

September 2004 DEMOS Newsletter

Letter from the President Harry Scott

The Hayward Demos Democratic Club Executive Board urges Hayward voters to reject the drive recently initiated to recall Mayor Roberta Cooper. We conclude that this action is not in the best interests of Hayward. Mayor Cooper has served the Hayward honorably as a member of the City Council for 16 years, 10 years of which have been as mayor. In recognition of her contributions to the city, Hayward citizens voted for her in five elections. Hayward residents have benefited from her work.

Prior to her election to the city council in 1988, she had rendered valuable service as a member of city commissions. Her current term of office will expire at the next scheduled city election in March 2006. At the rate the recall group is collecting signatures, a special election would have to be conducted, which could be scheduled no sooner than April 2005. The cost of this special election is estimated at \$120,000 by the city clerk. Therefore, in this time of budget crisis, it would place a financial burden on the city. Is it worth the cost and disruption to this city to try to replace the mayor who has only 11 months left on her current term of office? We think not!

Attempting to recall honest officials working for the benefit of the community and who have committed no malfeasance in office usurps the democratic process. As a 37-year resident of the Hayward area, I have personally observed tremendous progress in Hayward in the past 10 years under Mayor Cooper's leadership. The City Council has worked hard to rejuvenate the downtown area, fighting off the decay that set in as a result of competition from the satellite shopping centers. The council has supported the principle of a living wage for all Hayward residents. Furthermore it has adopted a policy of opposing racism and discrimination. Therefore Hayward residents must oppose any unnecessary, costly and spurious recall election.

September Meeting: Friday, September 24, 7 pm

Eden Area Democratic Headquarters
550 Via Mercado, San Lorenzo

The League of Women Voters will review the statewide ballot propositions. We will also have speakers on several of the most controversial, including Prop 64, the corporate attempt to squelch legal redress for consumer fraud, Prop 66, the "three strikes" reform, and Prop 71, funding for stem cell research. For info on the other propositions see the July Newsletter or go to www.ss.ca.gov/elections.

CLUB NEWS

Club News: President Harry Scott's letter indicating our unanimous opposition to the Hayward recall appeared in the Daily Review. (see letter on this page). The Alameda Democratic Central Committee also voted unanimously to oppose the recall. The Executive Board has decided, pending membership approval, to have 10,000 slate cards printed for the fall election. Termed out Assemblymember Ellen Corbett will address the membership in November. We salute her on her many years of dedicated service to residents of the 18th A.D. Clubmembers voted YES on prop 72 and the club donated \$100 to the campaign. Councilmember Bill Quirk made the presentation. We have DVD and VHS copies of Outfoxed, the Fox News expose, if any members wish to borrow it.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Saturday, Sept 18 2PM** Our Sick Healthcare System, discussion of healthcare issues. San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande. Sponsor- Gray Panthers of S. Alameda Co.
- **Saturday, Sept 18 6PM** Hayward Gay Pride Celebration, B st, Hayward. Demos & GLOBE will have a voter info table.
- **Saturday, Sept 26 12:30PM** League of Women Voters' presentation on Prop 72. Free Lunch. Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church, 27287 Patrick Ave., Hayward
- **Thursday Sept 30 7 PM** Watch the Presidential debate at headquarters.
- **October 1** Unity Dinner Oakland. Call Robin at 635-3121.
- **Fridays starting Sept 17 7 pm** (except Sept 24 and Oct 1) there will be video showings at headquarters.
 Sept 17: Unprecedented (about the 2000 election)
 Oct 8: Fahrenheit 9/11
 Oct 15: Uncovered (about the Iraq war)
 Oct. 22: Outfoxed

STOP RETALIATORY DEPORTATIONS

Many of us were troubled by the unjust deportation of the Cuevas family of Union City, who had lived here for almost 20 years and were good neighbors and active members of the community. Two hundred organizations and 3000 petition signers supported them, but neither California Senator would sponsor a bill to let them stay and they were put on a plane for the Phillipines over a month ago.

