

Hayward Demos Democratic Club

November 2005 Newsletter

Editors: Jim Forsyth(581-5169), Peter Hendley(582-7011)
www.haywarddemos.org

President's Message

Home alone and not registered by Craig Williams

I door knocked a precinct Friday that was made up of a lot of apartment complexes .I estimate that only ten percent of the apartment dwellers were registered to vote. Looking at the cars in the parking lots, these were not poor people. Most of the cars were relatively new , many brand new. The people who lived in the apartments were mostly people of color, primarily Afro Americans. People who vote Democrat ninety percent of the time! It's estimated that 38 percent of California's population are apartment dwellers.

In the frenzy to organize for elections and other campaigns we seem to be like the movie Home Alone, where in a rush to get to the airport for Christmas vacation, the family forgets one of its children back at the house. They discover this on the airplane. We spend millions on campaigns yet leave these obvious Democrats, home alone.

Being involved in local politics, I obviously think that the party organization is important. Many pundits and other experts claim we are beyond the days of the political party. Consultants and candidates bypass the party and deal directly with the media and contributors, they are now 'free agents' or 'private contractors' .Too often corporate contributors who have an agenda diametrically opposed to the average Democrats' control how our party campaigns and organizes. The message may be appealing to Democrats but the political exercise doesn't make our party stronger.

True, it's possible to buy TV time and do glossy mailers and reach a lot of people efficiently . Unfortunately it is not efficient enough to deliver the votes of apartment dwellers, the people who are home alone without a connection to the Democratic Party and who provide us with the votes we need to be a clear majority as a party , locally, on a statewide level and nationally.

We need these voters for a better education system in California, (we're almost last nationally), for a health care system that doesn't leave 50 million home alone without health care, that doesn't allow the Republican-military-industrial -salesman-complex, to control our social investments, sacrificing our youth and the countless innocent civilians of other countries to the Holocaust of higher profits. A lot is at stake in how we campaign.

Local party organizations need bigger budgets to do a comprehensive job of voter registration, we could easily do this with the help of small donor professional fund raisers , phone callers or canvassers. The County Central Committee has a budget of \$5,000 yet the county is bigger than 11 states which include: Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii , Idaho, Maine, Montana , New Hampshire , North Dakota Rhode Island, South Dakota and Wyoming. A county small donor project could raise our voter numbers by 100, 000 or more. We either need to get the 'powers that be ' in our party to support this type of effort or call for a ten

President, Craig Williams 636-0643
Vice-president, Mike Villalba 636-1432
Secretary, Alison Corson 881-1802
Treasurer, Ginny DeMartini 781-0944
Membership Director, Al Mendall 441-7487
Webmaster, Jeff Winkler, At large: Elsa Glines, Mary Hayashi, Pat Kellner, Tom Kersten, Thom Kunselman, Mary Ann Reno, Harry Scott, Rick Trullinger

November Meeting

Friday, November 18, 7 pm

Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church

27287 Patrick Ave, Hayward (Across from Weekes Park Library)

Trent Lange, Vice President and spokesperson for California Clean Money Campaign (www.CAclean.org) will discuss the exciting advances taking place for public financing of elections. Trent says, "Even after an unprecedented \$300 million was spent in the special election, candidates ranging from local Assembly candidates to Gov Schwarzenegger are already dialing for the campaign dollars from big money interests in a fundraising race that will mostly determine who is elected in 2006. The vast majority of races won't be competitive at all, with the winner far outspending the challenger. AB 583 (Loni Hancock), the Ca. Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, would change that by providing competitive campaign funds to qualified candidates who agree to strict spending limits. The CA Democratic party voted in April to make Clean Money one of its priority resolutions. A contentious question has been the balance between how much public funding is provided to candidates vs the overall costs of the system. Assemblymember Johan Klehs, a key vote, has said he can't support AB 583 until he's satisfied that it provides enough for "clean" candidates to be competitive against the highest spending candidates. We will discuss how AB 583 addresses this crucial question and how by leveling the playing field for the vast majority of races it would dramatically transform California election campaigns.

