DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO

Newsletter
September 2011

General Meeting

Thursday September 1, 2011
6:30 for networking and snacks, 7:00pm meeting start
Movie Night Extravaganza (see flyer attached)
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo
Exit at the Camarillo Springs Rd. exit from the 101

The New Normal

Climate change deniers tend to assert that the climate change we seem to be experiencing is a natural phenomenon and not something that is of our doing. Climate change scientists overwhelmingly disagree.

In an article that I will quote from extensively ("Weather extremes may be the new norm", L.A. Times, Wednesday, August 24, 2011), the Times talks about the effects that we are experiencing, mostly in Oklahoma and the Midwest, but also, across the nation.

The article starts out with the statement that "Oklahomans are accustomed to cruel climate". Having spent the better part of four years at Amarillo AFB in nearby Amarillo, Texas, I can attest to that statement. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the Oklahoma average statewide daily temperature of 89 was the highest ever recorded for any state. Across a large swath of the country federal climate scientists have labeled 2011 as one of the worst in American history for extreme weather. With punishing blizzards, epic flooding, devastating drought and a heat wave that has broiled a huge swath of the country, the 2011 weather has been unrelenting and extraordinary.

Hundreds of deaths have been attributed to extremes of heat and cold, and tornadoes; the national economic toll for the weather SO FAR is estimated at $35 billion, more than five times the average annual loss.

And climate scientists warn us, get used to it! Returning to Oklahoma, Gary McManus, the Oklahoma associate state climatologist cites the following record setting facts: all time low temperature (31 degrees below zero), greatest 24-hour snowfall (27 inches), most tornadoes in one month (50 in April), there has been NO measurable rainfall in the western part of the state (the Oklahoma panhandle) since October 2010, the eleven month period ending in August 2011 has been the driest statewide since records have been kept starting in 1895.

Oklahoma's heat wave has so far claimed 14 lives and since 2000 Oklahoma has had more federally declared weather-related disasters than any other state.

In a bitterly ironic world, Oklahoma and Texas farmers have not been able to plant crops because of the worst drought on record even while farmers along the fairly nearby Mississippi River lost their fields to floodwaters.

Climate scientists point to the PREDICTABLE and CUMULATIVE effects of climate change – both hot and cold – to account for much of the extreme weather and they caution us that the future will hold even greater temperature extremes and for longer duration. According to McManus "…it would be a mistake to not think that this has become the new normal. Until it

stops happening, we should expect it to continue."

The winter brought ice storms and snow from Mexico to Canada. The "Ground Hog Day blizzard," brought Chicago to a standstill, dumping 21 inches of snow on O'Hare International Airport and killing 36 people. Spring and summer brought tornadoes; April spawned 875 tornado reports – the 30 year average is 135 – and killed 327 people.

Floodwaters sprang from record snow packs across the Midwest and the Rockies. From the Red River to the Ohio Valley, precipitation was up by more than 200%. As the Mississippi River crested from Illinois to Louisiana, the Army Corps of Engineers was ORDERED by a federal judge to open the Morganza spillway floodgates inundating 4600 square miles of farmland in order to save New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana from another Katrina-style disaster.

And all this rain, snow and flooding blocked much needed moisture from the Gulf of Mexico from reaching the southern plains exacerbating the drought. In Texas, heat and aridity caused over two million acres to be burned by wildfires – another record. Drought caused agricultural losses in Texas have been tallied at $5.2 billion so far this year.

Now, none of this PROVES that all this extreme weather is man made or man caused. But let's be just a little rational here: the medical community doesn't know all the answers to all of our medical problems but when we have a medical problem we still go to the doctor for help, teachers don't know all the answers relating to teaching our children but most of us still trust trained teachers to teach our children, engineers don't know how to fully protect us from earthquakes but we still drive on bridges and park next to buildings in spite of our awareness of the possibility of earthquakes in our area.

There is an economic concept called "opportunity cost", the idea is that no matter what decision you make with your money you are passing up the possibility of making a better (or worse) decision by foregoing some other opportunity.