What has not been widely reported is that another 89 Filipinos were deported several weeks later. In fact, Phillipine officials say that an estimated 300,000 Filipino immigrants are targeted for deportation by the Bush administration. Many are suggesting that these deportations are in retaliation for the Phillipine troop withdrawal from Iraq, which led to the release of hostage Angelo de la Cruz.

"Since 9/11," the Cuevas family support committee says, "the U.S. government has indiscriminately criminalized and demonized all immigrants, regardless of national origin. Immigrants have been scapegoated in the name of national security in an attempt to draw attention away from the U.S.'s international isolation in its global war on terror and the government's inability to effectively deal with the economic recession at home."

FOCUS (Filipino Community Support), a community-based organization in San Jose, states, "We have to continue fighting against the unjust deportations of our community members. Our experience in the Cuevas case proves that we need to continue to build our collective power in order to demand for the immigration reforms we deserve. We can draw inspiration from the struggle to free Angelo de la Cruz in Iraq. 'People Power' can work. Angelo was not freed because of the Phillipine government's humanitarianism; he was freed because the Filipino people rose up and pressured the government to intervene in his behalf."

FOCUS may be reached at:

525 W. Alma Ave.
 San Jose, CA 95125
 408-297- 1977
focus@focusnow.org

National Poverty

The federal poverty line for a family of 3 is \$15,260/year. The Oakland-based National Economic Development and Law Center says this figure is "almost meaningless here." The Center has developed its own "self-sufficiency standard" --more than three times higher-- of \$56,932/year or \$26.96/hr for a full time worker.

Needless to say, very few, if any, workers in the service economy, where all the jobs are now, make anywhere near this. In other words, you'd need three \$9/hr. full time jobs to even come close to a decent standard of living.

NYTimes columnist Bob Herbert, whom we quote a lot, reports that a New York City study of employment conditions found that nearly one of every two Black men between 16 and 64 in the City was not working last year. He then cited an article in the Wall Street Journal indicating that Latino workers are taking a "disproportionate" share of the new jobs, especially in the construction and service industries. The WSJ article went on to say, "typical of them is Jorge Alberto, a 22-year old Guatemalan who doesn't speak English, didn't complete high school and had never held a job--until he slipped across the border from Mexico last year. In Los Angeles, 'I found a job almost immediately,' he says, pushing a cart through the muddy lot where he and five other Hispanic men are laying the foundation of a house."

They haven't yet found a way to offshore building a house, but they're working on it. The close relationship between the Bush family and the Saudi dictatorship has received very little attention in the media, but it should. Fahrenheit 9/11 puts the link front and center.

Now former Florida Senator and Presidential candidate Bob Graham who was Chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee from June 2001 through the buildup to the Iraq war, and who also oversaw the 9/11 investigation in Congress, has written a book, [Intelligence Matters](#), that reveals startling facts which Bush has tried to suppress.

The staff of Graham's inquiry found that two men in the San Diego area who worked directly for a Saudi government agency were paid a monthly allowance which suddenly increased to \$3700 in March 2000 after they helped two of the September 11th hijackers get settled in San Diego and begin pilot training. "When the staff tried to conduct interviews in that investigation...they were blocked by the FBI and the administration." (Quote from Graham, as reported in the Miami Herald review.)

Graham also says that the administration and the CIA insisted that details of the Saudi support network for the hijackers be left out of the final report. "It was as if the President's loyalty lay more with Saudi Arabia than with Americans' safety," Graham writes. Graham also reveals that General Tommy Franks told him in February 2002, four months after the invasion of Afghanistan, that many important resources (including Predator Drone aircraft crucial to the search for bin Laden) were being shifted to prepare for the war against Iraq. Franks said, "Senator, we are not engaged in a war in Afghanistan...military and intelligence personnel are being redeployed to prepare for an action in Iraq." Senator Graham says that "Bush had 'an unforgivable level of intellectual and even commonsense--indifference' toward analyzing the comparative threats posed by Iraq and Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

Don't look for any of this on Fox News. Dennis Paull, who posted this article on the CDC chat line (cdc-chat@yahoogroups.com), says, "it is not clear what effect this will have on the campaign. Will the media report this? Are they still afraid of a lack of access to the president if they tell the public what really happened?" What is clear, however, is the hue and cry and manufactured outrage if Rove and his media friends could link this to Kerry. Dennis says there is another new book by researcher Michael Ruppert which traces the Saudi-9/11 connection. It also calls to mind the 129 Saudis who were whisked out of the country post 9/11.