* * * * *
Club News: Elsa Glines is recuperating from knee surgery. Members Lee Williamson, Thom Kunselman, and Jim Forsyth will travel to Fort Benning GA to participate in the SOAWatch demonstration to shut down the School of the Americas, aka School of Assassins. Members have been well represented at phone banks and precinct walks to defeat Arnold's propositions. Thanks to all those who helped! Harry Scott, Peter Hendley and Jim Forsyth are the nominating committee for 2006 Club officers, to be elected at the January potluck.

percent 'voter registration tax' on candidates and their jockeys, the consultant 'powers that be.'

If elections stay close in this country ,the Republican leaders are so unethical they'll do whatever it takes to steal an election, the Secretaries of State in the two key states were Bush's campaign Chairs for those states in both Florida and Ohio. The rank and file religious Republicans are for the most part politically timid people who fear their leaders and speaking out almost as much as they fear God which combined with corrupt leaders, is a very toxic combination. As Democrats we need to organize better , and our answer to the Right's church strategy might be a Left apartment strategy.

We Can Beat Back the Corporate Attack by Craig Williams

The three propositions we are most focused on in the Special Election are 74, 75 and 76. We need Demos members to help with the phone calling. The Republicans are hoping to win by having a low voter turnout. **Prop. 74** according to the Alliance for a Better California (ABC) the group which is organizing the anti-Schwarzenegger effort "unfairly attempts to make our teachers the scapegoat for what is wrong with our schools, while doing nothing to address the real problems we face." I would go a step further and say our schools are not the problem, we've created a low wage service sector economy, where many of our people no matter how well they do in school will end up in a dead end job. Many of these people will end up paying half of their income in rent because they can't even dream of owning a home. The schools and teachers and especially the parents are not the problem, it's (to coin a political phrase) "the economy, stupid." Secondly, according to ABC, **Prop 75** "silences the voices of teachers, firefighters, nurses and other public employees ." The reality is we have a political system organized by interest groups. The parties are very weak, According to Larry Sabato, arguably one of America's top political scientists, the Democrats are nothing without organized labor. For example, less than one percent of registered Democrats are members of local party organizations like the people who are reading this article. Without unions picking up the slack for our party's shortcomings we would be living in a corporate political dictatorship. The Republicans can do serious damage to the Democrats by passing 75 and currently have similar propositions on the ballot in 8 other states where the governor is a Republican.

Prop. 76, according to ABC, "will cut school funding by \$4 billion, overturn voter-approved school funding guarantees, and endanger local funding for police, fire, health care, and services for seniors." The Republican Party has pushed us into a war based on lies where Californians are spending an estimated \$22 million a day! This is the logic of the Republican agenda: drain the public with a phony immoral war for the oil companies and arms merchants and slash services and local social investments wherever you can. California has gone from "First to Worst" in education (according to a documentary by that title.) Arnold wants us to be not only one of the worst education systems in the country by maybe even the world.

Your presence in the phone banking and precinct walking effort will be greatly appreciated.

If you think this war is so great, why aren't you over there fighting in it.—Sign seen in San Francisco at the Peace march.

□

October Meeting

Sunday, October 16, 4 pm,

United Food & Commercial Workers Hall

28870 Mission Blvd, Hayward (South of Tennyson)

Dr Howard Dean, Chair of the National Democratic party and Art Torres, Chair of the State party will be the guest speakers.

Phone Banking and Precinct walking to get out a big Alameda county vote against the governor's propositions is picking up steam. Phoning voters takes place every Monday

at Carpenter's Hall, 1050 Mattox Rd., Hayward and Tues-Thurs. at the UFCW Hall, 28870 Mission Blvd. Hours are 5:30-8:30. Call Rachel (885-1970) to sign up. Phoners report that response to our calls has been encouraging.

