


DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



Newsletter April 2011

General Meeting

Thursday April 7, 2011
6:30 for networking and snacks, 7:00pm meeting start
Newly Elected Sheriff Geoff Dean
will be our guest speaker
Orchid Building, UFCW Hall
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo
Exit at the Camarillo Springs Rd. exit from the 101

Letters to the Editor

Writing letters is a great way to vent your support and frustration regarding the current events of the day. Please continue to write letters and submit them to the newsletter editor for printing here. Not all the of the letters get published by the main stream publishers, but someone reads them and if you can change one mind, then it is worth every word!

Letters to the LA Times (2-23-11)
Busting the unions

Re "Busting the unions" (February 23, 2011)

Union busting is exactly what's going on with the Republican strategists, but there is one factor that Tim Rutten's admirable article didn't touch on. The current Supreme Court found that unions have equal power to corporate persons in their Citizen United ruling, to use money as free speech. Rutten points out "a mere 12.4% of all American workers belonged to a union in 2010." If the unions are busted and eliminated and have no free speech, the United States becomes a plutocracy with corporate rule owning free speech.

Jerry Drucker

Letter to the LA Times (3-1-11)

In Wisconsin, Flinging Blame and Citing Deadlines (February 28, 2011)

When a power mad Republican Governor exposes his real intent to destroy unions, in collaboration with other Republican Governors, it should be clear to all Americans that the GOP is plotting to utilize the Citizens United ruling by a partisan Supreme Court. Since Big Oil, Wall Street, Big Banks, and Big Corporations can now buy elections without revealing amounts given to Republicans and the other hand, Unions, now representing only about 12.4% of all American workers can be busted and will have no equal free speech money, the Democratic Party will die away.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS was the GOP cry. If the Republican budget passes, it will cause a job loss of at least 700,000. Let's face it, the Republicans openly hate government and are primarily responsible for the mess we're in today. If the Corporations' who pay no taxes, along with the wealthy 2% who don't pay their fair share, we would have very small fiscal problems.

Jerry Drucker

Letter to US Daily News (published)

GOP thinking led U.S. to ruin

Re: "GOP 'Pledge' is at crossroads" (March 6, 2011)

The GOP crossroads is heading for a nation smashing accident. Finally, the American people are awakening to the real life problems created by 400 of the wealthiest Americans owning half of our nation's wealth, with many of the 400 richest paying

no taxes. President Barak Obama cut taxes to the lowest amount in over 40 years and none of the GOP will acknowledge that fact.

Huge corporations like General Electric and Exxon-Mobil pay no taxes. As a matter of fact, Exxon-Mobil receives billions from us tax payers in subsidies and rebates, while having record-billion dollar profits. The 87 GOP House freshmen haven't a clue how to govern. All they know is they must cut taxes for the largest corporations, the wealthiest Americans, unknowingly creating the largest crossroads train wreck in U.S. history.

Jerry Drucker

Letter to the VCStar (3-10-11)

Immigration Reform

Wednesday night the Conejo Valley Dem Club had an Immigration Reform Meeting with over 100 attendees. They had invited Rep. Elton Gallegly or anyone from his office, but no one came. We all learned many things from the splendid panel that could help us reach real immigration reform. If Rep. Gallegly is not able to listen, how is he going to be able to come up with a fair solution he has been working on for more that 20yrs.?

My grandmother came here illegally from Ireland and died undocumented. Another gentleman's grandfather came illegally from Germany suggested everyone should go back and check their roots, and might be very surprised at what they find. Rep. Gallegly, we need you to listen to us.

Sheila Smith

In response to Tony Strickland's March 13 commentary in the VCStar

Taxpayer Caucus: A voice for hardworking Californians

I am unimpressed with state Sen. Strickland's Taxpayer Caucus. He tells us that California's corporate income tax is the highest west of the Mississippi. What he fails to mention is that there are so many loopholes in the tax code that few corporations ever pay their fair share.