It seems to me that this is just what our so-called leaders in the Senate are doing with our lives; while we almost passed climate change legislation to make an attempt to deal with this situation that we are now experiencing a couple of years ago, Senators on the right (and blue-dog Democrats) defeated it because they thought it was way too expensive, it was going to kill jobs and growth, etc., etc., etc.

I would love to see an independent analysis of what that legislation would have cost us vis-à-vis the cost of the inclement weather that we've seen this year and will probably continue to see (if not increase) in the years to come. Republicans are wont to leave it to the marketplace to sort out our problems; is there anyone out there among us who believes that our free market system couldn't come up with solutions to our climate problems if there was financial incentive for them to do so? Is there anyone out there who believes that the free market is going to provide any solutions as long as Senators from oil producing states continue to stifle any effort to ameliorate our climate change problem?

Is there anyone reading this that believes they'd be better off living in Oklahoma, Texas, the Midwest or the south? What will it take to change red state minds?

Cheers.
Hardy Hayes

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the LA Times (published 7-26-11)

Re: in praise of civil disobedience

Peter Yarrow's essay in support of Tim DeChristopher's principled act [making bogus bids on mineral leases in last-minute Bush auctions of public land – for which he has been severely prosecuted] was a rare breath of fresh air from the '60s of our youth, when Peter, Paul and Mary stirred the hope that people could rise up and speak truth to power. Then the reason for this slip was made clear by a note at the end of the column: "Jonah Goldberg has the day

off." Please give Jonah more time off and give more space to those who evoke what Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature."

Jack Phillips

Letter to the LA Times 8-4-11

They Rethink Obama Remarks 8-4-11

The only reason they have "rethought" their remarks is because there was enough outrage from the public to force them to address their obvious racism. It is well known that Pat Buchanan is a bigot and a racist as he has a long history of saying hurtful and racists things and most have never heard of Doug Lamborn until now. What these guys do and now is completely acceptable, is make the comments, then come out with a phony apology either claiming that their comments were misconstrued, taken out of context, misunderstood, (and I love this one: inartful), but the comments are still out there, on record, which is what they intended in the first place. Racism is alive and well in America and seems to have been ignited by the election of the first black president.

Carolyn Crandall

Letter to the LA Times 8-13-11

A new dynamic joins the GOP race

If I understand this correctly, the contest for the Republican nomination for president has come down to a religious test between the Mormons and the Evangelicals. So are they really saying that Jews, Catholics, Buddhists, Atheists, etc., shouldn't plan on being represented if one of them were to become President? These are the people who claim to own the Constitution and continue to ram it down our throats, but clearly don't believe in the First Amendment, so why are we supposed to give them credibility when their hypocrisy is so blatant?

Carolyn Crandall

This is a good read:

http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8179.pdf

Letters home from Vietnam
By Steve Crandall

Chapter 10

Letters Home from Vietnam - Chapter 10, The Red (heat rash), White (searing weather) and Blue (longing for home)

Runway duty can really be boring until the rats come out at night. I was lying on a wooden bench inside the sandbag bunker and just about to doze off when something got my attention. In the moonlight I could see the silhouette of a rat in the opening of the bunker. I felt around on the floor looking for something to throw but before I could find anything the rat was gone. I wasn't going to let the rat deter me from my sleep. I just crossed my arms over my chest so that my hands would not be dangling on the dirt floor until the roar and bright lights of the next plane taxied up to the bunker to be de-armed.

July 2, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
I had runway duty yesterday and wanted to write but between the heat and the flies I couldn't stand to sit still. We won load crew of the month. We get three days off this month. We went to the Freedom Hill PX to buy cokes for the shop. I saw a mama-san picking lice out of her daughters hair. This place is really groovy. They say this place really gets lit up on the 4th of July. Every kind of flare is shot up in the air. I guess you could send me some more baby powder. I'm laying here in my bed and out the screen wall I just saw a Freedom Bird take off. I wish I was on it. I put some bleach in with my jungle fatigues and now I have white stripes and name tag instead of black. I'll mail this letter when I go to chow.
Everything that goes up must come down and so did the rounds. The barrack's roof was made of corrugated tin and one round pierced the tin and into the shoulder of one of the guys on the top floor. I remember my uncle having a similar experience during WWII. He said the closest he every came to being shot was when a round came through his tent and lodged itself in the

wooden rail of his cot. I guess that's just one more form of friendly fire.