Hayward School Board President **Myrna Truehill** and member **Paul Frumkin** won the Club's endorsement for reelection. Contact their campaigns at Friends of Truehill, 3272 Jamie Way, Hayward 94542, 887-0855; and Frumkin for School Board, 1265 Westwood St., Hayward 94544, 782-5462.

NIX ON SIX; Yes on the Rest

Demos has taken stands on all the Props (also see column one).

No on 73- Requires doctors to notify the parent or guardian 48 hours before performing an abortion on a woman under 18. In the real world this guarantees that some girls will turn to unsafe and illegal procedures.

No on Prop 77- While the present process is far from satisfactory, prop 77 calls for immediate redistricting. It will be based on outdated census information and be unmanageable. Acting hastily is as unnecessary as is the special election.

No on 78, Yes on 79- Big Pharma has spent a record \$90 million to defeat 79. 78 is solely to confuse voters. It is voluntary, hence unnecessary, while 79 mandates steep discounts for patients on Medicare and other government-run programs. Drug companies will be barred from the MediCal market unless they negotiate lower prices with the entitlement programs. The measure with the most votes prevails if both 78 and 79 pass.

Yes on 80- Re-regulates electricity rates. Puts energy pirates under PUC control to prevent another Enron disaster.

Club News: We now have a record 234 paid 2005 members. Congratulations to all! The Fall Festival garnered almost \$5000. We donated \$250 each to our endorsed School Board candidates. The Clean \$ meeting will take place on November 21 and the potluck on January 6 with Ann Fagan Ginger, author and Constitutional lawyer.

. Senator Russ Feingold said, "the mood has really shifted [here in the Senate]. We are in a whole different period." Last week the Democrats led by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, shut down the Senate forcing Republican leaders to follow through on their promised investigation of manipulated intelligence (lying) on Iraq. "It's about damned time," said commentator Will Pitt. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi has joined in the call.

Senator Kerry has finally admitted that he was "misled" on Iraq and called for bringing 20,000 troops home by the holidays. A R. pollster said "Iraq is fundamental to the political debate in 2006...people want to know what's the plan?" Opposition to the war is overwhelming among Democratic voters. D. officeholders are starting to follow. Several Iraq combat veterans are running in Democratic primaries calling for a date certain for withdrawal of the troops. Senate candidates in Minnesota and Rhode Island are demanding a complete pull-out by the end of 2006.

Pitt, after recalling that there was ample evidence available before the war started to disprove Bush's lies about WMD and Al Qaeda, wrote, "these Senators [all but 21 D's, one Independent and one R] allowed Bush to throw thousands of American soldiers and Iraqi civilians to the wolves...the D's who empowered the White House to undertake the invasion must apologize to the country and the world. Either they were duped or went along for the ride. Neither is acceptable."

Now we have a window to insist on supporting the troops by bringing them home. Congress must set a date, the sooner the better, and do it now! And in the meantime coalition forces must stop offensive patrols and bombing raids, negotiate a cease-fire with the resistance, renounce permanent bases, and seek to bring in UN and/or Arab League peacekeepers.

* * *

Congressman Pete Stark marched in the Sept. 24 demonstration in D.C. Cynthia McKinney, Barbara Lee and a few other Democrats addressed the rally or the concert that followed. Excerpts of a letter from Pete (7-5-05):

No one following the daily events in Iraq can deny that American soldiers and Iraqis seen as working with them are the top target for insurgents. Historically adversarial Iraqi communities now share the common goal of violent expulsion of U.S. troops. The existing mayhem is providing refuge and recruits for terrorists, degrading both Iraqi and our national security. These facts confirm that there be no peace security or stability as long as U.S. troops are perceived by most Iraqis as an occupying force.

