

## ***October 2004 DEMOS Newsletter***

---

### **President's Message**

It is great to be back in the USA after a hectic September trip to Europe and again to be actively involved in the National Campaign against G.W. Bush. We were all heartened by the focused performance of Senator Kerry in the 9/30 debate. All the political pundits and polls have him in the race for the presidency. It is now up to us to make it happen. The Eden and Fremont Campaign Headquarters urgently need our help with phone banking and precinct walking.

Report from Germany - People I spoke with in Germany had that same look of incredulity and disappointment about the presidential campaign. They asked me the same questions: Why and how did the USA elect George W. Bush in 2000? Why was he leading Kerry in the polls? (which they watched daily on TV)? It was very difficult explaining Florida, and our electoral system, and the Supreme Court, and the American electorate. I concluded that President Bush is very much disdained by the German people. They wondered what was wrong with America to support a man that would take us to the wrong war. When I stated as a Democrat I supported Kerry. It was much easier to discuss the matter. I was also asked how I felt about Chancellor Schroeder, the German leader. I stated that as an opponent of Bush I appreciated his stand opposing the Iraq war, which I thought was done in response to the feelings of the German people. Apparently the reasons for his opposition were more complex.

There seems to be currently a move away from Schroeder's party, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) towards the more conservative parties such as the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as shown in recent state elections. This is more relating to domestic and European Union issues. I felt that Senator John Edwards forced Cheney to show his true colors in their debate. I urge everyone to participate in our local election activities. The whole world is counting on us to get rid of Bush.

---

### **Eden Area United Democratic Headquarters**

550 Via Mercado  
San Lorenzo 94580  
510-276-8222  
fax 510-276-2346

The Eden Area United Democratic Campaign (UDC) Headquarters is up and running but we need help! The Eden Area UDC, which services Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hillcrest Knolls, Cherryland, Ashland and Fairview, is located at 550 Via Mercado in San Lorenzo. We are open Monday- Friday 12:00pm - 9:00pm, Saturdays 10:30am - 4:00pm and Sundays 11:00am - 7:00pm (Opening times during the week may occur earlier if volunteers can cover the headquarters)

How can I help? We need to identify as many Kerry supporters as possible, we do this in two ways, 1. Phone Bank and 2. Precinct Walking. Opportunities to be involved in this effort to "Unseat the Thief," through phonebanking will be scheduled as follows, Mon.-Thur. 5:30pm - 8:45pm and Sundays 2:00pm - 7:00pm. Demos' day to phone bank is Thursday. We have lists of seniors to call during the day, so come in whenever you are able. Precinct walks will occur weekday evenings and on weekends, for more information or if you would like to walk a precinct please contact Shawn Wilson at the headquarters. Once we have identified our supporters through phoning and walking we will then need to begin our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) efforts, which will include phone calls, poll checking and literature dropping. Since our targeted universe is going to be moderate to low voting propensity Democrats, it is imperative that this effort be implemented to the fullest extent. Please sign up for GOTV immediately. It is truly inspiring to register voters in this campaign, as Peter reports on page 4. For instance, on October 2 several teams registered over 300 D's. October 18 is the deadline so lets have people registering every day until then! To wrap this up, let me just stress the need for VOLUNTEERS. This election

and the efforts being carried out locally to let the State of California know that Alameda County is a STRONG Democratic County is very important, but it can not be done alone, we need YOU the volunteer to help us!

---

## **Calendar**

Friday movies at the headquarters (starting at 7:30 pm):

October 22 Outfoxed-Lies, lies and more lies from our TV

Oct. 29-Hunting of the President Right wing targets Clinton

Sunday, October 24, 1 pm Education Forum with former State Sup. of Instruction Delaine Eastin and County School Sup. Sheila Jordan, and local college presidents. Room 600 Chabot College. Sponsored by Assembly candidate Johan Klehs.

Thursday, Oct 21, 6 pm EAUDC Jubilee Dinner honoring retiring Hayward Councilmember Doris Rodriguez. Featured speaker is Senator Joe Dunn of Orange county. Carpenters Hall, Hayward. \$25/30 at door. RSVP to headquarters.

Tuesday, Oct 26 8 pm. Hayward City Council considers plans for traffic improvements (see article on p2).

---

## **Club News**

Our 31st annual Fall Festival was a social and financial success, raising over \$4800. We thank all those members who helped set up, cleanup and who brought all those yummy dishes. Chefs Robb Crowder and Mary Ann Reno deserve high compliments for the pasta. Kevin Dowling kept things on schedule as the auctioneer. And, again, our deep thanks to Gail Steele for the use of her lovely garden. There will be no meeting this month. The next membership meeting will be November 19, and the potluck will be January 7. The membership director reports that that we added 60 new members in the last month. Way to go Demos!

