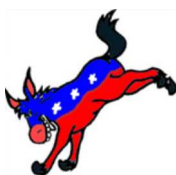


# News 'n' Views

by and for members of the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

Volume 6 Issue 12

December, 2005



**HO! HO! HO!**

*Come one, come all to our annual  
HHDC Holiday Party  
Special Guest*

***Congresswoman Linda Sanchez***

*Sunday, December 11  
El Torito Restaurant  
across from Los Cerritos Mall  
11167 183<sup>rd</sup> Street Cerritos, CA  
6:00 –8:00 pm*



*Come on by and see me at the HHDC Holiday Party in Cerritos at the El Torito Restaurant on Sunday, December 11.*

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# *My President's Report*

By Alon Barlevy

This time of year we usually like to reflect back and see what we have accomplished throughout the year, and I am proud to say that we have accomplished quite a bit. The year started out with some unexpected change when Victor Manalo abruptly resigned his presidency. We thank Victor for his year of service, and continue with the cause of electing Democrats.

Then in March, we had the local municipal elections, where club member Joseph Cho came close to winning a seat on the Cerritos City Council, and club member Steve Croft won a seat on the Lakewood City Council.

On July 4, we operated an ice cream booth at the City of Cerritos Let Freedom Ring Festival, where we made a profit of \$275, and showed our presence to the community. For the second year in a row, we showed up and operated a booth, while the Cerritos Republicans were a no show, just like they have been week in and week out on the opinion section of the Los Cerritos Community News !!

Although we have suspected for months, as soon as it became official we mobilized to defeat Schwarzenegger in his "not so special" elections. We phone banked, and wrote op-eds in the paper against his horrible propositions. All this, while working to get our candidates elected to the local school boards. Congratulations to our endorsed candidates: Mark Pulido, Louise Dodson, and Ana Valencia for winning their campaigns to their respective seats.

We ended the year with a couple of great events. We had our extremely successful fundraiser, with keynote speaker, radio personality Stephanie Miller, keeping the guests laughing and enjoying themselves as only she can do. We made almost \$4000 at the fundraiser. A month later, we had a screening of the recently released movie "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices". Over a hundred people showed up to learn about Wal Mart's unfair business practices.

We had great speakers come to our monthly meetings this year. Two prominent speakers were State Sen. Joe Dunn and Board of Equalization member John Chiang. Unfortunately, the two will be running against each other next June for the job of State Controller (the position currently occupied by Steve Westley, who is running for governor). This, of course, leaves us in a dilemma, as we can only vote for one of these two very good friends.

2005 was also a year in which after only two years in Congress, our Congresswoman, Linda Sanchez, got a great promotion with the appointment of Deputy Minority Leader. Please come to our holiday party to congratulate her on this important appointment. See below for details about the party.

Our goal for 2006: make sure Congresswoman Linda Sanchez gets another promotion: this time, to Deputy **MAJORITY** Leader

## *Santa says:*

*You are invited  
to our Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club's  
**Holiday Party**  
Sunday December 11  
El Torito Restaurant*

*11167 183<sup>rd</sup> Street Cerritos, CA  
across from the Los Cerritos Mall  
6:00 to 8:00 pm  
Special Keynote Speaker  
**Congresswoman Linda Sanchez**  
\$15 per person*

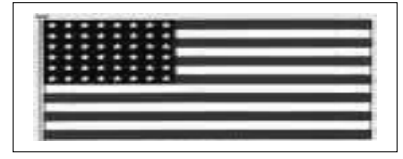
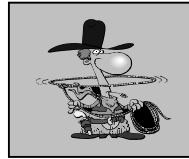
*RSVP by December 6 310-813-8548*



*Don't be a Scrooge!*



## The Caballero Roundup



### From Capitol Hill Blue

#### The Rant

# GOP Leaders to Bush: 'Your Presidency is Effectively Over'

By **DOUG THOMPSON**

A growing number of Republican leaders, party strategists, and political professionals now privately tell President George W. Bush that his presidency "is effectively over" unless he fires embattled White House advisor Karl Rove, apologizes to the American people for misleading the country into war, and revamps his administration from top to bottom.

"The only show of unity we have now in the Republican Party is the belief that the President has failed the party, the American people and the presidency," says a longtime, and angry, GOP strategist.

With the public face of support for Bush eroding daily from even diehard Republicans, the President faces mounting anger from within his party over the path that may well lead to loss of control of Congress in the 2006 midterm elections and the White House in 2008.

"This presidency is in trouble," says a senior White House aide. "Even worse, I don't know if there is a way out of the trouble."

