



TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRAT

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DEMOCRATS' VICTORY IS FELT ON K STREET

BY JEFFREY H. BIRNBAUM, Washington Post Staff Writer
Published in the Washington Post, November 23, 2006

The Democrats' takeover of Congress this month has turned official Washington upside down.

Labor and environmental representatives, once also-rans in congressional influence, are meeting frequently with Capitol Hill's incoming Democratic leaders. Corporations that once boasted about their Republican ties are busily hiring Democratic lobbyists. And industries worried about reprisals from the new Democrats-in-charge, especially the pharmaceutical industry, are sending out woe-is-me memos and hoping their GOP connections will protect them in the crunch.

"Change is in the air," said Melinda Pierce, a senior lobbyist for the Sierra Club. She had never even been invited to meet with Republican House leaders, but since Election Day, Democrats have welcomed her advice.

Dan Danner sees change in the opposite direction. The top lobbyist for the National Federation of Independent Business has attended meetings with Republican leaders at least twice a month for the past 12 years. But he has yet to see any of the new Democratic crowd and doesn't expect to anytime soon. "That's a significant difference," he said.

Access is tantamount to influence in Congress. Individuals and organizations with entree to lawmakers in the majority are the ones with the best chance of getting things done. In January, when the 110th Congress convenes, Democrats will control that inside track for the first time since Republicans began their reign on Capitol Hill a dozen years ago.

Companies caught in the Democrats' cross hairs, such as oil and drug firms, are hiring Democratic

K STREET (Continued on page 2)

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

OFFICERS

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CRAIG BROWN
President

ARNIE GODMINTZ
Vice President

JIM NAKATA
Treasurer

LAURE OLSON
Secretary

KEVIN MURPHY
Immediate Past President

T & C elects new officers

Elections of the 2007 Town & Country Democratic Club officers took place at the club's November meeting.

Congratulations go to Margie Metzler who will serve as club president and Sally Schwetmann who was elected to the position of vice president.

Club treasurer, Jim Nakata, and Secretary Laure Olson will both continue in their respective positions.

There will be no membership meeting for the month of December.

Instead, Town & Country has extended and invitation to several other Democratic clubs in the region to co-sponsor its annual holiday party.

The party will be held December 9 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the Machinists Union Hall, located at 2749 Sunrise Blvd. in Rancho Cordova. (See page 5 for details.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
DEMOCRATS AND ETHICS REFORMS	4
DEMOCRATIC HOLIDAY PARTY	5
NOVEMBER MINUTES	7
STOVEPIPING INTELLIGENCE	8
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PEACE ON EARTH?	9



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DEMOCRAT**

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Peace on Earth



**CONTRIBUTION
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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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K STREET *(Continued from page 1)*

lobbyists, but they're holding on to their Republican lobbyists. They reason that they will need to persuade Republican lawmakers to block bills they dislike in the Senate, where 60 out of 100 votes are required to pass anything of consequence. Democrats hold only a 51 to 49 majority.

In addition, in a move that is raising ethical questions, some Democratic lobbyists are planning to take congressional staff jobs, attracted by the chance to wield real clout.

Despite this focus on gaining access to authority, Democratic congressional leaders have expressed disdain for their predecessors' fealty to "special interests." That is why they are planning an elaborate assault on lobbyists during their first week in session. Through changes in laws and in House rules, Democrats hope to ban lobbyist-provided gifts and travel to lawmakers and to create an Office of Public Integrity to oversee the disclosures that lobbyists must make about clients and fees.

Yet the biggest change in downtown Washington since the midterm elections Nov. 7 has been the rush of companies and trade associations to retain Democrats. "There are more opportunities for Democrats than there have been in many years," said Anthony T. Podesta, a prominent Democratic lobbyist.

Democratic lobbyists prospected for new clients on the very night last week that House Democrats elected their leaders on an anti-lobbyist platform. Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (Md.) and Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (S.C.) were feted on the 10th and ninth floors, respectively, at 101 Constitution Ave. NW, a premier lobbying venue at the foot of Capitol Hill. Some of the city's top firms are in that building, including the lobbying arm of Goldman

Sachs, the American Council of Life Insurers, Clark Consulting Federal Policy Group and Van Scoyoc Associates.

Hoyer's political action committee financed his reception in a room routinely used for lobbying and other events, but Clyburn's was paid for by Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, a South Carolina-based law firm that lobbies extensively in Washington on health care and other issues and has offices in that building.

