



Town & Country Democrat

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Inside this issue:

<i>In the News</i>	1 - 2
<i>From the President</i>	2
<i>Committee Reports</i>	4
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	4&7
<i>Membership Info.</i>	5
<i>The Final Word</i>	7
<i>Candidate Questionnaire</i>	8
<i>The Calendar</i>	10

Lessons of Iraq War Start with History by Howard Zinn

On the third anniversary of President Bush's Iraq debacle, it's important to consider why the administration so easily fooled so many people into supporting the war.

I believe there are two reasons, which go deep into our national culture.

One is an absence of historical perspective. The other is an inability to think outside the boundaries of nationalism.

If we don't know history, then we are ready meat for carnivorous politicians and the intellectuals and journalists who supply the carving knives. But if we know some history, if we know how many times presidents have lied to us, we will not be fooled again.

President Polk lied to the nation about the reason for going to war with Mexico in 1846. It wasn't that Mexico "shed American blood upon the American soil" but that Polk, and the slave-owning aristocracy, coveted half of Mexico.

President McKinley lied in 1898 about the reason for invading Cuba, saying we wanted to liberate the Cubans from Spanish control, but the truth is that he really wanted Spain out of Cuba so that the island could be open to United Fruit and other American corporations. He also lied about the reasons for our war in

the Philippines, claiming we only wanted to "civilize" the Filipinos, while the real reason was to own a valuable piece of real estate in the far Pacific, even if we had to kill hundreds of thousands of Filipinos to accomplish that.

President Wilson lied about the reasons for entering the First World War, saying it was a war to "make the world safe for democracy," when it was really a war to make the world safe for the rising American power.

President Truman lied when he said the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima because it was "a military target."

And everyone lied about Vietnam -- President Kennedy about the extent of our involvement, President Johnson about the Gulf of Tonkin and President Nixon about the secret bombing of Cambodia. They all claimed the war was to keep South Vietnam free of communism, but really wanted to keep South Vietnam as an American outpost at the edge of the Asian continent.

President Reagan lied about the invasion of Grenada, claiming falsely that it was a threat to the United States.

Continued to page - 5

T&C Hosts Candidates Forum April 10th— Endorsement Meeting to Follow April 12th

Town & Country Democratic Club will host a forum for several Democratic candidates seeking office in the greater Sacramento area. The forum will be held on Monday, April 10th at the offices of Construction & General Laborers #185. The event is open to all. More information is on page - 2.

The forum will begin at 6:30pm. After a brief introduction, each candidate will

be provided a few minutes to talk about themselves and their campaigns. Those in attendance will be able to ask the candidates questions by completing the enclosed form and either mailing it to the club's PO Box or by bringing it to the forum.

Among the candidates that have been

Continued to page - 6

From The President

With the tax-filing deadline almost upon us, along with the recent increase of our national debt ceiling, it seems a discussion about taxes, tax cuts and our national debt might be in order.

In 2001, our new President's first action in office was a massive tax cut for the stated purpose of "stimulating the economy," in keeping with the failed economic policies of his hero, the prophet of the neo-conservative movement in this country, Ronald Reagan.

That same year, Bush had to borrow \$270 billion, as opposed to Clinton's borrowing of \$18 billion during his last year in office. So much for the economy - stimulating tax cut! After it became clear that the first tax cut didn't work, Bush and his fellow "conservatives" pushed through another - all the while funding U.S. invasions of two foreign countries.

As a result of tax cuts without spending cuts, President Bush set a record in 2003 for the largest single annual increase in debt in U.S. history. He repeated that record in 2004 and again in 2005.

What's the conservative answer to this massive debt? Why, two weeks after the national election in 2004, President Bush signed into law a bill that increased the national debt ceiling from \$7.4 trillion to \$8.18 trillion.

But that wasn't enough. Just a few weeks ago, the Republican-controlled Senate voted once again to raise the debt ceiling - this time to nearly \$9 trillion. This, on the heels of rejecting a Democratic amendment calling for a study of foreign ownership of this huge debt and its impact on the U.S. economy and security! But that's a whole "nother" subject.

The idea that Republicans refer to themselves as fiscal conservatives, claiming to be better stewards of the U.S. economy, is laughable.

Consider this statistic: Over the

last 59 years, Republican Presidents have out-borrowed Democratic Presidents by almost a three to one ratio. That is, for every dollar a Democratic President has raised the national debt, Republican Presidents have raised it by \$2.87

Under Ronald Reagan's presidency, the rich got richer but the poor got poorer and so did the economy. Though he called for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, he never submitted a balanced budget himself.

