Dennis Kucinich:** <http://www.denniskucinich.us/>
- **Barack Obama:** www.sacramentoforobama.com

In other news, sadly, Cindy Sheehan has decided to quit her fight. However anyone feels about Cindy and her fight against the Iraq War, e all like her and wish her well. I would also say that I think her work was very important in the long run and she put a face to the people who have *really* paid the price for this war.

Finally, as you probably already know, our fundraiser ran into a serious time crunch last month and we had to postpone our event. We are now tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 26.

Margie Metzler, President, Town & Country Democrats

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GLOBALIZATION HITS HOME

The trade agreements signed by Presidents Reagan, Bush I, Clinton, and Bush II have cost millions of good paying jobs. One of the components of globalization is cheap price. In the pursuit of the cheapest prices by consumers, with the help of Wal-Mart and others, thousands of workers have lost their jobs or have experienced a significant degradation of their income and benefits.

Let's look at how cheap prices of consumer products can hurt our standard of living in the long term and how this situation came about. Corporate executives used to come from the companies they served. They knew the strategies and merchandising of their products. Today, they typically come from outside the industry. The easiest way to get sales is to lower prices, causing a price war. A good example is the sale of flat panel TV's. Electronics retailers counted on those TV's to generate sales volume and profits. Because of Wal-Mart and low priced TV's such as Vizio, and others, Best Buy and Circuit City's profits suffered. This was good for customers but hurts the employees of those companies. Because of lower margins, employees pay and benefits are lowered or eliminated. And because top management came from outside the company, they don't have a history nor friendships with the workers and therefore don't have a problem with injuring them. (Retailers such as Nordstrom attracted customers in the past by giving great service.)

I have worked for Circuit City for almost 19 years. On March 28, 2007, Circuit City made a "business decision" to fire 3400 of their senior experienced and highest paid workers. They made above market pay, which is now often minimum wage.

This move affected 641 workers in California. Most of these employees were long-time employees with the most experience and knowledge, and earning the highest salaries and benefits. Most of us are over 40 years old. We contributed to the success and growth of Circuit City. Most of us have received various achievement awards over the years. Circuit City said that the market pressures forced this action. All of these jobs will be filled by part-time and lower-paid, minimum wage workers.

It's good to get the lowest possible prices for products, but there is a penalty to pay. It will eventually come back to haunt us. I will now have to look for a job for the first time in 35 years.

—Jim Nakata

ANY HOPE FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AMERICA?

Is it possible that Corporate America will emerge as the leading proponent of a Universal Health Insurance plan for Americans? If such a thing does come to pass, then the credit may go to "Globalization." The U.S. is the only major industrial country in the world without such a government health plan. And it appears that adopting such a program would take away a competitive edge foreign businesses now enjoy by not bearing the cost of insurance for their workers.

Concerning this competitive edge for overseas manufacturers, General Motors reports that health insurance costs increase the price of each of the vehicles it produces by \$1,500. If that is the case, it certainly would make good business sense for GM to lobby for federal legislation to create a Universal Health Insurance plan, thereby relieving it of such a financial burden. On the other hand, in Canada, which has a government financed single-payer insurance system, health care costs for Canadian auto makers is only \$120 per vehicle.

Clearly such a health system, in light of the expansion of Globalization, would boost the nation's world-wide competitive position. Presently there is a movement in the California legislature to enact such a health care program for the state's residents. However, even if such a California program is enacted into law, it would not produce the favorable impact on the country's business climate that a national program would.

—John Bernier

Lyn Stueve: Walking with the Veteran

Last week I went down to the Capitol one night and walked a few laps for Veterans for Peace. As you may know, there is a young vet who had promised to walk around the Capitol for the 3,467 (estimate) who have died so far in Iraq. That number went higher this weekend. As of that night, the young man had walked 347 laps, which represents the number of our California youth who have died. I was with a group of about 8 people who were walking in support and I could see the fatigue in his face, the limp in his walk (he had developed blisters), and the determination in his eyes. He has decided that his body is failing and that he cannot walk the whole way. He did finish walking by 10 o'clock last night. How he feels this morning will determine whether he can continue.