Dozens of lobbyists attended both functions and shuttled from one party to the other. "The elevators were jammed," said Gwen Mellor, a Democrat at the lobbying firm Podesta Mattoon, who collected business cards that evening.

Companies' eagerness to hire Democrats began before the elections. Podesta said he had already signed up Wal-Mart and British Petroleum in anticipation of a Democratic victory. Now he is even busier fielding offers from other potential clients. "I've got a fairly full schedule of marketing meetings that are real," he said. "I did some right after the election, and I have four or five set up for next week."

Drug companies are particularly hungry for Democratic help, including the industry's trade association. "We woke up the day after the election to a new world," said Ken Johnson, spokesman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. "We're going to have tough days ahead of us."

A post-election e-mail to executives at the drug company GlaxoSmithKline details just how tough. "We now have fewer allies in the Senate," says the internal memo, obtained by The Washington Post. "Thus, there is greater risk over the next two years that bad amendments will be offered to pending legislation." The company's primary concerns are bills that would allow

(Continued on page 6)

*From the President***Thanks for the memories . . .**

Has it really been a year since I was sworn in as Town & Country's president? What's that saying . . . "time flies when you're having fun"? Nope, that's not it . . . (just kidding). But it has certainly been an interesting and fulfilling year for me and I feel gratified for the opportunity for the personal growth I've experienced.

At the beginning of the year, my stated goals were to increase Town & Country's membership and increase the activism within the club. Both of those goals were achieved.

Since January, thirty-nine people were added to our membership roles.

As most Democrats were more active during this pivotal election year, it's hard to gauge the club's influence on the increase in activism on the part of individual members. On the other hand, our special events (and the radio ads that supplemented them) played a definite role in raising public awareness of the club's existence, which led to a rise in membership.

In April, Town & Country held a candidate forum, featuring all local Democratic candidates running for U.S. Congress, State Assembly and State Senate. Nearly 150 people were in attendance, several of whom subsequently submitted new membership applications.

The club's annual awards luncheon was changed to a dinner this year. Although the room at Eskaton only holds 250 people, nearly 275 tickets were sold (including sponsorships). All told, the sponsorships, ticket sales, silent auction and raffle brought in nearly \$16,000 to the club coffers, which as far as I can tell is the most ever, allowing the club to donate \$7,000 to the NE Democratic Headquarters and thousands more to Democratic candidates. Once again, subsequent to the event, many new membership applications were received.

At the August Town and Country meeting, the club held a spirited debate between Assemblyman Dave Jones and County Supervisor Roger Dickinson over November ballot measures Q & R, which proposed a quarter-cent county-wide sales tax increase in order to fund a new sports and entertainment center in the downtown Sacramento rail yard. About sixty people were in attendance, including many first-time visitors, several of

whom decided to join the club that evening.

The communications, membership and events/fundraising committees were all resurrected this year and many thanks go to Lyn Stueve, Nancy Tronaas and Arnie Godmintz for stepping up to the plate as committee chairs. As always, Joan Lee continues to do a magnificent job as Legislative Committee chair. Her committee has gained several new members over the past several months but Joan persists as the chief workhorse on all matters legislative.

Town & Country celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, making it the oldest Democratic Club in the Sacramento region. Acknowledging the dedication and hard work of those who founded the club, along with the substantial contributions from hundreds of members since, Town & Country members have much to be proud of.

While I have promised my family that I will take the next year off from politics, I leave you in the capable hands of your newly-elected president, Margie Metzler. If there's a bigger political-junkie among Sacramento Democrats than Margie, I'm not aware of one. If Margie puts as much energy into presiding over the club as she did as webmaster, Town & Country members are in for an exciting year!

Match that with the enthusiasm from new vice president Sally Schwettman and watch out! Although Sally is a fairly new member of the club, those who have met her have told me how very impressed they are with her and her credentials.

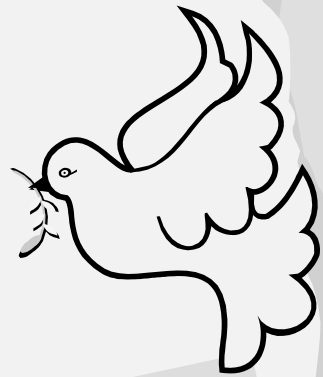
The club is also fortunate that long-time treasurer Jim Nakata and Secretary Laure Olson chose to continue in their positions. I thank both of them for their contributions.