Cuba, alone among the nations of the Caribbean, has largely escaped the ravages of HIV/AIDS. In contrast to its neighbors, who have the second highest infection rate, after sub-Saharan Africa, Cuba has an 0.07 rate, one of the lowest in the world. And while drug companies in the U.S. drive a hard bargain in selling third world countries effective anti-retroviral drugs, Cuba is providing its drugs to Caribbean countries at affordable, below market prices.

Cuban doctors, literacy and sanitation workers serve throughout the world among the poor. Cuba moved early and decisively to control the spread of HIV/AIDS and to educate AIDS patients and the population about treatment and the dangers of transmitting the disease. The advanced Cuban biotech industry had by 2001 developed on its own five anti retroviral drugs.

The editors of the Monthly Review, a socialist magazine, conclude that "Cuba's willingness to help other poor countries combat the AIDS pandemic is an important example of international solidarity, not domination of other countries.

Random Thoughts by Peter Hendley

...The Cost of the Iraq War is now about \$1,650. per U. S. household with the meter running at about \$4 to 5 billion a month (or \$44 per household/month). If families got billed for this, do you think their attitudes about this war would change? Do you think their attitudes about more tax cuts for the rich would change?

...Our Global Empire consists of 725 military bases in 130 nations (out of 191 nations recognized by the UN). Can anyone name 130 nations? This is costing you and I over \$400 billion a year. Or rather our children. Let's try peace. It is a lot cheaper!

...Good News from Arizona: The Arizona Supreme Court ruled that the initiative to repeal Arizona's public financing of elections should be thrown off the November ballot. Clean elections have been working in Arizona with politicians no longer taking large donations from fat-cats.

Now in Arizona, public funds are given to qualifying candidates for statewide and legislative offices. Candidates qualify by collecting a prescribed number of support signatures and \$5 qualifying contributions. All signers and contributors must live in and be registered to vote in the candidate's district. (Note: Lots of \$\$ in Hayward City elections come from outside the city.) Once qualified, fundraising is prohibited and participating candidates get their campaign dollars from the state's Citizens Clean Elections Fund.

Public financing is working in Arizona. In 2002, turnout increased 27% in the primary and 23% in the general election over 1998 levels. There is increased voter choice since there was a 13% increase in the number of candidates. The number of minority candidates in 2002 was triple the number in 1998. There was a 110% increase in contested Senate races. In 1998, 79% of all races were decided by money—the candidates with the most money won. In 2002, only 2% of all races showed a money imbalance. The number of political donations tripled thanks to Clean Elections, from 30,000 private donations in 1998 to more than 90,000 \$5 qualifying contributions in 2002. Clean Elections candidates won seven out of nine statewide offices, including Governor. 27 out of 60 members of the Arizona House of Reps were elected via Clean money. Five state Senators were elected via Clean \$\$\$. So 41% of all state offices are now held by Clean Elections candidates.

Is a NATIONAL SALES TAX Coming in a Bush 2nd Term? By Peter Hendley

The House Republicans have introduced H.R 25, a bill to replace all personal and corporate income taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, and estate taxes with a national retail sales tax. This new sales tax would cover a lot more things such as health care, home purchases, rent, church services, free care at veterans hospitals, free checking accounts, and other services. When asked about this at a campaign forum in Florida, Pres. Bush said, " You know, I'm not exactly sure how big the national sales is going to have to be, but it's the kind of interesting idea that we ought to explore seriously."

The H.R. 25 sales tax rate would be 30 PERCENT! That is, if you bought something for \$100, you would pay another \$30 in national sales tax (in addition to our Calif. sales tax). But it actually would be a lot more because the Republicans are fudging their numbers to hide how bad it would be. It would actually be about 50%, or \$100 plus \$50 sales tax.