As we walked our lap around the capitol for the last California serviceman killed in Iraq I noticed that the Capitol flags were flying at half-mast. I found that odd as the flags on the State buildings across the street were not lowered. At the same time local church bells started ringing. It was as if all things came together to mourn these young lives (too many are under 25) and this young vets accomplishments. Unfortunately, the people who represent us inside the capitol and who should be walking with us did not witness the event.

— Lyn

Compassion

The Town & County Democratic Club, in selecting the winner of its Compassionate Conservative of the Month Award, demonstrated that the club itself could also dispense some compassion. It was felt that Congressman John Doolittle's morale most likely was at a low ebb due to a series of events, such as the disclosure his unholy alliance with convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff, and the FBI raid on the congressman's home, just to name a couple of the numerous examples of some rather dubious activities. So in order to give his spirits a lift, the award selection committee voted unanimously to move Doolittle ahead of several other worthy candidates for this distinguished honor.

Even though the congressman was given special preference, certainly, no one can say he is not eminently qualified for the title of Compassionate Conservative. Of course his greatest display of compassion is his unswerving support of the Iraq war, resulting in the death of close to 4,000 American soldiers, and untold hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians. However, it was decided to bestow this honorarium on Doolittle for his steadfast opposition to increasing the minimum wage for the sweatshop workers of the Mariana Islands.

Abramoff, with Doolittle's full support, led the fight

to keep the minimum wage for the Mariana Islands at \$3.05 an hour, barely half of that for the U.S. (Of course the congressman also has opposed any increase in the minimum wage for U.S. workers.) The situation for the workers in the Marianas has been described as "being forced to live behind barbed wire in squalid shacks minus plumbing, work 12 hours a day, often seven days a week, without any legal protection U.S. workers are guaranteed." This alone should rank Doolittle as one of the nation's leading Compassionate Conservatives.

In 1999, Doolittle traveled to the Mariana Islands as part of a congressional investigation into conditions there. He reported that he did not see any evidence of inhumane working conditions in the Marianas. Not surprisingly, some bleeding heart liberals questioned his assessment of the working conditions in that U.S. Commonwealth in the North Pacific. Once again the Town & Country Club comes to the defense of the Congressman. We are certain Doolittle did not observe any sweatshop conditions while relaxing on the balcony of a luxury hotel in the Marianas, watching the setting sun sink in the Pacific.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again, in order to maintain its policy of objective reporting, the Town & Country Club feels that it should point out that in many circles the term "Compassionate Conservative" is considered an "oxymoron."

—John Bernier

A Visit with Roger Niello

During the past month, due to car problems, I've been improving my bicycle skills by riding short distances around my home. But I have also been using public transportation, Regional Transit, for the first time. I am fortunate; my home is within walking distance of a bus which goes to the Light Rail. Since most of my travel is downtown, I can get around nicely and it's even more convenient than driving, since as often as not the stop at the other end is closer than the parking would have been. My fares are good too: \$2.25 each way. It has been a very pleasant experience and I am grateful.

But... Just as I was learning to love RT, we got wind of the fact that our Governor is playing games with funds earmarked for RT and Paratransit (transportation for the disabled.) There is a move afoot to take some of those moneys and move them elsewhere, possibility for roads and other transportation issues. Richard Seyman, of Paratransit, asked Joan B. Lee and me to join him and other senior and disabled advocates at a session with our Assemblyperson, Roger Niello, to request that he not take funds away from our communities in this fashion.

We met with Niello's aide, Todd, who greeted us in Republican fashion. He said hello and said we would meet in the lobby of the office, which had 3 chairs (half our group was disabled enough for this to be a hardship.) He listened respectfully, but then said that "the money has to come from somewhere," and that did we think that it should be taken from "other social programs." We all bridled and Joan leaped in to ask "if public transportation is a social program, does that mean Niello's car dealerships are also social programs?" He was taken aback! He later said that "RT and Paratransit can be a good choice for people." I said that while public transportation is a *choice* for many people, it is the *only option* for many others, and the costs to society of eliminating the ability to work for many people is not only disastrous to them, but impoverishes society as a whole.