On behalf of all Town & Country members, past and present, I'd like to express our gratitude to outgoing vice president, Arnie Godmintz for his years of service, both to the club and the Democratic community. Over the years, serving as both president and vice president, Arnie became the face of Town & Country. Though Arnie will undoubtedly continue as a very active club member, we wish him the best of luck with all his future endeavors.

(Continued on page 10)

Your Presence is requested at the
**1ST ANNUAL
DEMOCRATIC HOLIDAY PARTY**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
7:00-11:00 p.m.

MACHINIST UNION HALL
2749 Sunrise Boulevard
Rancho Cordova



~ POTLUCK DINNER ~
Please bring a side dish or dessert and an unwrapped toy
valued at \$5-10 (or \$5 cash) for charitable donation

~ DJ ~ DANCING ~ RAFFLE PRIZES ~



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For more information contact Nancy Tronaas at
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Democrats plan series of votes on ethics reforms

By JONATHAN WEISMAN, Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, November 21, 2006;

Despite divisions among Democrats over how far to go in revising ethics rules, House leaders plan a major rollout of an ethics reform bill early next year to demonstrate concern about an issue that helped defeat the Republicans in the midterm elections.

But they will do it with a twist: Instead of forwarding one big bill, Democrats will put together an ethics package on the House floor piece by piece, allowing incoming freshmen to take charge of high-profile issues and lengthening the time spent on the debate. The approach will ensure that each proposal -- including banning gifts, meals and travel from lobbyists as well as imposing new controls on the budget deficit -- is debated on its own and receives its own vote. That should garner far more media attention for the bill's components before a final vote on the entire package.

"This will be the most significant ethics and lobbying reform that Congress has ever voted on," promised Rep. Martin T. Meehan (D-Mass.), one of the point men on the effort.

The approach may be the first indication of how the Democrats plan to use their ability to control the House agenda as the majority power, setting the terms of debate while lifting the strict rules that Republicans used

to curtail dissent.

And Democrats hope to show that they are attentive to issues of corruption that, according to exit polling, proved to be of major concern to voters on Nov. 7. House and Senate GOP leaders pledged early this year to pass major lobbying reforms in the aftermath of the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal but never delivered on their promise.

Democratic leaders are still putting the finishing touches on the floor schedule and some of the components of the ethics package, said Jennifer Crider, spokeswoman for incoming House speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.). But other Democratic leadership aides said the proposal to break up the package and reassemble it is virtually a done deal.

Under that plan, freshmen would offer, over as many as five days in January, separate amendments to ban gifts, meals and travel financed by lobbyists, said Rep. Rahm Emanuel (Ill.), incoming chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. New rules mandating the disclosure of all contacts with lobbyists would be another vote, as would a rule requiring that the sponsors of funding for home-state pet projects be identified. The House would also vote on whether to reinstate budget rules, known as pay-as-you-go, or "paygo," re-

quiring that any new spending or tax cuts be offset by equal spending cuts or tax increases.

While there is broad support for reform, Democrats face divisions on how far to go on some issues, such as whether to establish an independent board to enforce ethics rules. But leaders are eager to show that they are serious about tackling the corrosive influence of lobbyists and money, so much so that they are willing to spend days working on the issue. They may even let the divisions play out in public, with amendments allowed that may or may not pass, on issues from campaign finance to independent oversight.

"We heard continually out here that people were tired of the way business is conducted in Washington," said Rep.-elect Harry Mitchell (D-Ariz.). "They didn't like the way lobbyists had so much influence. They didn't like the way rules were not enforced. They just didn't think things were being done right."

The idea is to give each provision what Emanuel called its "Warhol time" -- 15 minutes of fame -- while forcing Republicans to take a stand on the components before a final vote on the ethics package. Because House rules changes are, by tradition, party-line votes, breaking the

(Continued on page 11)

It's that time again . . .



. . . time to renew
your Town & Country
Democratic Club
membership.

*Please mail your 2007
membership dues to:*

**TOWN & COUNTRY
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
P.O. BOX 1286
CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95611**

by January 1, 2007.

K STREET *(Continued from page 2)*

more imported drugs and would force price competition for drugs bought under Medicare.

The defeat of Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) "creates a big hole we will need to fill," the e-mail says. Sen.-elect Jon Tester (D-Mont.) "is expected to be a problem," it says, and the elevation to the Senate of Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) "will strengthen his ability to challenge us."