July 4, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
Well happy 4th. I just got off work. This place is really lit up. Red, blue, green, white just about every color of flare there is. Plus all the tracers through the air. Right now I'm cooking up a can of beanie weenies. They're playing the top 300 songs in pop music. I think I'll get the Dual 1219 turntable instead of the Sansui turntable. The Dual 1219 is the best turntable ever made. I might as well get the best then I will never be dissatisfied. I'm going to the doctor tomorrow about this heat rash. I went ahead and ordered the Sansui 500A receiver. I can always sell the 2000A to some G.I. at the next base. They're still playing the top 300 hits. That will go on until 12:00 tonight. 204 days to go.

The MK 84 2000 lb. bomb can cause lethal fragmentation up to a radius of 400 yds. Sometimes we would configure this bomb with a three foot long fuse extension. This allowed the bomb to go off at ground. It then became a lethal anti-personnel bomb we called a "daisy cutter". We had names for all the different weapons we loaded. I guess it was our way of desensitizing our involvement in the war.

July 6, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
I received the cookies yesterday, thanks. That open locker inspection was just for the AF as far as I know. I guess they were looking for something we weren't supposed to have. Yes the prices in the PACEX catalog are real. I will have to order for you since you have to be in the military and stationed overseas. I just start getting involved in a letter then they put me to work. We had to down load a MK 84 2,000 lb. bomb. I bet I'll get out of the service and there will still be guys my age worrying about the draft. From what I heard about the monsoon season August is the worst. Other than that I don't know much about it. We just got two new guys in from Holloman AFB. They were in other squadrons but there were 40 orders cut to come here.

I'm never quite sure how stories travel but I remember being told that I would get to see the weapons we load dropped in the hills and valleys outside of Danang. To my amazement the stories proved to be true. I'm also amazed that I can get in trouble for being in a "hot seat" then find myself being advanced to the lead crew. This is a strange place indeed.

July 10, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
I just got off work and its 1:00 am. I got the care package from Sharon. Crackers, Underwood deviled ham and dried beef. We watched our own planes make air strikes on the nearby valley. Last night we watched the Navy bomb the same valley. Our NCOIC said they are going to breakup our crew. My bunkmate and I are going on the lead crew. The lead crew trains other new crews. We had an F-100 came in on emergency and had to de-arm it. I had panels off all over it and finally found the panel to the rear of the guns and disconnected the firing leads. I knew where the guns were and it was just a matter of getting to them. I don't know why I am in such a good writing mood. I guess it's because I'm under 200 days. When I get to 100 days I know the time is really going to drag. Can you get me some more white socks? Mine seem to be disappearing. My clothes have to hang out for two days to dry and since the barracks is open bay it's hard to keep anything. Well time to hit the sack.

The heat and humidity in Vietnam made wearing a poncho like being in a sweat box. The steam would rise up off the ground and then get trapped between me and my poncho. At times getting wet was better than wearing a poncho.

July 13, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
You think its hot back home, it was 100 degrees here yesterday with 85 % humidity. That's why you can sweat in a rain storm. It's so humid the stamps fall off your letters.
I went to the doctor the other day and they gave me some cream for my rash. It's starting to go away now. I'm getting off tomorrow and looking forward to just relaxing.

We always had a free pass to the chow hall but it was more fun making do on our own. Sharing food in the barracks created camaraderie that

you didn't get eating at the chow hall. There was one guy in our outfit that was better than most at bartering. I wanted to know but again didn't want to know exactly what it was that he traded for the pork roast that we enjoyed so much after slow roasting it with beer for hours. Some things are best just enjoyed without knowing all the details.