We will be keeping our eyes on this issue. I would add that if you have never attended a hearing or advocacy event at our State Capitol, it is a terrific experience in Democracy and a lot of fun as well. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Joan, at 332-5980 or joanbelee@sbcglobal.net, or me at 921-5008 or margiemetz@hotmail.com. You can get alerts of upcoming events from Joan and join us!

—Margie Metzler

Join the Town & Country Democratic Club!!!

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Strengths/Experience _____

**The Town & Country
 Democratic Club
 encourages the
 participation of
 young members.**

Please check one box and circle the correct membership below: NEW RENEWAL

Annual Dues: \$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 _____

REAL ID: from the ACLU

The Department of Homeland Security has released new guidelines for compliance with the REAL ID Act, which would create a national ID card and poses significant threats to civil liberties. Read on for more information about REAL ID and how YOU can help stop it!

What's Wrong with REAL ID?

- **It's a national identity system.** The standardized national driver's licenses created by Real ID would become a key part of a system of identity papers, databases, status and identity checks and access control points an "internal passport" that will increasingly be used to track and control individuals' movements and activities.
- **It will not be effective against terrorism.** The fact is, identity-based security is not an effective way to stop terrorism. ID documents do not reveal anything about evil intent and even if they did, determined terrorists will always be able to obtain fraudulent documents (either counterfeit or real documents bought from corrupt officials).
- **It will be a nightmare for state governments.** Real ID requires state governments to remake their driver's licenses, restructure computer databases and other systems, create an extensive new document-storage system, and perhaps most difficult of all verify the "issuance, validity and completeness" of every document presented at DMVs.
- **It will mean higher fees, long lines, and bureaucratic nightmares for individuals.** Because Congress ordered but did not pay for these mandates, which will cost states billions of dollars, fees on individuals applying for driver's licenses will inevitably rise, perhaps steeply. Individuals are also likely to confront slower service, longer lines, and frequent bureaucratic snafus to obtain ID cards. Many unlucky individuals will find themselves caught in a bureaucratic nightmare as they run up against the complexities of this law.
- **It will increase security and ID theft risks.** The creation of a single interlinked database as well as the requirement that each DMV store copies of every birth certificate and other documents presented to it will create a one-stop shop for identity thieves.
- **It will be exploited by the private sector to invade privacy.** Real ID would make it easy for

anybody in private industry to snap up the data on these IDs. Already, bars often swipe licenses to collect personal data on customers but that will prove to be just the tip of the iceberg as every convenience store learns to grab that data and sell it to data companies for a dime.

- **It will expand over time.** The Real ID database will inevitably become the repository for more and more data on individuals, and will be drawn on for an ever-wider set of purposes. Its standardized machine-readable interface will drive its integration into an ever-growing network of identity checks and access control points each of which will create new data trails that will in turn be linked to that central database or its private-sector shadow equivalent.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

The Real ID Act has been passed by Congress as part of a "must-pass" appropriations bill and signed into law by President Bush. But its acceptance in the states is far from assured. More than 20 states have introduced or passed legislation opposing implementation of REAL ID. Maine was the first state to pass legislation opposing REAL ID, and the Houses of Representatives in Vermont, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Idaho and New Mexico and the Georgia and Arizona Senates have each voted in favor of bills that reject Real ID, and Montana's legislation would prevent the state from implementing the law. New anti-Real ID legislation has since come up in other states, including Kentucky, Washington and Missouri. For a list of States that have enacted anti-real ID legislation go to: <http://www.realnightmare.org/news/105>.

We need you to tell Governor Schwarzenegger that you don't want California to support legislation that threatens civil liberties. To contact Governor Schwarzenegger and urge him to oppose the implementation of REAL ID please go to this website: <https://secure.npsite.org/aclunc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=109&JServSessionIdr008=7ml4apny32.app5a>.