ELECTION THOUGHTS
by Craig Williamson

The right wing direct mail wiz Richard Vigeirre was on CPAN last week and was asked by the host, where the 'right' and 'left' were using certain technologies. His assessment was that the 'right' got a big jump on the 'left' with direct mail, and talk radio. They also have many more talking heads on cable network political shows, with only mild liberalism in the form of Chris Mathews permitted. Though Mathew's voice isn't mild he's a hard core moderate. According to Mr. Vigeirre, one area where the 'left' seems to have a big jump is in the area of documentaries. Maybe as a gesture of non-partisanship Michael Moore could lend his talents to a joint documentary project about say, Abu Gharab prison.

The media coverage of the protests at the convention was due partly to the fact that they did such a poor job on the Iraqi war coverage and didn't want people to get the feeling that having the biggest protest at a National Political Convention in the history of our country was a 'story'. With all those people pounding the streets and Bush getting bounce from the convention, the censorship might be the biggest crime so far of the election season.

Jim Hightower's favorite bumper sticker is, "Where am I going, and what am I doing in this hand basket?"

Hayward City Council Campaign Statements

Summary Chart of
2004 Hayward City Council Candidates' Campaign Statements (CA Forms 460)

Filed by the Candidates through June 30, 2004

Candidate	2003 Contributions	2004 Contributions	Loans	2003 Spending	2004 Spending	Total Spending	Votes	\$ per Vote	Ending Balance	Debt
Edward Bogue	\$1,250	\$8,360.	\$0	\$878	\$5,920.	\$6,798.	2,037	\$3.34	\$2,987.	\$175.
Gary Craig	\$0	\$2,609.	\$10,297.	\$0	\$12,906.	\$12,906.	4,163	\$3.10	\$0	\$0
Barbara Halliday	\$14,226.	\$11,697.	\$0	\$4,504.	\$18,789.	\$23,293.	7,749	\$3.01	\$2,287.	\$0
Olden Henson	\$525.	\$37,441.	\$0	\$2,399.	\$41,065.	\$43,464.	5,675	\$7.54	\$4,486.	\$0
Joe Hilson	\$126.	\$3,080.	\$59,552.	\$4,555.	\$20,731.	\$25,286.	4,310	\$5.87	\$2,349.	\$0
Robert Lopez	\$5,129.	\$3,299.	\$0	\$1,401.	\$7,573.	\$8,974.	5,490	\$1.63	\$5.	\$0
L. Jason Moreno	\$0	\$0	\$2,222.	\$0	\$947	\$947	2,450	\$0.39	\$0	\$0
Bill Quirk	\$16,040.	\$3,890.	\$16,000.	\$21,417.	\$24,982.	\$46,399.	5,936	\$7.82	\$870	?
Bill Ward	\$1,000.	\$29,619.	\$0	\$687.	\$24,539.	\$25,226.	7,760	\$3.25	\$19,276.	\$0
Francisco Zermeno	\$10,267.	\$20,031.	\$500.	\$7,016.	\$20,535.	\$27,551.	4,119	\$6.68	\$4,832.	\$0

Note: Three candidates (Barbara Heringer-Swarr, Francisco Abrantes, and Cora Baker) promised to spend less than \$1,000 total so they did not have to file any statements and they are not on this chart.

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL ELECTION CONTINUED

by Peter Hendley

The final campaign spending statements for the March 2004 Hayward City Council election were turned in just after June 30th. I have tried to summarize the amounts in the chart above. This was the first election using the new City Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance that all candidates agreed to follow. All candidates agreed to spend less than \$50,000. Therefore they could accept individual contributions of up to \$1,000. By in large, the election rules were followed by the candidates and contributors. Here are some observations.