---

## **Decision Soon on Downtown Traffic**

The Hayward City Council will discuss the Working Group's plan for improving traffic flow on Mission/Foothill on Tuesday, October 26, 8 pm. CATS members and friends are asked to turn out to speak and support our spokespeople by wearing red at the City Council chambers.

With the final demise of the notorious Hayward Bypass Freeway , the city has been debating other suggestions for speeding traffic flow and improving downtown. CATS (Citizens for Alternative Traffic Solutions) and its President Audrey LePell are major contributors to the debate. The CATS position was given by Audrey in a letter she read to the Route 238 Working Group (of which she is a member) recently. The Group is made up of Council appointees and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, CSUH and the county. It recommended a plan to the Council which includes a grade separation at the Mission-Jackson-Foothill intersection and widening Foothill between that intersection and City Center Drive by taking 35 feet on the east side, removing several dozen businesses. Audrey said, "CATS has serious doubts as to the wisdom of widening Foothill ..." "CATS questions the figure of [only] \$125,000 loss of sales taxes to the city," if the property is taken. She said, "I personally spoke with eleven managers and/or owners of businesses along Foothill. Eight are completely against the widening project; three are in favor. (Those three are renting their buildings.)"

A representative of the Hayward Unified School District told Audrey that HUSD had not been involved in the discussions and is concerned about Bret Harte [middle school] students crossing Mission/Foothill on their way to school.

Audrey concluded her letter, "It is the conclusion of CATS that it applauds the City of Hayward's efforts to pull back from the original grand scale of the over-widening of Foothill and Mission Boulevards. Instead the city has proposed a reasonable, handsome and safe boulevard for what could be labeled the middle and south roadways of present State Route 238. But within the immediate area of downtown Foothill Blvd. CATS says it should remain as it is with safety and practical modifications. CATS respectfully requests that a loop system be seriously considered by the city."(CATS' "loop" plan is to make Mission from Maddox Rd. to Jackson one way going south, a left turn onto Foothill, and Foothill one way north to Maddox.)

The initial Council reaction to the Working Group's plan indicates that there likely will be a lively discussion on the proposal when it is considered on October 26.

---

Some Republicans in Congress with the blessing of the Bush administration are trying to slip Patriot Act II provisions into the 9/11 panel's bill to improve intelligence gathering and coordination. Patriot Act II itself has been stalled by spreading opposition and resolutions from states, cities and counties. Many Conservatives have also become alarmed over the excesses of the Patriot Act.

On September 2 a federal judge in Detroit threw out the only jury conviction the Justice Department has obtained on a terrorism charge since 9/11. At the time Ashcroft heralded the case as evidence of the success of his anti-terror campaign. But the case collapsed when the flimsy evidence was discredited and the only witness, testifying as part of a plea bargain, has now admitted to lying. Over 5000 foreign nationals have been secretly rounded up and detained, often without being charged or granted access to attorneys or family. Some have been deported on minor visa violations, and others have been released or are still in custody. The Supreme Court has ruled that non citizens are guaranteed timely access to lawyers and a trial. When these Arab or Muslim men were seized and detained Ashcroft held almost daily press conferences boasting of the "war on terror." Now that it has become clear that he has caught exactly zero terrorists there are no press conferences or headlines in the mainstream press. The Nation magazine's headline was Ashcroft: 0 for 5000. What he has done, of course, is to poison his relationship to the Arab and Muslim community, which should logically be our biggest ally in identifying terrorists.

Meanwhile Bush and Cheney always mention how great the Patriot Act is and the need to extend it. Under its provisions a respected Swiss Islamic scholar has been barred from accepting an appointment to the faculty of Notre Dame University. This is reminiscent of the outrages under the Walter-McCarren Act during the cold war. And we're still waiting for the Abu Ghraib investigations to lead to higher ups in the Pentagon or the White House, or for that matter the results of the investigation into the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame, when her husband incurred the ire of the administration by refuting charges that Iraq was buying fuel for a nuclear bomb.

---

#### **An excerpt from an interview with Republican guru Grover Norquist**

The Democratic Party will be forever doomed. If we take control of the legislature and the executive branch, we will reinforce our control of the Judicial Branch to direct it against the Democrats. We will bring about a modest limit of the ability of the people to initiate lawsuits against corporations, which will damage the lawyers who specialize in these cases, which is one of the props of the Democratic Party. We will accelerate the decline of the unions. We will cut funding to groups of public employees, like teachers, who are one of the great sources of Democratic votes. And we will begin to move the Welfare State toward a private system, in pensions and healthcare.