If you have not done so already, I invite you to become a proud card-carrying member of the ACLU, http://www.aclunc.org/support/become_a_member.shtml, or to sign up for our online communications: <https://secure.npsite.org/aclunc/site/SPageServer?pagename=ActionRegistration>.

Undoing Bush

The June issue of Harper's Magazine (<http://www.harpers.org/>) had a terrific series on "Undoing Bush". The Introductory page is at right; the topics covered are:

[The Constitution](#), by [David Cole](#)

[The courts](#), by [Dahlia Lithwick](#)

[Civil service](#), by [Ken Silverstein](#)

[The environment](#), by [Bill McKibben](#)

[Science](#), by [Chris \(Chris C.\) Mooney](#)

[The economy](#), by [Dean Baker](#)

[The marketplace of ideas](#), by [Jack Hitt](#)

[Intelligence](#), by [James Bamford](#)

[The military](#), by [Edward Luttwak](#)

[Diplomacy](#), by [Anne-Marie Slaughter](#)

[The national character](#) by [Earl Shorris](#)

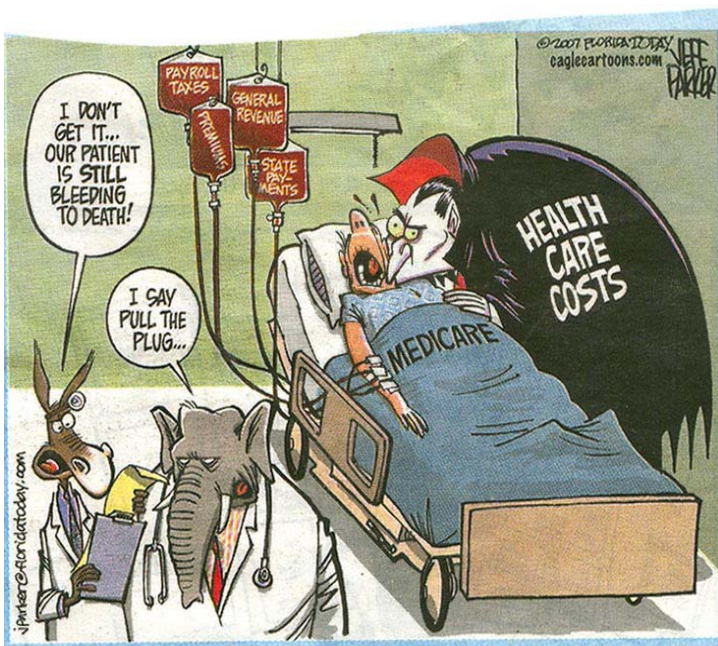
You can read the magazine at your local library. This issue is terrific!

July issue: *State of exception: Bush's war on the rule of law*, by Scott Horton (<http://www.harpers.org/archive/2007/07/0081595>)

UNDOING BUSH

How to repair eight years of sabotage, bungling, and neglect

George W. Bush has done more to transform the nation than any American president since Franklin D. Roosevelt. Indeed, he may well be the perfect anti-Roosevelt. He has taken a prosperous nation and mired it in war, replaced our national composure with terror, and left behind him a legacy of damage so profound that repairing it will likely be the work of generations. Before the next administration can return to solving the already considerable problems the nation faced in 2000, it must begin to correct the misdeeds and missteps of the current one. And as Roosevelt demonstrated, the road back from perdition cannot be found without a good map. To that end, *Harper's Magazine* has assembled a group of journalists and thinkers to survey the damage, to determine what may (or may not) be remedied, and to find our way forward.



Sac Dems have a Home!

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- Sam Catalano, Executive Secretary

Town and Country Committees

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|---|--|
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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@surrewest.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, jousouvign@comcast.net, website www.wdsc.net

Other Progressive Clubs

Sacramento For Democracy

1st Wednesday, 7:00pm; SEIU Local 250, 1911 F St, Sacramento. Contact: (916) 974-1960; bob644@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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www.tcdems.org