The e-mail also mentions that Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) "has worked closely" with the company and that the firm's PAC had supported six Democratic senators who faced reelection. "These relationships should help us moderate proposals offered by Senate Democrats," the e-mail says.

Explaining the memo, GlaxoSmithKline spokeswoman Patricia Seif said: "It's important that we're knowledgeable about the positions of the members of the next Congress."

Even as additional Democratic lobbyists are hired, Republican lobbyists don't expect much falloff in business because GOP lawmakers will be key to stopping legislation that corporations oppose.

"You may need to bring other voices to the table as well, but it's not like a light switch being thrown when someone else is in control," said GOP lobbyist Mark Isakowitz of Fierce, Isakowitz & Blalock.

In fact, lobbying overall is likely to increase. "With a closely divided Congress,

you're going to have both sides spending more," said Kent Cooper of PoliticalMoneyLine, a nonpartisan research group. "It will be like an arms race."

But not every lobbyist will cash in. A sizable number of Democrats plan to take lower-paying staff jobs in Congress as a way to serve in the government and to exercise the power of the majority for a change. On one important panel, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, both top aides will be ex-lobbyists.

Dennis Fitzgibbons, the panel's incoming chief of staff, has worked for DaimlerChrysler since 2000 and before that was on the committee's staff for 12 years. The panel's new chief counsel, Gregg Rothchild, is also a former congressional aide and was a lobbyist for Verizon for two years.

"This is an historic opportunity," Rothchild said about his return to Capitol Hill. Watchdog groups, however, are concerned about the trend. "I worry that they might not be as tough on the industries they used to work for," said Melanie Sloan of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

But interest groups, in general, are not concerned about the changes the election has brought. "We lost many friends in this election," said Steven C. Anderson, president of the Republican-leaning National Restaurant Association. "But that doesn't mean we can't make new friends, and that's what we'll do."

NOVEMBER, 2006 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Tiffany Craig Brown. All officers were present. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the October meeting were MSMP. There was no printed agenda for tonight's meeting.

Officer and committee reports

Treasurer Jim Nakata reported that there was \$5754.70 in the checking account.

Arnie Godmintz reported on the Central Committee meeting held on November 14. There were no new developments other than an introduction of a "war plan", meaning a radical reorganization of the committee with clubs to play a more significant role, recognizing the importance and influence of the various clubs especially in the last election. He also reported that there were openings in the 3rd, 4th, 14th and 15th districts.

The Communications committee offered no report.

For the Membership committee, Nancy Tronaas, reminded us that 2007 membership dues are coming up for renewal.

Ralph Cyfers reported on the Northeast HQ and Voter Registration. He told us that 2,269 Democrats were registered between August 1 and October 23. Of those, 300-400 were decline- to-state and 302 changed parties - at least half of whom changed from Republican, to Democrat. We earned \$450 and \$8,000 went to the Central Committee. Ralph plans voter registration drives during Democratic events in January, 2007.

The Legislative Committee, reported by Joan Lee, is on a break but is in a meet and greet mode until January. They will be looking at bill proposals - Medicare, flood control, etc. She read the names of those members who have signed up to be on the committee with meetings to resume in early January.

New Business

The holiday party, discussed at the Steering committee 11/1/06, is scheduled for 12/9/06 at the Machinist Union Hall in Rancho Cordova, on Sunrise Blvd behind the Enterprise rental agency. The festivities will run from 7:00 - 11:00 pm. This year, other Democratic clubs will be co-sponsoring the party, including JFK, Women Democrats, Stonewall

and others. Please sign up for various duties and be sure to bring friends and family, a side dish or dessert and an unwrapped toy, which will be donated to charity. Music, fun, food and fraternizing, not necessarily in that order. For more information, contact Nancy Tronaas.

Program

Guest speakers, Marco Hernandez and Josh Edelson, educated us regarding the efforts by the local hotel industry union in their quest for better pay and health care in a new contract. They have begun a petition drive in anticipation of a possible boycott. Meetings with hotel management representatives are taking place at the Sheraton Grand. Sacramento is the only city without a contract. We learned that the city of Sacramento is the actual owner of the downtown Sheraton. There will be a rally/demonstration on 11/30/06 at 4:30 pm at the Sheraton on 13th and J. A motion was made that the club write a letter to the Sheraton management supporting the works and the boycott, should it be necessary. MSMP.