In terms of income tax, the tax rates on the super wealthy have decreased significantly over the past 30 years, which is why so much of the wealth has

accrued to the top 2 percent of the state's population. His assertion that manufacturing jobs have left the state because of a manufacturing sales tax on equipment is absurd.

Manufacturing jobs have been outsourced to India, China and other places so that corporations can save money by laying off California workers! So, his conclusion that he is providing a voice for "hardworking Californians" is disingenuous. By being so fanatically "anti-tax," Strickland and his fellow caucus members are forcing massive cuts to public schools, higher education and state park budgets (just to name a few) that will hurt the very people he purports to defend!

There are lots of ways to increase revenues without increasing taxes on "hardworking Californians." If Strickland is so concerned about us, I suggest that he start by asking oil companies to pay an "oil extraction fee" for drilling in our state. Who knows, this might raise enough revenue that we don't have to ask the middle class to approve tax extensions after all.

Rose Obetz

U.S. Tour of Duty: Operation Full Disclosure.

A counteroffensive in response to the war on whistleblowers:

Wednesday, April 13
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Ray McGovern and Micheal Needham
UFCW Orchid Room
813 Camarillo Springs Road
Camarillo, CA 93012
Admission: \$10.00
Advanced tickets can be purchased:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/167300>

Both discussions will focus on torture, the persecution of whistleblowers and how to win the information war.

Proceeds will benefit The Veterans Project and U.S. Tour of Duty.

U.S. Tour of Duty promotes dialogue about civic issues by organizing public forums, developing media strategies and producing audio/video content.

The Veterans Project helps military veterans adjust to civilian life when they come home.

California Democratic State Convention in Sacramento

**Friday – Sunday, April 29 – May 1,
Sacramento Convention Center**

When the rest of the country was turning red, we bucked the national trend and kept California a beautiful shade of blue.

After winning 9 of 9 statewide races, it's only fitting that we celebrate our victories and hold our state convention in **great representation at the convention, including: Hardy Hayes, Sharon Hillbrant, Bruce Little**

Check out the convention agenda here -
<http://cademconvention.org/convention-information/event-schedule/>

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.

John Quinton

This is an excellent description of what is going on right now with the Conservatives vs. the Progressives. This is part 2 and the final installment. Originally written on 2-19-11.

by: George Lakoff, t r u t h o u t | Op-Ed

What Conservatives Really Want

Dedicated to the peaceful protestors in Wisconsin, February 19, 2011.

Part 2 (final)

The market itself is seen in this way. The slogan, "Let the market decide" assumes the market itself is The Decider. The market is seen as both natural (since it is assumed that people naturally seek their self-interest) and moral (if everyone seeks their own profit, the profit of all will be maximized by the invisible hand). As the ultimate moral authority, there should be no power higher than the market that might go against market values. Thus the government can spend money to protect the market

and promote market values, but should not rule over it either through (1) regulation, (2) taxation, (3) unions and worker rights, (4) environmental protection or food safety laws, and (5) tort cases. Moreover, government should not do public service. The market has service industries for that.

Thus, it would be wrong for the government to provide health care, education, public broadcasting, public parks and so on. The very idea of these things is at odds with the conservative moral system. No one should be paying for anyone else. It is individual responsibility in all arenas. Taxation is thus seen as taking money away from those who have earned it and giving it to people who don't deserve it. Taxation cannot be seen as providing the necessities of life for a civilized society, and, as necessary, for business to prosper.

In conservative family life, the strict father rules. Fathers and husbands should have control over reproduction; hence, parental and spousal notification laws and opposition to abortion. In conservative religion, God is seen as the strict father, the Lord, who rewards and punishes according to individual responsibility in following his Biblical word.

