



THE DEMOCRATIC TIMES

A Publication of the Democratic Club of Southwest Riverside County

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September 2010

Having a say

On August 2 members were given the opportunity to get on their soapboxes and speak up about things that bothered them, dealing with our local hospital situation, off-shore oil drilling and deregulation (not just a Republican phenomena – we should remember that the demise of Glass-Steagall Banking Act of 1933, leading to the Wall Street meltdown, was signed off by Bill Clinton).

Hey, getting things “off your chest” may feel good, but what does it accomplish? Unless we direct our slings and arrows at decision makers, not much. And how can we do this?

The internet is a great for many things, including opportunities to blow off steam. Unfortunately this involves subscribing to many causes that may seem like just so much spam, but is that really too great a price to make your voice heard?

I’m talking about websites such as the Bold Progressives (boldprogressives.org), which is constantly putting up petitions and letters to which you can add your name with the click of a mouse.

Other groups include the League of Conservation Voters (www.lcv.org – “Get involved”), the Environmental Defense Fund (www.edf.org – “What you can do”), Consumers’ Union (www.consumersunion.org – “Take action”), Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org/action), Union of Concerned Scientists (www.ucsusa.org – “Get involved”) and so on, I’m sure you can think of many more. Once signed up you will get e-mails which you can click through to the applicable web site, from which you can send a letter to our Senators (www.senate.gov), your Representative (www.house.gov), the President (www.whitehouse.gov) or a host of other high muckity-mucks (Goggle works wonders!).

Another opportunity is when you receive a request for a donation accompanied by a “petition” to be

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www.democratswiverside.com

Candidates and Props

Much has been written about the upstream candidates in the election to come. We know about the bazillions of dollars spent by candidates trying to buy the election; we also know about the attempt by our own party candidates to counter the influence of this wealth with grass-roots campaigns and next-to-nothing budgets. You, our club members, have been right there in the trenches with the candidates.

There are a handful of other candidates we need to help, too. Martha Bridges, for instance, is running for city council in Wildomar. She will certainly need our support in this race, and I encourage *everybody* in our club to consider how they can help her win. Door-knocking, telephoning, helping get out mailers, and getting people to the polls—this is what we must do in order to get her in office. Please consider what you are able to do, give us a call at Democratic Headquarters, and we will put you to work right away.

Consider, too, the importance of the many Propositions we face in this election, and be prepared in advance with a list of these propositions, and the California Democratic Party’s position on each (shown below.) I know that on many of these Props you will vote your own mind, but I *strongly* urge you to support the Party’s position. For myself, I felt that the Party’s

Continued, CANDIDATES, Page 3

Fox News plugs the whistle

After the recent news distortion involving Shirley Sherrod, I began researching why it is that such misleading distortion is allowed. This is what my Internet research tells me.

A Florida landmark court decision was handed down by the Florida 2nd District Appellate Court on Feb. 14, 2003. This ruling silenced a whistle blowing news reporter. The case was between a Fox TV station and a Fox reporter, Jane Aker. The name of the case is New World Communications of Tampa. Inc. d/b/a WTV- TV v. Jane Aker.

Ms Aker sued the station seeking whistle blower protection after being fired. The Fox station fired her because she refused to keep quiet a story that she and her husband had developed for Fox news. When she

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Blood on our Hands

I am reading *Blood on our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq* by Nicolas J.S. Davies. It is about our criminal misadventure in Iraq. He makes an interesting distinction between power and authority. By way of historical illustration he points out that Napoleon easily defeated the Spanish army, installed his brother as governor and left for further conquests to the east. The defeated Spanish soldiers melded back the public and began a resistance movement by 'guerillas' from which our current use of that term is derived. The resistance movement was quite effective and tied up 120,000 of Napoleon's troops when he invaded Russia, thereby contributing substantially to his defeat in that effort.

The point of this historical illustration is that Napoleon had the power in Spain, but the resistance had the authority. Power extends no further than a soldier's gun. Authority is bestowed by the people. The big misunderstanding, aside from the moral repugnance, of the American invasion of Iraq was that we confused power with authority. We trashed its infrastructure, we promised to rebuild it and demonstrated our indifference to establishing authority by breaking that promise. We trashed much of their ancient historical artifacts with an ill-disguised indifference. All of this and more contributed to our current lack of authority in Iraq and the Middle East in general.

This all began with our increasing disregard for international law under both Republican Party and the Democratic Leadership Council's version of the Democratic party. As an illustration Davies quotes the Clinton administration as follows, "*When the interests at stake are vital... we should do whatever it takes to defend them, including, when necessary, the unilateral use of military power. U.S. vital national interests include, but are not limited to ... preventing the emergence of a hostile regional coalition ... (and) ensuring uninhibited access to key markets, energy supplies and strategic resources.*"

This, of course, flatly contradicts what we pushed for in the establishment of the United Nations. These are exactly the kind of reasons countries have gone to war and these are exactly why the UN was established, to substitute arbitration under the rule of international law for the human disaster of war.

If the United States is to remain globally effective,

it must be globally respected. It is not now and will not be until it changes its ways and recognizes the difference between power and authority.