July 14, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
Today is my day off. Its 12 noon and I haven't done anything yet except take a shower. I got your package yesterday. It was the only mail that came in yesterday afternoon. Too bad we didn't have that salt two nights ago. We had corn on the cob but no salt or butter. We bought six cobs in a can with water. We just heated them up with our burners. Its 7:30 pm. I went to the BX and then the club. I bought a slide projector for you and shipped it home. I'm sitting here in the barracks writing this letter and the sweat is just rolling off of me. All I have on is a pair of undershorts. They're already soaked. Don't be surprised if when I come home I don't do anything but sit and relax for awhile. I never feel like I can completely relax over here.
P.S. The slide projector is a gift just for being swell parents.

My new job on the lead team will be training FNGs (F'g New Guys) as well as certifying crews. I'll retain my same crew position, as a number two man, but this time I'll be looking over the shoulder of the trainee. I'm looking forward to working in an air-conditioned office but I can't say it was something I really pursued. It just came my way and I still find myself resenting authority.

July 20, 1970 Danang, VN
Dear Mom and Dad,
I'm sorry I haven't written sooner but time has really flown. I've been real busy at work, then come back to the barracks and sleep.
My heat rash is gone for now. I guess that stuff the doctor gave me did the trick.
I lost my day off yesterday because I have to train for the new lead team. The problem is that we work for the Wing now and not the Squadron (the people that gave us the three days off). The Wing can't tell us when we will get another day off. I've been pushed to the extent that I'm going to hit someone. There's a lifer training us tomorrow that I have already had a run in with. If he pushes me I swear I'll put his head into the revetment wall. I've lost all respect for anyone who re-ups in the service. It makes me tired and irritates me just to talk about it.

Labor Day Picnic

This year's Labor Day Picnic will be held on Monday, Sept. 5 at Freedom Park next to the Camarillo Airport, 275 E. Pleasant Valley Road. Tickets are $20 each. Children under 10 are free with a paying adult. Look forward to delicious BBQ, live music, a silent auction, kids' carnival games and prizes, a jolly jump, face painting and, of course, great speeches from great Democrats.

Contact Marilyn Valenzuela, 805-987-0101 for tickets or purchase them online at:

https://secure.actblue.com/page/labordaypicnic_2011.

Karl Rove memo

People, the bottom line is that I don't care what you do, or what it takes. We get it. The libs don't. We know it's all about votes, and the enthusiasm and volunteering and money that gets votes. The guy who goes to the White House in 2013 will have either an R after his name, or a D. Do we want the party of Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi and Sherrod Brown in our house, or do we want the party of Grover Norquist, Rupert Murdoch and the Koch Brothers? So, all eyes on the prize, which is: Keeping those godless, America-hating libs away from the voting booths!

We want to make this the new theme song of the Democrat party:
(To the tune of the In-N-Out jingle)

Sit it out!
Sit it out!
That's what a Dem-ocrat is
All about!

Compliments of Kate McDermott

Needed: A Few Volunteers to Serve on this Year's Nominating Committee

The bylaws of the Democratic Club of Camarillo require that a Nominating Committee (composed of no more than five members) be appointed by the Executive Board at its September meeting. The nominees for 2012 will be announced in the November newsletter and will be voted on at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee will meet in October, the time to be determined by its members. I would appreciate hearing from you if: 1) you would like be willing to serve on the Nominating Committee or 2) you would like to run for office in 2012 or chair a committee. (Check the newsletter for the offices to be filled and committee chairmanships available.) Please contact me at shillbrant@aol.com or 805-479-6738. Thanks, Sharon Hillbrant, Parliamentarian

Democratic Club of Camarillo Scholarship

Dear Ms. Grate:

I am writing to you and the entire Democratic Club of Camarillo to express my deepest gratitude. To be chosen from among the best students in Ventura County as a recipient for your scholarship is an honor.
As I prepare to dive headfirst into these uncharted waters it is a relief to know that I have your scholarship money to help. I have been spending my summer preparing for my freshman year by training for Cal Poly's Varsity Cross Country team and working at both the Y.M.C.A. and the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

Again, I cannot express how grateful I am to be recognized for your scholarship. It has been an honor I will not soon forget. In turn, I hope to follow your lead by giving back to an aspiring student just as myself when I have been placed in a position to do so.