Many blame the Democratic Congress for the "big spending" during the Reagan administration. The facts are that while he was able to ram his tax cuts through Congress President Reagan never pushed any reduced-spending programs. The debt increased by an average of 13.8% every year Reagan was in office, the highest average of any President since this nation was founded - and he still holds that record.

President Clinton inherited a budget deficit of \$290 billion and a \$5.7 trillion national debt. Yet in his first two years, and with a

Democratic majority in Congress, he set the course for the best economy this country has ever experienced.

For the last six years of his administration he worked with what could be characterized as the most hostile Congress in history, yet managed to reduce the national debt by \$223 billion in the year 2000 alone. When he left office, Clinton handed President Bush a \$230 billion federal budget surplus.

So, while it is a great sound bite, the Republican "tax and spend" rhetoric about Democrats has no basis in fact. On the contrary; the evidence proves that it takes a Democratic President (and Congress) to control and reduce spending.

The truth is that the Republicans are the party of "borrow and spend" - that while they hate taxes, they love to spend. Neo-conservative ideology has run up a \$9 trillion debt (and counting) that continues to increase at record-setting rates (an average of \$2.01 billion per day) with no end in sight, bankrupting our grandchildren and their children before they're even born.

State Party Convention in Sacramento

Be sure to mark your calendars for the California Democratic Party's annual convention to be held at the Sacramento Convention Center April 28-30.

As this is an election year in California, there will be countless elected officials and candidates present at the convention along with a lot of campaigning for the party's official endorsement. The party's platform will also be a topic.

While only registered delegates are eligible to vote on official party endorsements and participate in many of the events, caucuses and general sessions, interested Democrats have two ways of attending the convention if they are not delegates.

The first way is to become a proxy

for a delegate who is unable to attend the convention. Check with the chair of your assembly district to find out who may not be going. As a proxy, you will have full admission and voting rights at the convention.

If you are unable to secure a proxy, hundreds of volunteers are needed to make the convention a success. Volunteers are granted access to the caucuses and general sessions in exchange for helping out at the convention. If you or someone you know is interested in attending the convention as a volunteer, please contact the CDP volunteer coordinator at (916)442-5707 or fill out the volunteer registration form at www.ca-dem.org.

Democratic Candidate Forum

Sponsored by
Town & Country Democratic Club

Monday, April 10
 6:30 p.m.
 Laborers Union Local 185 Building
 1320 National Dr.

The California Primary will be held on June 6, 2006

★ MEET THE CANDIDATES AND FIND OUT ★
 WHERE THEY STAND ON THE ISSUES

ROB HASWELL

California State Assembly
 4th District

BRANDON BELL

California State Assembly
 5th District

KEVIN TATE

California State Assembly
 10th District

JIM COOK

California State Assembly
 10th District

DARREL STEINBERG

California State Senate
 6th District

BILL DURSTON

U.S. Congress
 California 3rd District

CHARLES BROWN

U.S. Congress
 California 4th District

MICHAEL HAMERSLEY

U.S. Congress
 California 4th District

LISA REA

U.S. Congress
 California 4th District

For more information visit
www.tandconline.org



**TOWN & COUNTRY
 DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

*Supporting Democratic Values
 for more than 40 years*

Club News

Committee Reports

The membership committee has been working on a phone directory for all club members. This directory will keep track of members who need rides to the meetings so members can help other members attend the meetings. We hope to be working

with the Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign to be registering voters and recruiting members at Festival De La Familia. We are looking into doing the same at the Pacific Rim Festival. We will also start having a greeter at the door of club meetings and events so prospective members can be welcomed into the club. For more information about the committee or to join contact Andy at (916) 922-4542.



Quoting

“If by a ‘liberal’ they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of people - their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights, their civil liberties- if that is what they mean by ‘liberal’ then I am proud to be a liberal.”

- John F. Kennedy

Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Tiffany Craig Brown at 7:12 PM. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were officers Tiffany Craig Brown, Arnie Godmintz, Jim Nakata, Laure Olson.

A motion was asked for, seconded, motion was passed to accept last month's minutes (MSMP).

Officer reports: Vice-president Arnie Godmintz reported on the Central Committee. In essence, nothing of substance occurred. He reported that there is a movement among clubs within the central committee to get the central committee to expedite planning for Democratic headquarters. The executive committee is discussing some issues. Clubs are talking about meeting alone since there has been no feedback from the central committee.