Above all, the authority of conservatism itself must be maintained. The country should be ruled by conservative values, and progressive values are seen as evil. Science should have authority over the market, and so the science of global warming and evolution must be denied. Facts that are inconsistent with the authority of conservatism must be ignored or denied or explained away. To protect and extend conservative values themselves, the devil's own means can be used against conservatism's immoral enemies, whether lies, intimidation, torture or even death, say, for women's doctors.

Freedom is defined as being your own strict father - with individual, not social, responsibility, and without any government authority telling you what you can and cannot do. To defend that freedom as an individual, you will, of course, need a gun. This is the America that conservatives really want. Budget deficits are convenient ruses for destroying American democracy and replacing it with conservative rule in all areas of life.

What is saddest of all is to see Democrats helping them.

Democrats help radical conservatives by accepting the deficit frame and arguing about what to cut. Even arguing against specific "cuts" is working within the conservative frame. What is the alternative? Pointing out what conservatives really want. Point out that there is plenty of money in America, and in

Wisconsin. It is at the top. The disparity in financial assets is un-American - the top one percent has more financial assets than the bottom 95 percent. Middle-class wages have been flat for 30 years, while the wealth has floated to the top. This fits the conservative way of life, but not the American way of life.

Democrats help conservatives by not shouting out loud, over and over, that it was conservative values that caused the global economic collapse: lack of regulation and a greed-is-good ethic.

Democrats also help conservatives by what a friend has called "Democratic Communication Disorder." Republican conservatives have constructed a vast and effective communication system, with think tanks, framing experts, training institutes, a system of trained speakers, vast holdings of media and booking agents. Eighty percent of the talking heads on TV are conservatives. Talk matters, because language heard over and over changes brains. Democrats have not built the communication system they need, and many are relatively clueless about how to frame their deepest values and complex truths.

And Democrats help conservatives when they function as policy wonks — talking policy without communicating the moral values behind the policies. They help conservatives when they neglect to remind us that pensions are deferred payments for work done. "Benefits" are pay for work, not a handout. Pensions and benefits are arranged by contract. If there is not enough money for them, it is because the contracted funds have been taken by conservative officials and given to wealthy people and corporations instead of to the people who have earned them.

Democrats help conservatives when they use conservative words like "entitlements" instead of "earnings" and speak of government as providing "services" instead of "necessities."

Is there hope?

I see it in Wisconsin, where tens of thousands citizens see through the conservative frames and are willing to flood the streets of their capital to stand up for their rights. They understand that democracy is about citizens uniting to take care of each other, about social responsibility as well as individual responsibility, and about work - not just for your own profit, but to help create a civilized society. They appreciate their teachers, nurses, firemen, police and other public servants. They are flooding the streets to demand real democracy - the democracy

of caring, of social responsibility and of excellence, where prosperity is to be shared by those who work and those who serve.

The Ventura County Democratic Central Committee sends e-mail blast to Democrats via the SALSA web based communication site. They recently sent two blasts, one about 'education cuts' and one to 'let us vote for CA tax extension'.

These online actions have generated about 1,000 e-mails sent to Tony Strickland and Jeff Gorrell. The blasts have now gone viral and are being sent around the state.

If you aren't receiving e-mail updates from VCDCC, you might want to keep in the info loop.

E-mail Kate McDermott: camkate2@roadrunner.com and she will see that you are added to the list.

This is a low-volume list with few e-mails each month.

You can always check out Ventura County Democratic Party news at www.venturacountydemocrats.com

From the Social Corner **by Cecelia Travick-Jackson**

This month the social committee's theme is -----
-Bread

"Our American values are not luxuries but necessities-not the salt in our bread but the bread itself." Jimmy Carter

"Take not from the mouth of labors the bread it has earned – this is the sum of good government" Thomas Jefferson

"It is the eternal struggle between these two principles-right and wrong. They are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time and will ever continue to struggle. It is the same spirit that says. 'You work and toil

and earn bread, and I'll eat it".
Abraham Lincoln.