There will be an economic development department meeting, per Joan and Arnie, and they are looking for others to come 11/17/06 at 11:00 am at 15th and K. Krystal Maddox suggested conducting voter registration at this event as well.

Election of Officers

There were 31 total votes. The winners were:

President - Margie Metzler

Vice-President - Sally Schwettman

Treasurer - Jim Nakata

Secretary - Laure Olson

Congratulations to you all.

Announcements

Bill Durston offered his heartfelt thanks for all the contributions, in time, money and moral support, to his campaign against the, shall we say, dastardly Dan Lungren, who somehow prevailed in the election. He gave a little history of his candidacy, how he was first enticed into running, late in the game, in February, offering a choice to voters. And with great joy to all, he answered the question about

(Continued on page 10)

Stovepiping Intelligence

From *The Progress Report*, Center for American Progress

BY JUDD LEGUM, FAIZ SHAKIR, NICO PITNEY, AMANDA TERKEL AND PAYSON SCHWIN

"Make no mistake, President Bush will need to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities before leaving office," writes Joshua Muravchik, a neoconservative scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. "The global thunder against Bush when he pulls the trigger will be deafening, and it will have many echoes at home." So neoconservatives", Muravchik argued, "need to pave the way intellectually now and be prepared to defend the action when it comes." In that vein, Bill Kristol, editor of the *Weekly Standard*, said last August, "We could be in a military confrontation with Iran much sooner than people expect."

In a startling new article in the *New Yorker*, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh writes that, despite the recent bluster over Iran's attempts to build a nuclear bomb, a highly classified draft assessment by the CIA found "no conclusive evidence, as yet, of a secret Iranian nuclear-weapons program." According to Hersh, the White House has reacted with hostility to the CIA's report and, as it did with Iraq, is bypassing the agency by collecting and compiling its own intelligence for a possible military strike. On CNN recently, Hersh said there is an "internecine fight" going on between the CIA and the White House over the intelligence process, "the same fight, by the way, that we had before Iraq."

HIDING THE INTELLIGENCE

At issue between the White House and the CIA is access to secret intelligence on Iran allegedly being provided by the Israelis. According to Hersh's new article, *The Next Act*, intelligence from "Israeli spies operating inside Iran claimed that Iran has developed and tested a trigger device for a nuclear bomb." The Israeli report is being used by White House hawks within the administration to refute the CIA and "prove the White House's theory that the Iranians are on track" to build the bomb. A former senior intelligence officer told Hersh, "The problem is that no one can verify it. We don't know who the Israeli source is . . .

Where is the test site? How often have they done it? How big is the warhead -- a breadbox or a refrigerator? [The CIA doesn't] have that."

Hersh told CNN's Wolf Blitzer, "That information is being handled pretty much by the White House and various offices in the Pentagon. And the CIA isn't getting a good look at the Israeli intelligence. It's the old word, stovepiping. It's the president and the vice president. It's pretty much being kept in the White House." Hersh's reporting suggests a breakdown in the intelligence process -- similar to the one that occurred prior to the Iraq war -- is now happening with regards to Iran and may open the door to possible intelligence manipulation.

Before the war, the White House set up intelligence stovepipes to "get information they wanted directly to the top leadership." Cheney and allies inside the Pentagon relied on information provided by the Iraqi National Congress, an exile group headed by Ahmad Chalabi. "Chalabi's defector reports were . . . flowing from the Pentagon directly to the Vice-President's office, and then on to the President, with little prior evaluation by intelligence professionals." Some of the most inaccurate intelligence about Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction came from a Chalabi operative, known as Curveball.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF CHENEY

Worried that the White House may attempt to manipulate the intelligence process again, Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) proposed the Iran Intelligence Oversight Act last June, legislation meant to ensure that each of the administration's claims on Iran would be backed up by the consensus assessments of intelligence analysts.

"The White House cherry-picked and politicized intelligence to sell the [Iraq] war," Reid said. "Iran cannot and will not be another Iraq." The Iran oversight legislation was unanimously accepted in the Senate as an amendment to the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill. According to

Hersh's new article, Cheney may be planning to ignore the new congressional mandate. Cheney said the White House would circumvent any restrictions imposed by the new Democratic majority "and thus stop Congress from getting in its way" on Iran. Cheney is adamant that whatever a Democratic Congress may do to ensure the President does not overstep his authority, "the Administration would find a way to work around it."