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported \$7882.69 was in the treasury.

Committee Reports: The Communication Committee report (Chair, Lyn Stueve) discussed outreach with members and a letter-writing campaign especially coordinating with non-active members. The group needs email addresses and will make phone calls. Also discussed was ways to

distribute forum flyers, i.e. bulletin boards. She also suggested Town & Country bumper stickers, buttons, a slogan contest.

The Fundraising Committee (Chair, Arnie Godmintz) reported progress in obtaining a keynote speaker. Fabian Nunez is a good possibility. There is no definite confirmation from Jerry Brown but it looks good. An immediate Town & Country endorsement was requested by his campaign.

The endorsement process was discussed. The bylaws state that the endorsement process can't start until the final candidate filing date (3/10). The endorsement vote must happen at a meeting. Tim Brown moved to suspend the rules to allow for a vote to endorse Jerry Brown immediately and Andy Alderman seconded. Tiffany called for a vote on suspending the rules. The motion passed by unanimous vote. A motion to endorse Jerry Brown for attorney general was called, seconded and the vote to endorse was passed unanimously.

The Legislative Committee report was given by Joan Lee. Some issues they are working on include affordable housing, minimum wage, health care (single payer), immigration, Medicare Part D, the

assault on Social Security, flood control and Iraq. She is hoping for action from individuals and for the clubs to attend hearings. Joan asked for our club to support Dave Jones' call for the establishment of an Office for Sheriff Accountability.

Membership committee chair Andy Alderman has scheduled a meeting for 3/9/06.

New business: The Candidate Forum scheduled for 4/10/06 was discussed. The format for the forum will be to submit questions beforehand. Completed questionnaires are needed by 6:45pm on that day. There will be 5 minute opening statements followed by questions posed by a moderator. Nominations for candidate endorsements will be conducted at the Steering Committee meeting on 3/29/06

The Awards Luncheon was discussed. The Steering committee nominated past president Kevin Murphy to receive the Great Grassroots Award & Joan Lee to receive the Town & Country Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service at the annual luncheon honorees.

Continued to page - 7

Lessons of Iraq War Start with History con't...

The elder Bush lied about the invasion of Panama, leading to the death of thousands of ordinary citizens in that country. And he lied again about the reason for attacking Iraq in 1991 -- hardly to defend the integrity of Kuwait, rather to assert U.S. power in the oil-rich Middle East.

There is an even bigger lie: the arrogant idea that this country is the center of the universe, exceptionally virtuous, admirable, superior.

If our starting point for evaluating the world around us is the firm belief that this nation is somehow endowed by Providence with unique qualities that make it morally superior to every other nation on Earth, then we are not likely to question the president when he says we are sending our

troops here or there, or bombing this or that, in order to spread our values -- democracy, liberty, and let's not forget free enterprise -- to some God-forsaken (literally) place in the world.

But we must face some facts that disturb the idea of a uniquely virtuous nation.

We must face our long history of ethnic cleansing, in which the U.S. government drove millions of Indians off their land by means of massacres and forced evacuations.

We must face our long history, still not behind us, of slavery, segregation and racism.

And we must face the lingering memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It is not a history of which we can be proud.

Our leaders have taken it for

granted, and planted the belief in the minds of many people that we are entitled, because of our moral superiority, to dominate the world. Both the Republican and Democratic Parties have embraced this notion.

But what is the idea of our moral superiority based on?

A more honest estimate of ourselves as a nation would prepare us all for the next barrage of lies that will accompany the next proposal to inflict our power on some other part of the world.

It might also inspire us to create a different history for ourselves, by taking our country away from the liars who govern it, and by rejecting nationalist arrogance, so that we can join people around the world in the common cause of peace and justice.

T&C Members Select Lee & Murphy for Annual Club Awards

Town & Country Past President Kevin Murphy and club Legislative Chair Joan Lee have been selected to receive awards at this year's annual awards luncheon.

Murphy will receive the club's Great Grassroots Award while Lee will be receiving T&C's Robert T. Matsui Award for Public Service.

Murphy served two terms as

President of Town & Country, serves as editor of the club's newsletter, and has been a member of the Steering Committee since joining the club in 2000.

In addition to her duties with Town & Country, Lee is also President of the Sacramento chapter of Gray Panthers and was recently appointed to Gray

Panther's National Board. She actively lobbies local, state and nationally elected officials on behalf on healthcare and other related issues.

The Steering Committee is hard at work planning this year's luncheon which is expected to take place during the summer or early fall.