In the month of April, as we celebrate the birthdays of Presidents and Camarillo democrats we think about workers, laborers and the common every day person striving to make a honest living wage. To do this we turn our gastronomical attention to a food common to all--Bread.

Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Every April, during tax season, **Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions** calculates Ventura County's tax contribution to the military budget devoted exclusively to nuclear weapons.

A mock check is presented to the nuclear weapons industry on behalf of Ventura County taxpayers.

Typically, our county's share of the \$50 billion nuclear weapons budget is around \$160 million.

This year, we will participate in the Global Day of Action on Military Spending on April 12.

We invite you to join us as we unveil this year's check and listen to community leaders offer their peaceful proposals for reallocating those nuclear war funds.

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 12:30 p.m
Ventura County Government Center
Main Plaza, Fountain Area

The three biggest lies about Social Security (provided by NOW 3-14-11)

The politicians and their Wall Street backers just won't let up. They are determined to gut Social Security any which way they can, potentially pushing hundreds of thousands of middle class women into poverty.

Women rely on Social Security more than men do, partly because only 30 percent of women work in jobs with pension benefits -- not to

mention systemic wage discrimination, which makes it harder for us to save for retirement. At the same time, the Social Security benefit formula penalizes many women, especially older single women and those who leave the workforce to care for children and sick or elderly relatives. Far from cutting Social Security benefits, we need to improve the system, especially for women.

But conservatives are pushing to cut benefits, either directly or by increasing the retirement age.

- **LIE #1: "We must cut Social Security to reduce the federal deficit."** False. Social Security does not contribute to the budget deficit because it is a separate program funded by payroll taxes. Cutting benefits wouldn't even put a dent in the deficit.
- **LIE #2: "We must cut benefits to keep Social Security from going broke."** Also false. Even if no changes are made to the system, it will be able to pay 100% of benefits through at least 2037. And we can achieve full solvency for the next 75 years and beyond by simply scrapping the current \$106,800 cap on wages subject to the payroll tax.
- **LIE #3: "We must raise the retirement age because people are living longer."** That's false too. In fact, women's life expectancy has stagnated over the past 30 years. Raising the retirement age would mean deep, cruel benefit cuts for women who work physically demanding jobs -- like nurses, who lift an average of one ton per day -- that force them into early retirement.

Why do Republicans hate women?

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed.

You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read.

You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride.

You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.

We have seen the future, and the future is ours"

Part V of Letters Home from Vietnam by Steve Crandall

Letters Home from Vietnam – Chapter 5, Adapt or Loose It

Self medicating wasn't going to work for me. My hospital stay was over and I'm not going anywhere for the next nine months. This was the turning point in which I realized I have to either adapt to my surroundings or I'm going to loose it. Keeping myself busy and making my surroundings more suitable is my answer to the long stay.

April 15, 1970 Danang, VN

*Dear Mom and Dad,
They say the most loads to be made by a crew in a single shift was seven. We have been doing seven loads every shift for the last three nights. My old bunkmate from Cam Ranh Bay moved in with me so maybe we can make this place a little more personal. Scrounging around to find stuff to fix up our space is going to be fun.*

The hospital gave me Red Cross envelopes and stationary for writing home. I was really concerned about my parents receiving a Red Cross envelop and I was hoping one of my buddies would drop by the hospital so I could have them get me some different stationary for writing home but no one came by to see me. We tried to keep ourselves connected to the stateside happenings but news was somewhat limited.

April 16, 1970 Danang, VN

*Dear Mom and Dad,
Sorry about sending the last few letters in the Red Cross envelopes but that's all they had at the hospital. It's funny to read about bad news back home when you are over here. Somehow the problems at home don't seem that bad. We all do our best to keep up on the stateside news. All I have is a flashlight so I do most of my writing in the daytime when I have time.*

Like all the other guys, I looked forward to getting care packages from home. It's a piece of our home life we can share with others and was part of our buddy culture. I even found myself sharing mine with the Vietnamese, something I would have never done when I first got here. Remember, I called them gooks and didn't understand why they weren't thrilled to have us here. My attitude was changing and I was starting to open up my eyes to what was really going on here.