In January (2005) I sent a letter to Pres. Bush calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. I have cosponsored two resolutions, H. Con. Res. 35 and H.J. Res. 55 calling on Congress and the President to withdraw troops from Iraq. Specifically, 35 expresses the sense of Congress that the President must bring U.S. troops home. It demands that the president immediately withdraw troops from Iraq's villages, towns and cities and redeploy a portion to guard Iraq's porous borders. It calls on him to convene an emergency meeting of Iraq's leadership, its neighbors, the UN, and Pan Arab organizations to form an international peacekeeping force. It calls for an end to profiteering by U.S.

Plutonium, a microscopic particle of which if ingested will lead to death, is used for nuclear bomb experiments at the Livermore Lab. The amount stored at the lab will be doubled, to 3080 pounds, enough for 300 bombs, if present plans are implemented. Call and write our Senators and members of Congress to protest. We are all downwinders of the lab here in the Hayward area.

* * *

Holding the threat of bankruptcy over their workers' heads, Delphi has threatened to cut wages from \$27/hr to \$10 and to shift a much larger share of health care costs to them. The CEO, a bankruptcy specialist brought in for this purpose after taking Bethlehem Steel through the courts, said that if the UAW didn't agree he would ask the judge to void the labor contract and close scores of plants. Delphi until recently was a division of GM and is a major supplier of parts. It has 33,000 workers and 12,000 union retirees.

The current crisis in the auto industry (it's hardly confined to auto) highlights the implosion of our health care system. GM says that health care costs add \$1500 to the price of every vehicle it sells in North America. A third of all health care spending in the U.S. is now squandered on bureaucratic overhead. The savings to be realized in a single payer system would be sufficient to provide top quality care to every American. It has been said that the allegiance to the philosophy of greed is stronger than greed itself, by way of an explanation of the refusal to even consider such a system. A major American company would rather risk failure than to advocate universal health care.

*

In 1976 the Supreme Court ruled in Buckley v Valeo that campaign expenditures may not be limited. This decision has been likened to the infamous "separate but equal" ruling that blocked progress toward undoing racial segregation for generations. But last year Vermont passed a law setting mandatory limits on campaign expenditures. None other than the ACLU (!) has appealed the case to the Supreme Court on first amendment grounds. The ACLU is equating money with speech, in the view of many a false correlation. A major objection to public financing of elections, the right of wealthy candidates to outspend their "clean money" opponents, would disappear if the Vermont law is upheld.

Court watchers believe that Justice O'Connor would be the deciding vote to strike down Buckley. Of course if she is replaced by Alito it is likely from what we know that Buckley will be upheld.

* * *

According to an interview on Democracy Now (11-4-05) Senator John Kerry now believes the 2004 election was fraudulently decided. The senator made that statement in a conversation with Mark Crispin Miller, author and Professor of Media Studies at New York University.

98 Percent of Fortune 500 CEO's who are white

95 Percent of Fortune 500 top earners who are white

companies that receive no-bid contracts. And finally, it seeks the redoubling of U.S. efforts to ensure the rebuilding of Iraq's infrastructure.

. Senator Russ Feingold said, "the mood has really shifted [here in the Senate]. We are in a whole different period." Last week the Democrats led by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, shut down the Senate forcing Republican leaders to follow through on their promised investigation of manipulated intelligence (lying) on Iraq. "It's about damned time," said commentator Will Pitt. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi has joined in the call.

Senator Kerry has finally admitted that he was "misled" on Iraq and called for bringing 20,000 troops home by the holidays. A R. pollster said "Iraq is fundamental to the political debate in 2006...people want to know what's the plan?" Opposition to the war is overwhelming among Democratic voters. D. officeholders are starting to follow. Several Iraq combat veterans are running in Democratic primaries calling for a date certain for withdrawal of the troops. Senate candidates in Minnesota and Rhode Island are demanding a complete pull-out by the end of 2006.