A CONFUSED APPROACH

The White House policy on Iran has been "confused and defensive." While there is broad desire for Iran to stop its nuclear program, hardliners inside the White House will settle for nothing less than regime change. These ideologues refuse to engage Iran diplomatically and carry a naively false hope that the people of Iran would embrace U.S. military force.

As an esteemed group of former military and diplomatic leaders wrote last August, "The current crises must be resolved through diplomacy, not military action. An attack on Iran would have disastrous consequences for security in the region and U.S. forces in Iraq, and it would inflame hatred and violence in the Middle East and among Muslims elsewhere."

The Iranians have indicated they would consider talks with the U.S. over regional issues, including Iraq, if requested. There were even reports last September that suggested Iran was "close to an agreement that would include a suspension of uranium enrichment." Yet, the administration's resistance to opening negotiations with Iran has prevented any progress towards a final deal. And Iran, sensing its strengthening position given the administration's difficulties in Iraq, is raising the stakes.

Iran now flouts the international community, issues verbal taunts at its adversaries, and aggressively advances its nuclear program. As evidence, President Ahmadinejad recently said his nation plans to use 60,000 centrifuges to enrich uranium as part of its nuclear program, disregarding the international community's concerns. Iran so far has built about 300 centrifuges -- and these have operated sporadically, producing only very small quantities of low-enriched uranium.

What Ever Happened To Peace On Earth

LYRICS BY WILLIE NELSON

*There's so many things going on in the world
Babies dying*

Mothers crying

*How much oil is one human life worth
And what ever happened to peace on earth*

*We believe everything that they tell us
They're gonna kill us*

So we gotta kill them first

But I remember a commandment

Thou shall not kill

*How much is that soldier's life worth
And whatever happened to peace on earth*

*And the bewildered herd is still believing
Everything we've been told from our birth*

Hell they won't lie to me

Not on my own damn TV

But how much is a liars word worth

And whatever happened to peace on earth

So I guess it's just

Do unto others before they do it to you

Let's just kill 'em all and let God sort 'em out

Is this what God wants us to do

*And the bewildered herd is still believing
Everything we've been told from our birth*

Hell they won't lie to me

Not on my own damn TV

But how much is a liars word worth

And whatever happened to peace on earth

Now you probably won't hear this on your radio

Probably not on your local TV

*But if there's a time, and if you're ever
so inclined*

You can always hear it from me

How much is one picker's word worth

And whatever happened to peace on earth

But don't confuse caring for weakness

You can't put that label on me

The truth is my weapon of mass protection

And I believe truth sets you free

*And the bewildered herd is still believing
Everything we've been told from our birth*

Hell they won't lie to me

Not on my own damn TV

But how much is a liars word worth

And whatever happened to peace on earth

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Committee Interest (check all that apply):

- Communications Fundraising/Events
- Legislative Membership

Other skills/interests _____

Annual Dues

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail checks to:

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

www.tcdems.org

MINUTES (Continued from page 7)

a rerun in 2008 with the words that it was, "on the table".

Next we heard from Charlie Brown, down but not out, who also offered his no less than heartfelt thanks. He felt his campaign "woke the district up". Charlie only trailed by 46-49% with 44,000 absentee ballots still to be counted (30,000 in Placer County). He is visiting different central committees in on ongoing effort to be a participant in district happenings. He plans to schedule events for the future, continue to be active in union efforts on his behalf and will keep the lines of communication open about a future run.

Our president-elect, Margie Metzler, gave us a sneak preview of upcoming efforts under her administration, you might say. This included changing demographics and the need to think strategically. She sees a new direction in the newsletter and website, especially with the new crop of seniors being so computer literate. She hopes to create a phone tree for action and alerts.

Lastly, Bill Emerson, our hip music master, gave a last plug for the rockin' holiday party.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laure Olson
Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from page 3)

On a personal note, let me extend a heartfelt thank-you to Nancy Tronaas for all her assistance and hard work on the annual awards dinner and the holiday party. While her dedication to the club is laudable, I am most grateful for her friendship.

My son asked me the other day what I wanted for Christmas. With tongue firmly in cheek, I answered, "world peace". Yet, though world peace is a highly idealistic goal - one which has never been achieved since the beginning of mankind - ultimately it's an objective we all hold in our hearts. Certainly, we all wish for peace within our own country and those we currently occupy, and will keep alive the hope of a swift end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wish each of you a very happy holiday and look forward to celebrating the recent Democratic victories with you at the First Annual Democratic Holiday Party on December 9!