April 17, 1970 Danang, VN

*Dear Mom and Dad,
I got stuck doing duty at the end of the runway and the cookies you sent couldn't have come at a better time. They forgot to deliver box meals to us so the cookies really hit the spot. I gave some of the cookies to one of the Vietnamese boys. They are here with us at the end of the runway doing the same thing we do. He really enjoyed them and said thanks.*

Now that I have opened my eyes to my surroundings, I realized the countryside is some of the most beautiful I have ever seen. Since I had been a student of architecture in high school I had an attraction to the old structures not only built by the French but also the Vietnamese.

April 18, 1970 Danang, VN

*Dear Mom and Dad,
The countryside is really pretty around here. Their green fields aren't squared off in sections like the ones in Iowa but rather they kind of flow and wind. Every morning I pass by rice paddies and the water buffalo. The older buildings on base were built by the French. They are white*

cement with rounded corners and they typically have green shutters. No glass in the windows just shutters. They look like those buildings you see in the French foreign legion flicks. I'll get some pictures and send them home so you can see what I mean.

Danang was the closest air base to North Vietnam so we had fighter planes loaded with missiles, rockets and guns ready to intercept any MIG fighters that might cross over the DMZ. Working the alert pad was the best job you could get if you were chosen to do so but you have to be ever vigilant when you are working with weapons, especially when there is so much activity around you.

April 20, 1970 Danang, VN

*Dear Mom and Dad,
I didn't get a chance to finish my letter yesterday. I got alert pad duty today. I thought end of runway was easy now this is the best. The building we are in is air conditioned. They even have TV and magazines to read. There are four planes here ready to take off and have to be in the air in 5 minutes. They scramble them if MIG jets come into the area. You have to be careful because a lot is going on. The engines are starting up while we are pulling safety pins on the rockets and missiles. The planes are armed in the revetments and have total clearance to the runway. We heard one guy lost his arm by pulling the pin on the missile closest to him and then reaching across that missile to pull the pin on the next and the missile he was reaching across launched. The missile never got a chance to arm before it hit a sand bag bunker.*

Yes, I actually read the Playboys my parents sent me. I became more interested in why we were here and what others were saying about the war. I started questioning the orders we were given and wondered if the weapons we loaded were being indiscriminately dispersed on villages throughout the countryside.

April 23, 1970 Danang, VN

*Dear Mom and Dad,
I get burned too about the rich and the way they are making money off this war. I read an article in Playboy where a guy in the service, not an American citizen, was refused his naturalization papers because he was wearing a peace symbol. The military considers a peace medal as anti-American.*

"I was once asked why I don't participate in anti-war demonstrations. I said that I will never do that, but as soon as you have a pro-peace rally, I'll be there."

Mother Teresa

**Democratic Club of Camarillo
Newsletter Editor Needed!**

The position will be open for 2012. The newsletter's purpose to keep the membership advised of what is going on within the club as well as local and national news.

If you are interested in taking on the role of the editor please contact Hardy Hayes. His phone number is 805-482-5119 or email at: hardyjhayes@gmail.com.

November 2011 will be my last issue unless someone would like to take it over earlier. I am happy to assist with the transition if needed.

Carolyn Crandall

Please call the **Wisconsin Republican Party** and voice your concern about their legislation to strip the unions of collective bargaining:

608-257-4765

A word from our Sponsors!



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Signature: _____

(I am a registered DEMOCRAT or wish to change to such)

*Annual Dues: \$20.00/individual, \$30.00/couple/family
\$15.00/seniors, \$20.00/couple*

Mail to: DCC, Attn: **Sandi Gummerrman**
P.O. Box 348 Camarillo, CA 93011-0348

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