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 _____

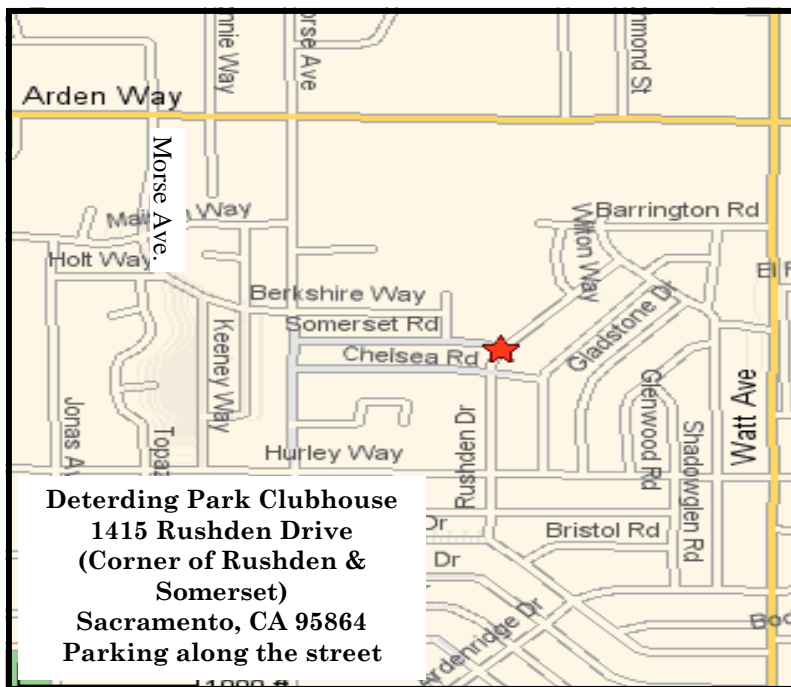
Please mail to: Town & Country Democratic Club
 P.O. Box 1286
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286

Date _____

T&C Candidates Forum & Endorsement Meeting con't...

invited are Charles Brown, Michael Hammersley & Lisa Rea (4th Congressional District), Bill Durston (3rd Congressional District), Darrell Steinberg (6th Senate District), Brandon Bell (5th Assembly District), Dave Jones (9th Assembly District), Jim Cook & Kevin Tate (10th Assembly District) and several others.

Following the forum, the club will meet on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00pm to conduct its endorsement exercises. A copy of the endorsement ballot is enclosed. If you are unable to attend the endorsement meeting on April 12th, please bring your completed ballot in a sealed envelope to the Candidates Forum on April 10th and pass it on to Arnie Godmintz. Or you may mail the ballot to the club's PO Box as noted on the bottom of the ballot. If you mail your ballot, please be sure that it is received at the club's PO Box no later than Wednesday, April 12th at 12:00pm.



The Final Word: Incompetent leadership

by Charles Brown

The true measure of leadership is performance--not rhetoric. No one knows better than our veterans, our military and the families who are anxiously awaiting the return of loved ones from Iraq.

The mistakes and half-truths are catching up with President Bush, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and the Republican Congress. Faulty intelligence, inadequate manpower, improper equipment, unrealistic planning, a cost of \$250 billion and climbing, an overstressed military, corrupt reconstruction contracts for big campaign contributors, and the firing of high-level advisers that challenge U.S. policy in Iraq are just the tip of the iceberg. There's a crisis of incompetence in Washington, and it is the most imminent threat to America's national security today.

Having spent 26 years in the armed forces, I know our troops don't have the luxury of making mistakes or questioning policymakers who've never experienced combat. Soldiers follow

orders and deliver results knowing the stakes for failure could mean death for their buddies, innocent civilians or themselves.

As I learned in Vietnam, and my son is learning in Iraq, politicians don't play by the same rules of accountability. Most politicians get the best deal of all--good pay and the opportunity to spin their failures as someone else's fault without ever getting shot at or carrying a lifeless 19-year-old off the battlefield.

U.S. troops in Iraq have performed heroically: removing an oppressive dictator and giving the Iraqi people a real chance for self rule. Unfortunately, our success also has come at a tremendous cost to our military, their families, taxpayers and America's credibility around the world--and it's not over yet.

In the face of a growing insurgency, increasing violence between rival factions, and an American military that is more stressed than at any time since

Vietnam, Republicans in Washington are asking us to "stay the course" in Iraq.

Why should we? Iraqis agree, Americans agree, and recently U.S. troops agreed that we need to change the course. We need a political solution in Iraq and a strategic redeployment of U.S. forces that will better enable us to win the global war on terror.