—Bob Newhard

"This Was Not Bush's Recession" but was a "result of Democrat economic policies" -- Senator Jim DeMint (R-OK), failing to note that Bush had the "worst track record for job creation" of any modern president, anemic income growth, and increased poverty.



Thank you, thank you, thank you

As office manager I want to give my personal appreciation for all the generous contributions to our Headquarters' needs, Every time we receive a donation, our club saves precious funds.

I also want to thank our volunteers, and especially Gail Ferrel, Suji Fox and Ann Weston for the work they've been doing to schedule everyone.

Please continue to donate, as our wish list grows every week. Here are some of the current items:

- large black heavy trash bags
- letter size manila folders
- labeler
- staplers
- first aid kit
- computer paper
- snacks for volunteers (including soda and water)
- a small couch, clean, no tears or stains, old is ok, as long as it is sturdy
- beer – and wine – any kind (you need to unwind!)

The last item is for the mixers we plan to have from time to time; the first one was held on August 14. But you don't have to wait until a mixer to stop by! You are welcome to visit anytime we are open, Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. The telephone is 951-239-4700.

—Shirley Walton

Meg releases ad in Spanish, because of how sympathetic she is to immigrants

By Juli Weiner

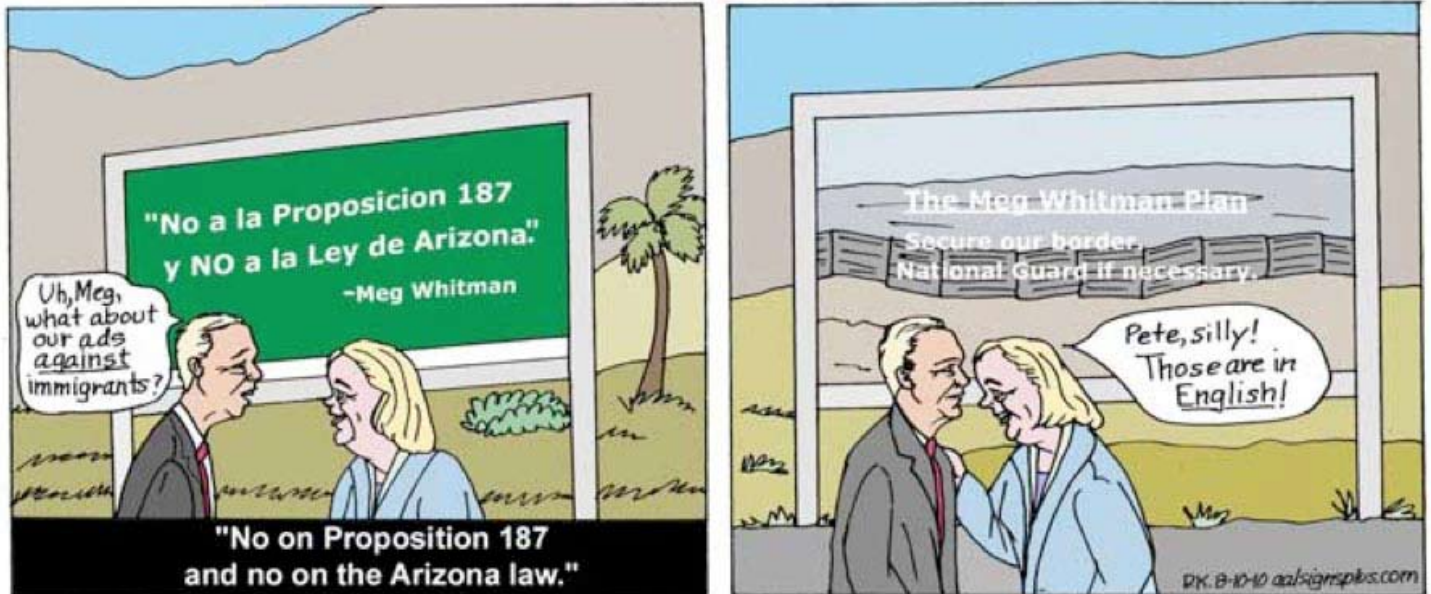
Let's compare California gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman's pre- and post-primary ads. Exhibit A, pre-primary: Whitman runs a radio ad in which she enlists former California governor Pete Wilson to say, "I know how important it is to stop illegal immigration, and I know Meg Whitman. Meg will be tough as nails on illegal immigration." This statement was a response to Whitman's opponent's criticisms of her opposition to the Arizona immigration law.

Exhibit B, post-primary (see above). Why, look how many Latinos she is talking to! Whitman is now running Spanish-language advertisements, the audio of which "is running during Thursday's [Mexico vs. France] World Cup broadcast on Spanish-language radio," reports The Los Angeles Times. Politico has tracked down a Spanish newspaper, which translates the voiceover as saying that Whitman "respects our community" and providing several examples that speak to this assertion. The "Latinos" subgenre of Whitman's campaign Web site makes similar claims.

Perhaps the state's new primary rule—in which anyone can vote for any candidate—will cut down on such erratic kowtowing.