---

#### **Random Thoughts by Peter Hendley**

The hypocrisy and cynicism of the Republicans is just astounding. Can you believe that the Repub House Judiciary Committee has been debating a balanced budget Constitutional Amendment! This while they are passing the 4th corporate tax cut which can only increase the current budget deficit that is now \$422 BILLION and climbing. These are all-time record deficits yet they talk about a balanced budget amendment out of the other side of their mouths. These guys are unbelievable.

This is the same GOP Congress that squandered a \$236 BILLION budget surplus in 2000. Since, the Repubs took over in 2001, overall gov't spending has increased 23%. Defense spending has increased 48%, while non-defense spending has increased 27%. Four tax cuts will cost nearly \$2 TRILLION !!! over the next 10 years. Borrow and Spend accounting. The Repubs are very happy to max out our children's and grandchildren's credit cards.

Some Republicans are appalled at their party's hypocrisy. Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz) said, " We in Congress ought to be embarrassed by what has happened. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves." Enough said.

---

### **More Random Thoughts...**

...The National Priorities Project estimates that California has paid \$19.5 BILLION for the cost of war in Iraq. Hmmm...isn't that about the amount of the 30 year bonds Gov. Arnold got us to vote for to balance the state budget???

...By the way, Hayward's share is at least \$60,000,000. Can anyone think of a better way Hayward could have spent that.

...Our condolences go out to DEMOS member Bill Weller who's wife Ann passed away recently. Also, we wish a speedy recovery to Grant Peterson who recently had triple bypass surgery. It's soooo Clintonesque Grant.

...Debate trivia: The website your Dictionary.com analyzed the Bush/Gore 2000 debates using factors including grammar, word choice, and sentence length. At the "town meeting" debate where the candidates responded to questions from an audience, Bush answered at a low sixth grade level, while Gore spoke at a high seventh grade level. Oh, and the audience's questions were at the 9th grade level.

...Casino trivia: Every year Americans lose as much money on legal gambling as they spend on movies, amusement parks, spectator sports and video games combined. The Agua Caliente Indians run casinos near Palm Springs. They pay their workers less than \$8/hour and now they want to takeaway workers' health care benefits. At the same time, they are paying \$50 million to pass Prop. 70.

...While we are easily electing Johan Klehs to the 18th Assembly seat vacated by Ellen Corbett, Repub Steve Poizner has spent \$3.3 million of his own money to win the 21st Assembly seat in the West Bay. Only with public financing of campaigns will we stop the increasing number of multi-millionaires who are buying political office.

...There is no early voting at city halls this election. The only place with early voting is at the Registrar of Voters office at the Oakland County Court House, 1225 Fallon St. Vote there Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm.

...Think you have problems about a paper trail for your computerized vote? Well active duty soldiers can vote by email in Missouri, North Dakota and Utah. The soldier sends an email vote to the Pentagon. The Pentagon then faxes that ballot to local election officials. Do you see any chances for vote fraud in this wacko arrangement?

...For those of you with too much time on your hands, Campaign Radar 2004 tracks over 2 million blogs everyday at <http://politics.blogpulse.com>

...America elects few women to Congress. It is not just countries like Sweden, New Zealand and Argentina that elect twice the percentage of women. Among the 60-plus nations that elect a higher proportion of women than we do are Mozambique, Namibia and Botswana.

---

**DEMS ARE REGISTERING VOTERS NATIONWIDE by Peter Hendley**

People have woken up! Everywhere in this great land people are registering to vote in record numbers. Right On! A SF Chronicle story reports, "They're coming in in buckets," said Pamela Swafford, an elections worker in Cincinnati, Ohio where registrations are up more than twice the numbers of 2000. I have to believe this is good for Kerry, and the rest of the Democratic ticket. All reports are that Democratic registrations are 5X, or 7X or 10X Republican registrations.

Our own Eden Area United Democratic Campaign (EAUDC) is racking up the numbers too. Set up an ironing board at Target or Wal-Mart, and soon you'll have people lined up to register. And the best thing is that many young people are registering for the first time. For example, Jim Forsyth and I set up at Target this past Saturday around 11 am. Four hours later we returned to the EAUDC with 50 registration forms (40 Dems, 3 Repubs, 1 Libertarian, and 6 independents). The next day I went back and got 40 more, including 10 first time Dem registrants. Try it cause it will make you feel good. Many people stopped to say, "Thank you for what you're doing." How often does that happen when you're campaigning! We have until Oct. 18 to register folks. So come on down to the EAUDC next weekend and spend a few hours registering people. I guarantee it will make you feel better about the coming election.