Securing America in an increasingly unstable world begins with competent, credible leadership at home--not more empty rhetoric. There's an election in 2006, and the world will be watching.

Charles D. Brown is a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, who spent 26 years as a helicopter rescue and reconnaissance pilot. He is a Democratic candidate for Congress in California's 4th District. Find out more at www.brown4congress.org.

Minutes from March 8, 2006 con't...

Motion to accept both nominees, seconded and passed.

A detailed and informational powerpoint presentation by Gray Panthers' Margie Metzler, regarding Medicare Part D (for Disaster), was given. Their slogan is, "PHRMA Got the Donut, We got the Hole". Margie has a contract to develop postcards, website and programs. To learn more, go to their website at www.gpcal.org and view this terrific presentation.

Announcements: Brandon Bell, 5th AD candidate, vice chair of the 5th AD committee and an officer in the Army Reserve, introduced himself. He filed on the previous Friday.

Bill Durston, running for the

House of Representatives against Dan Lungren, spoke briefly. He also will be appearing at the April Forum.

We also met Bruce Pomer. He is running for City Council representing the East Sacramento District against incumbent, Steve Cohen.

Candidates for the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee, Karen Bernal, Ralph Cyfers, Margie Metzler, Bruce Pomer, Ann Wangberg and Rich Wake introduced themselves and solicited signatures for their nomination petitions.

Lorraine Holden presented her book, "Don't Get Thin, Get Healthy".

We were reminded that phone banking for Phil Angelides is Tuesdays-Thursdays, and Saturdays at Angelides headquarters at 1331 21st St.

A vote to endorse the sheriff's oversight accountability committee by Dave Jones was MSMP.

The Alliance for Better California had their first meeting. Get involved! Also check out the publication for California Democratic Dialogue. Older Womens League (OWL) is having a meeting 3/18/06 at 10:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10p.

Respectfully submitted,
Laure Olson
Secretary

Candidate Questionnaire

Please use the form below to submit your question to the candidates at Town & Country's Candidates Forum on Monday, April 10th at 6:30pm. Please bring the form with you or mail it to Town & Country Democratic Club, PO Box 1286, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1286. Forms brought to the forum must be received by 6:45pm. Forms mailed to the club's PO Box must be received by 12:00pm on April 10th.



Your Name _____

Town & Country Member?

Yes No
(please circle one)

Candidate's Name or Office _____
(to whom you wish to pose your question)

State your question (up to thirty words): _____



The Calendar



Rally for Phil Angelides
Wed., April 5th, 12pm-2pm
2828 35th St., Sacramento
Contact: (916) 448-1998

Town & Country Candidates Forum

Monday, April 10th, 6:30pm
General Laborers Hall #185
1320 National Road, Sacramento
Contact: Tiffany Brown
(916) 419-4064
www.tandonline.org

Stonewall Democratic Club
Monday, April 10th 6:30 pm
Lambda Players Theater
2427 17th Street, Sacramento
Contact: (916) 441-1787
www.sacstonewall.org

Gray Panthers
Tuesday, April 11th, 1:00pm
Hart Senior Center
27th & I Streets, Sacramento
Contact: Joan Lee
(916) 332-5980
www.graypanthersacramento.org

Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee
Tuesday, April 11th, 6:00pm
State Capitol Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chairman
(916) 442-0264
www.sacdems.org

Town & Country Democratic Club
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm
Deterding Park Clubhouse
1415 Rushden Drive, Sacramento
Corner of Rushden/Somerset
Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown,
President
(916) 419-4064
www.tandonline.org

5th Assembly District Honors Darrell Steinberg
Thursday, April 20th, 6-8pm
Home of Paul Batterson
8824 Bold Ruler Way, Fair Oaks
Tickets \$50, sponsorships available
RSVP: (916) 443-7284

Town & Country Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 26th, 7:00pm
Location: Home of Arnie Godmintz
5313 Fernwood Way, Sacramento
Contact: Arnie (916) 332-5980
All Members Welcome!
www.tandonline.org

California Democratic Party Annual State Convention
April 28—30
Sacramento Convention Center
Info: www.ca-dem.org

Sacramento For Democracy
Wednesday, May 6th, 7:00pm
SEIU Local 250
1911 F St, Sacramento
Contact: (916) 326-5850
www.SacramentoForDemocracy.org



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

Time Value Mail
Address Correction Requested



Your 2006 T&C Primary Election Endorsement Ballot is enclosed!!!