Best,
Erik Pineulas

Republicans Ten Commandments

- Thou Shalt Not Raise ANY Taxes
- Thou Shalt Pass a Constitutional Amendment to Make Abortion Illegal
- Thou Shalt Pass a Constitutional Amendment to Define Marriage as the Union of a Man and a Woman
- Thou Shalt Repeal "ObamaCare," AKA the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Thou Shalt Repeal The Dodd-Frank Banking Regulation Act
- Thou Shalt Pass a Constitutional Amendment to Balance the Federal Budget
- Thou Shalt Only Give Military Support to "Our Friends"
- Thou Shalt Limit the Power of -- If Not Entirely Abolish -- the EPA
- Thou Shalt Drill, Mine and Frak to the Widest Extent Possible
- Thou Shalt Take the Name of President Obama in Vain

Comment on the possibility of a Rick Perry president.

The American people no longer have an identity. We seem to operate like a zoo without cages.

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them.

Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952

Texas, taxes and jobs

Re: "Amazon stumps outside stores,"
Business section of the LA Times, August 6, 2011

I am a visitor to California and a lifelong Texan. Imagine my surprise to encounter an anti-tax signature collector in San Diego arguing that California will lose jobs to Texas if taxes increase.

We Texans have already got all the minimum-wage, no-benefit jobs we can handle, along with lousy roads, a 19th century school system, a high poverty rate, hunger, a lack of medical care and the highest rate of uninsured people in the nation. Our education system is declining, and much of the new jobs pay minimum wage. Texas is becoming third-world.

California has so much of what Texas lacks. Be happy to pay your taxes because you are getting much more for them. Tighten your belt and preserve the California you have while you can. Don't destroy California; you will regret it later.

Kathleen Bomback
El Paso

Reprinted from the Los Angeles Times, Thursday, August 11, 2011

A possible Rick Perry nomination by the GOP and how their supporters really feel about justice:

Veterans of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's unsuccessful 2010 primary challenge to Perry recalled being stunned at the way attacks bounced off the governor in a strongly conservative state gripped by tea party fever.

Multiple former Hutchison advisers recalled asking a focus group about the charge that Perry may have presided over the execution of an innocent man – Cameron Todd Willingham – and got this response from a primary voter: "It takes balls to execute an innocent man."

8-10-11

Today, there are two fewer Republicans in Wisconsin's state house, two fewer votes for Gov. Scott Walker's radical agenda, and two more Democrats to fight for the rights of working Americans.

And make no mistake, the Republicans pulled out all the stops to keep those seats. Republican groups sent flyers to registered Democrats, telling them the wrong election date, and made calls telling folks the wrong polling places. There was no trick too low, from paying ringers to sign recall petitions against Democrats to running Republicans in Democratic primaries. And all fueled with a torrent of secret cash, the kind of funding the GOP has worked hard to make a normal part of our politics.

Question from a constituent at a Town Hall Meeting to Senator Tom Coburn on 8-18-11:

QUESTION: With more and more cuts in Medicare and Medicaid on the horizon, I'm really worried about protecting our frail elderly in the Medicare and Medicaid facilities. So I would like to know how Congress proposes to balance the budget and still make sure our frail elderly in these facilities are protected and have trained care staff.

COBURN: That's a great question. The first question I have for you is if you look in the Constitution, where is it the federal government's role to do that? That's number one. Number two is the way I was brought up that's a family responsibility, not a government responsibility.

Another question from a constituent at the Town Hall with Senator Tom Coburn 8-18-11:

Responding to a man in Langley who asked if Obama "wants to destroy America," Coburn said the president is "very bright" and loves his country but has a political philosophy that is "goofy and wrong.

Obama's "intent is not to destroy, his intent is to create dependency because it worked so well for him," he said.

"As an African-American male," Coburn said, Obama received "tremendous advantage from a lot of these programs."

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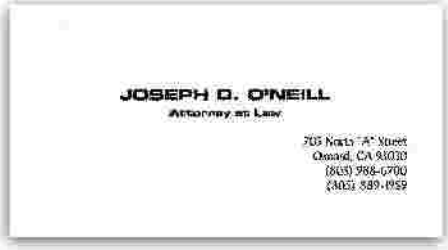

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Democratic Club of Camarillo
P.O. Box 348
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Signature: _____

(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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