[www.vanityfair.com/online/daily, June 17, 2010]

Meg's PC Ads



Cartoon courtesy of Dorothy Kalaveras at aalsignsplus.com. These are actual Meg Whitman ads!

CANDIDATES, From page 1

position on Props 20 and 27 was wrong—I intended to “vote my conscience.” After further analysis, however, I agree with the Democratic Party and concur now with the platform on each of these Propositions.

- Prop 19: Neutral** **Prop 20: No**
- Prop 21: Yes** **Prop 22: No**
- Prop 23: No** **Prop 24: Yes**
- Prop 25: Yes** **Prop 26: No**
- Prop 27: Yes**

Proposition 19 proved to be too difficult for endorsement at the Party level; personally, I oppose the legalization of marijuana, but understand and even agree with many of the reasons given for legalizing it. Still, I cannot bring myself to support the Prop and

encourage you to vote your conscience.

Please volunteer at our Campaign Headquarters where you can help out all of our Democratic Candidates, four of whom are residents of this corner of Riverside County. We have had a wonderful first month of activities, and in order to roll into November like a tidal wave. You can help make this a reality. Call (951) 239-4700 and find out more about how you can help. Volunteers are needed for all kinds of activities, today!

—Paul Clay

REMEMBER THE MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010
Liberty Quarry update

Calendar of Events

- Sep 3 (Fri)** 6:30 PM: Headquarters mixer for labor. Come on All club members invited. 40250 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd, Suite 104. Come on down and meet the candidates.
- Sep 6 (Mon)** 7:00 PM: DCSRC meeting at the Casa Jimenez, 40535 California Oaks, Murrieta, opposite Ralphs. Come early and enjoy good friends and good food. *Speaker: Fred Bartz, on Quarry update.*
- Sep 24 (Fri)** 5:00 PM: Member mixer at Democratic Headquarters. All club members invited. 40250 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd, Suite 104.
- Oct 1 (Fri)** Katz fot Congress Golf Tournament at Temecula Creek Inn. For more information, contact Megan Elliott, 425-238-1229.
- Oct 4 (Mon)** 7:00 PM: DCSRC meeting at the Casa Jimenez, 40535 California Oaks, Murrieta, opposite Ralphs. Come early and enjoy good friends and good food. *November ballot initiatives.*

For a complete list of Democrats' events in Riverside County, visit the RCDCC web site at <http://www.riversidecountydemocrats.org>.

Need more information?

Please call one of the following:

Nancy Peters, Sun City, at (951) 679-2497

Paul Clay, Murrieta, at (951) 600-2521

Nick Shestople, Temecula, at (951) 303-3107

You may also visit our web site at

<http://www.democratswiverside.com>

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NOW! RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ON-LINE!

Go to the club's website, www.democratswiverside.com, and then click on "To pay for club membership" on the left side of the page. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover.

REMEMBER THE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2010

Casa Jimenez Mexican Restaurant

40535 California Oaks Rd, Murrieta

Liberty Quarry update

SAY, From page 1

signed and returned with the donation. Ok, you don't feel like donating, so do you just throw away the form as a piece of trash? Not me; if I think it's worthwhile, I'll type it into my computer and then go to appropriate web site and send it along to whomever – Senator, Representative, President, Cabinet member, Agency chief, etc. By going to the EPA website, I even found the email address for Administrator Lisa Jackson and sent a blast in her direction.

By the way, when was the last time you wrote a letter to one or our local newspapers? Or the mayor or city council? And why not contribute an opinion piece to the *Democratic Times* (PLEASE!)?

—Nick Shestople

FOX, From page 1

and her husband were hired they were told to find a story. They found a story regarding the use of synthetic bovine growth hormone (BGH) in Florida cattle.

Scientific research indicated that the hormone could add possible health risks to milk drinkers about which Monsanto, its producer, did not want the public to know. Fox decided to kill the story rather than risk profits by losing advertising from a huge firm. Ms Aker was told to either modify the story with statements she knew were false or drop the story and never tell anyone.

She refused to modify the truth or to keep quiet, so she was fired. She then sued on grounds that she was fired for blowing the whistle. In the first court she was awarded a \$425,000 settlement on Aug. 18, 2000, but the ruling was overturned on appeal. She had claimed that the FCC policy requiring the media to accurately report the news applied to her story. She expected Fox to report news accurately.

The reason for the appeals court's ruling explains a good deal: it ruled that she was not a whistle blower and that Fox was protected because the FCC's policy was only that—a policy. It did not stand as a rule or a law because the Florida Legislature had decreed that the state court must have a rule or law on which to base its position in such cases.

So, until there are some teeth added to the FCC policy, as members of the public we are very likely not protected against news distortions coming from any state, because we cannot trust that the FCC policy is administered to protect the public. We must somehow learn to protect ourselves by seeking full and true facts on accusations and stories in the news.

The link to the appeal court ruling is <http://www.foxbghsuit.com/090201amicusbrief.pdf>. The link <http://www.foxbghsuit.com> is a site devoted to the case.

—Doug Dye