Bill Ward, incumbent, and Barbara Halliday, challenger, won handily, and they only spent about \$25,000. Both obviously have broad support in Hayward. They show that you don't have to spend lots of money to get elected. Whereas, Olden Henson, incumbent, and Bill Quirk, challenger, spent well over \$40,000 to just beat out Robert Lopez for the last two seats. Did Henson and Quirk need to spend so much? Three challengers were able to raise lots of money: Zermeno about \$30,000, Halliday about \$26,000, and Quirk about \$20,000.

In this election, the voters rejected one incumbent, Joe Hilson, and nearly voted out another, Henson. Lopez surprised me with his strong showing. Lopez had no major endorsements, only spent \$8,974 and came close to defeating an incumbent, Henson, who spent \$43,464. Lopez did not go to the candidates' nights held throughout the community. If he had gone to them, would he have gotten more votes or fewer? I assume Lopez is pleased with his showing, and he'll run again in 2006.

In all his years on Council, Joe Hilson never built up a base of supporters. He had no volunteers and amazingly paid for his campaigns out of his own pocket, racking up \$59,552 in loans from himself. Now he's never going to get paid back, but he probably doesn't care about the money so much as losing the job he loved so much. Quirk and Craig are following Joe by loaning themselves \$\$thousands.

I think Francisco Zermeno probably won't run again. He lost badly, and the many large donors to his campaign will probably decide to back someone else next time. Clearly the Latino community did not rally to Francisco's side, and I think the first fluent Spanish speaking candidate to win will be someone else. Ed Bogue, too, may not run again since he came in next to last. I give Ed credit though for being plain spoken during the campaign. He didn't always say what his audience wanted to hear, but Ed had the courage to say it anyway. It would be nice to think that Jason Moreno and Francisco Abrantes won't run again, but getting trounced doesn't bother them.

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES:

Independent expenditures are made by groups, on their own, without coordinating directly with the candidates. The BIG 3 in Hayward elections are: The Hayward Chamber of Commerce, the Hayward Fire Fighters PAC, and the Hayward Police Officers' PAC. Getting their endorsement can mean big bucks helping your candidacy. However, this election shows that the blessing of these groups doesn't make you an automatic winner. For example, the Chamber spent \$10,000 to elect Ward, Henson, Quirk, and Zermeno but only the first 3 won. The Fire Fighters (\$17,668) and Police Officers (\$12,300) spent about \$30,000 to elect Ward, Halliday, Henson, and Hilson. All that money didn't save Hilson. I think the big impact these unions really have is walking precincts. They walk more precincts than any other group. Having them knocking on doors is great since other groups don't walk. The Chamber sent out a 20,000 piece mailing, but I don't think it has nearly the impact of those fire fighters and police officers knocking on doors in every Hayward precinct.

HOW DID HAYWARD'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE ORDINANCE DO?

No one spent over the \$50,000 cap, although Bill Quirk came close. Money didn't decide the outcome. The top vote getters only spent about \$25,000, and Lopez only spent about \$9,000. Perhaps the Council should lower the max to \$40,000 for the next election. No one was supposed to give more than \$1,000 to a candidate. Unfortunately, at least a couple of developers violated this part of the ordinance. The Blue Rock developer in the hills and Duc Housing out on

shoreline both gave more than \$1,000 to their candidates. They at least violated the spirit of the ordinance by skirting the law. Congratulations to Barbara Halliday who returned the extra check. It is very disappointing that Bill Ward and Olden Henson, who voted for the \$1,000 cap, kept the extra checks. Clearly, Ward didn't need the money. Henson, an incumbent, should have enough confidence in his council record to follow the ordinance. Zermeno and Quirk probably felt the need to keep the extra checks because they were challengers fighting for a seat. It just goes to show that \$1,000 checks have a way of causing decent candidates to stray from the correct path. The Council needs to tighten up the ordinance so that everyone follows the rules. Our present ordinance is very simple. It only has two parts: a \$50,000 spending limit, and a \$1,000 maximum contribution limit. These are very generous limits, larger than they should be for a city our size. Our council members are honest, decent hard working politicians. They should obey the \$1,000 rule they made. We expect our politicians to follow the spirit as well as the letter of our city ordinances. Don't keep the extra money.