ETHICS REFORMS *(Continued from page 5)*

package into its components would also allow Republicans to support individual amendments, even though they probably would vote against the package in the end.

The unorthodox approach, more reminiscent of the drawn-out legislating done in the Senate than the slam-dunks of the House, would also give Democratic leaders a chance to show that they plan to change the way the House does business, Democrats said.

"Why have the gift ban, if that's one of [the components], be buried inside when it can stand on its own and the public wants it and gets it?" Emanuel asked. "Why have paygo have to share space with the meal ban or gift ban?"


The procedure would be as much about solidifying Democratic power as it would be about changing the rules of the House. Freshmen Democrats, many of them representing Republican-leaning districts, would take ownership of components that would resonate most with their voters, Democratic leaders said. For example, a conservative "Blue Dog" would get to present the budget-balancing rule.

Amendments aimed at reducing the influence of lobbyists would go to swing-district Democrats who campaigned on ethics themes. One is Mitchell, who unseated Rep. J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz.) in large part by stressing Hayworth's links to Abramoff, the disgraced lobbyist. The others are Zack Space (Ohio), who took the Republican-leaning district of convicted former representative Robert W. Ney, and Michael A. Arcuri (N.Y.), who ran on corruption themes to take the district vacated by retiring Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert (R).

Such a freewheeling approach could expose disagreements within the Democratic Caucus. For example, some members think that an independent board should be created to conduct ethics investigations and mete out punishment to members who violate House rules. Others say the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, informally known as the ethics committee, can handle the assignment as long as leaders allow it to do its job.

Democratic leadership aides say Pelosi is weighing a middle ground -- the establishment of an independent body similar to a grand jury that would weigh the validity of ethics complaints, then pass meritorious allegations to the ethics committee.

The rules change on earmarks, or lawmakers' pet projects, is expected to differ from the proposal Democrats outlined earlier this year, the aides said. That rule would mandate that home-district projects be identified by the names of their congressional sponsors. Pelosi wants to make sure that change applies to projects in spending bills as well as in policy bills, such as the broad highway and transit law that passed in 2005. Tax breaks known as rifle shots, narrowly targeted to benefit only a few companies or individuals, are also expected to face more scrutiny.

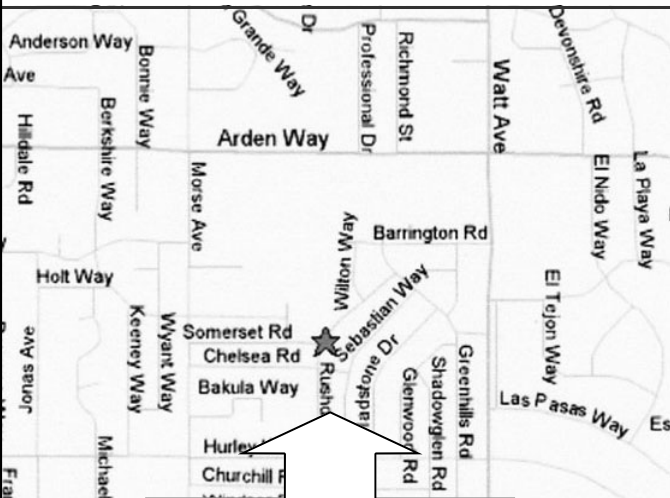
TOWN & COUNTRY

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

JOIN US!

We meet the second Wednesday of each month

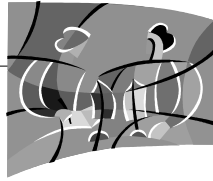
7:00 p.m.

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 OF SACRAMENTO

Tue, December 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, December 12— 6:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 127
Contact: Rick Wathen, Chair
916-442-0264

TOWN & COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

- No Meeting -

Democratic Holiday Party

Saturday, December 9,

7:00-11:00

**Machinist Union Hall
2749 Sunrise Boulevard**

Rancho Cordova

Contact: Nancy Tronaas
n.tronaas@att.net
916-386-1170
www.tcdems.org

TOWN & COUNTRY STEERING COMMITTEE

- No December Meeting—

Contact: Tiffany Craig Brown
tcbwriter@sac.sticare.com
916-419-4064

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Mon, December 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, December 18— 6:00 p.m.

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

5TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Mon, December 18— 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Ann Wangberg
916-966-3590



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



*See inside
for details*