Pitt, after recalling that there was ample evidence available before the war started to disprove Bush's lies about WMD and Al Qaeda, wrote, "these Senators [all but 21 D's, one Independent and one R] allowed Bush to throw thousands of American soldiers and Iraqi civilians to the wolves...the D's who empowered the White House to undertake the invasion must apologize to the country and the world. Either they were duped or went along for the ride. Neither is acceptable."

Now we have a window to insist on supporting the troops by bringing them home. Congress must set a date, the sooner the better, and do it now! And in the meantime coalition forces must stop offensive patrols and bombing raids, negotiate a cease-fire with the resistance, renounce permanent bases, and seek to bring in UN and/or Arab League peacekeepers.

* * *

Congressman Pete Stark marched in the Sept. 24 demonstration in D.C. Cynthia McKinney, Barbara Lee and a few other Democrats addressed the rally or the concert that followed. Excerpts of a letter from Pete (7-5-05):

No one following the daily events in Iraq can deny that American soldiers and Iraqis seen as working with them are the top target for insurgents. Historically adversarial Iraqi communities now share the common goal of violent expulsion of U.S. troops. The existing mayhem is providing refuge and recruits for terrorists, degrading both Iraqi and our national security. These facts confirm that there be no peace security or stability as long as U.S. troops are perceived by most Iraqis as an occupying force.

In January (2005) I sent a letter to Pres. Bush calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. I have cosponsored two resolutions, H. Con. Res. 35 and H.J. Res. 55 calling on Congress and the President to withdraw troops from Iraq. Specifically, 35 expresses the sense of Congress that the President must bring U.S. troops home. It demands that the president immediately withdraw troops from Iraq's villages, towns and cities and redeploy a portion to guard Iraq's porous borders. It calls on him to convene an emergency meeting of Iraq's leadership, its neighbors, the

UN, and Pan Arab organizations to form an international peacekeeping force. It calls for an end to profiteering by U.S. **Plutonium, a microscopic** particle of which if ingested will lead to death, is used for nuclear bomb experiments at the Livermore Lab. The amount stored at the lab will be doubled, to 3080 pounds, enough for 300 bombs, if present plans are implemented. Call and write our Senators and members of Congress to protest. We are all downwinders of the lab here in the Hayward area.

* * *

Holding the threat of bankruptcy over their workers' heads, Delphi has threatened to cut wages from \$27/hr to \$10 and to shift a much larger share of health care costs to them. The CEO, a bankruptcy specialist brought in for this purpose after taking Bethlehem Steel through the courts, said that if the UAW didn't agree he would ask the judge to void the labor contract and close scores of plants. Delphi until recently was a division of GM and is a major supplier of parts. It has 33,000 workers and 12,000 union retirees.

The current crisis in the auto industry (it's hardly confined to auto) highlights the implosion of our health care system. GM says that health care costs add \$1500 to the price of every vehicle it sells in North America. A third of all health care spending in the U.S. is now squandered on bureaucratic overhead. The savings to be realized in a single payer system would be sufficient to provide top quality care to every American. It has been said that the allegiance to the philosophy of greed is stronger than greed itself, by way of an explanation of the refusal to even consider such a system. A major American company would rather risk failure than to advocate universal health care.

*

In 1976 the Supreme Court ruled in Buckley v Valeo that campaign expenditures may not be limited. This decision has been likened to the infamous "separate but equal" ruling that blocked progress toward undoing racial segregation for generations. But last year Vermont passed a law setting mandatory limits on campaign expenditures. None other than the ACLU (!) has appealed the case to the Supreme Court on first amendment grounds. The ACLU is equating money with speech, in the view of many a false correlation. A major objection to public financing of elections, the right of wealthy candidates to outspend their "clean money" opponents, would disappear if the Vermont law is upheld.

Court watchers believe that Justice O'Connor would be the deciding vote to strike down Buckley. Of course if she is replaced by Alito it is likely from what we know that Buckley will be upheld.

* * *

According to an interview on Democracy Now (11-4-05) Senator John Kerry now believes the 2004 election was fraudulently decided. The senator made that statement in a conversation with Mark Crispin Miller, author and Professor of Media Studies at New York University.

- 98 Percent of Fortune 500 CEO's who are white
- 95 Percent of Fortune 500 top earners who are white

companies that receive no-bid contracts. And finally, it seeks the redoubling of U.S. efforts to ensure the rebuilding of Iraq's infrastructure.

Hayward DEMOS Democratic Club

P.O. Box 56783

Hayward, CA 94545

We are the ones we've been waiting for."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm, Nov. 18, 2005

"Taking the \$Money\$ Out of Elections"

(the Reform that leads to other reforms)

speaker: Trent Lang from CA/Clean Money

Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church

27287 Patrick Ave., Hayward

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM USES SPANISH TRANSLATOR by Suzanne Barba

The League of Women Voters, Eden Area, well known for presenting candidate forums in English, did a recent one with a Spanish translator to outreach to the Hispanic community in Hayward.

This event was coordinated by Kathy Malloy, an intern minister at the South Hayward Parish collective. She said it was important for Hispanic parents to have the opportunity to meet the candidates and find out what they were going to do for their children.

The three school board candidates were there, Telemundo showed up to televise "a taste" of what the event was intended to do, Maria Gonzalez was there to translate, and Angie Reyes, Voter Service Director for the League moderated the event. All that was missing was a huge crowd. Only ten came. However, those that did attend, asked very important questions.

For example, an audience member was concerned about the fact that the school district is always talking about wanting more parents to be involved in their children's education, but makes it difficult for some Hispanic parents to do so.

Apparently, to volunteer in the schools, there are requirements to provide a social security number and get fingerprinted. Some parents are undocumented and don't have social security numbers, others distrust having to get fingerprinted.

The incumbents—**Paul Frumkin** and **Myrna Truehill** said that any parent can visit their child's classroom where they would find out about the process for parents volunteering at the schools.

Congratulations to past-DEMOS Pres. **Harry Scott** and his wife **Monika** for celebrating their **50th wedding anniversary!** Past Treasurer **Elsa Glines** is convalescing at home after successful knee replacement surgery. **Elsa** would love a phone call or perhaps a visit.

RENEW your DEMOS membership Today

Look at your mailing label above

It should say: "Dues paid through Year: 2005"

Family membership: \$25/year

Individual membership: \$15-\$20/year

Student/ Other: \$10/year

Send checks payable to DEMOS CLUB

P.O. Box 56783, Hayward, CA 94545

Membership Director **Al Mendall** reports that the **DEMOS** now have **242 members** who have paid their 2005 dues. 93 other past members need to renew their commitment to Hayward's most active Dem club. Check your mailing label above. We welcome these new members: **Guy Sandoval & Beth Geiger; Leo & Ilene Harrington; and Arshad Ali.**

CLEAN MONEY ELECTIONS UPDATE

In case you cannot attend the November 18th DEMOS meeting, the Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters will provide educational outreach to support the public elections funding bill AB583 (Loni Hancock – Berkeley) to become a California legislative mandate.

Two meetings have been planned to educate members of local Leagues and other community members. One will be in South County on Wednesday, November 30 at noon as a brown bag meeting. Please contact Nancy Van Huffel at (510) 562-4473 for specific location.

The second meeting for the North Alameda County group will be held on Saturday, December 3 at 10 a.m. at Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 2. A speaker from the grassroots organization of CA/Clean Money will present the proposed legislative bill.

The formal hearing on AB583 has been scheduled for the East Bay on January 7, 2006. Community members will have an opportunity to help California clean up the out-of-control money in politics which is compromising our democratic process. Currently the proposed bill is in the Elections Committee awaiting approval of a majority of its members. The bill was introduced in the last legislative session and carried over into the current session.

"The only time the people lose is when they quit."

Cesar Chavez