Congressional leaders journeyed to the White House before Bush left on his South American tour this week to tell the President that his legislative agenda on the Hill is dead, his latest Supreme Court nominee faces a tough confirmation fight in the Senate and he is facing open revolt within party ranks.

"The Speaker is having an increasingly difficult time holding his troops in line," says a source within the office of House Speaker Dennis J. Hastert. "Anger at the President grows exponentially with each passing day."

At a recent White House strategy session, internal party pollsters told the President that his approval rating with Americans continues to slide and may be irreversible, citing his failed Iraq war, the failed Supreme Court nomination of Harriet Miers and his failure to deal decisively on a number of fronts, including Hurricane Katrina, the economy and the Valerie Plame scandal.

In meetings, leaders and strategists have suggested a number of things that Bush must do to try and save his presidency and GOP prospects in upcoming elections, including:

- Apologize to the American people, Congress and our allies for misleading them on the reasons for invading Iraq;
- Revamp the White House staff from top to bottom;
- Fire Rove.

"We keep coming back to Rove," says a GOP pollster. "He has escaped indictment, so far, but the feeling within the party is that another shoe is ready to drop and the longer he waits to jettison Rove the greater the damage. As long as Karl Rove remains at the President's side, the Bush presidency is effectively over and he is just riding out the days until the nation elects a Democrat to replace him. Even with Rove gone the damage may be irreparable."

Bush, however, has dug his heels in on Rove. When a GOP strategist suggested last weekend that the President fire Rove, Bush exploded.

"You go to hell," he screamed at the strategist. "You can leave and you can take the rest of these lily-livered (expletives) with you!" The President then stormed out of the room and refused to meet further with any other party leaders or strategists.

Bush's escalating temper tantrums and his intransigence on political issues increase Republican worries about the long term effects on both his presidency and the party's prospects in upcoming elections.

"Right now, George W. Bush is the Republican Party's chief liability," says a GOP strategist who has advised Presidential campaigns for 30 years. "The entire political future of the party and perhaps the nation now rests on the shoulders of a President that no one - Democrat or Republican - believes in or trusts."

***DEMS took back California on November 8!  
We can take back the country in 2006!***

## Voter Anger Might Mean Electoral Shift in '06

**By Dan Balz, Shailagh Murray and Peter Slevin**  
**Washington Post Staff Writers**

One year before the 2006 midterm elections, Republicans are facing the most adverse political conditions of the 11 years since they vaulted to power in Congress in 1994. Powerful currents of voter unrest -- including unhappiness over the war in Iraq and dissatisfaction with the leadership of President Bush -- have undermined confidence in government and are stirring fears among GOP candidates of a backlash.

Interviews with voters, politicians and strategists in four battleground states, supplemented by a new Washington Post-ABC News poll, found significant discontent with the performance of both political parties. Frustration has not reached the level that existed before the 1994 earthquake, but many strategists say that if the public mood further darkens, Republican majorities in the House and Senate could be at risk.

One bright spot for the Republicans is the low regard in which many Americans hold the Democrats. The public sees the Democrats as disorganized, lacking in clear ideas or a positive alternative to the GOP agenda, and bereft of appealing leaders. In the Post-ABC News poll, voters gave Washington low grades without favor: Just 35 percent said they approved of the job Republicans in Congress were doing, while only 41 percent gave a positive rating to the Democrats.

In shopping malls, town hall meetings and on front porches, Americans expressed their concerns about the country's problems. The president still has strong supporters, but more common are questions about his and the country's priorities. A young mother in the Denver suburbs complained about the state of public education. An Ohio retiree complained about energy prices and said, "We're getting ripped off left and right by the oil companies." Immigration appears to be a volatile issue far from the U.S.-Mexico border. And looming over all else is the U.S. involvement in Iraq, which continues to gnaw at the country's psyche.

Republican strategists and candidates are bracing for losses next year, while hoping that Bush's fortunes and the overall environment improve. They take some comfort in the expectation that the worst of times has come a year ahead of the elections, and relief in the fact that, by historical measures, the number of genuinely competitive contests is likely to be small.

But Republicans have expanded their majorities in Congress in each of the last two elections, and strategists expect, at a minimum, that Democrats will narrow those margins next year. A Democratic takeover of either the House or Senate is not out of the question.

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), the architect of the 1994 GOP victory, said Republicans must take the initiative or risk serious losses next year. "If we regroup and reclaim the mantle of reform and change, we are likely to win '06 and '08," he said. "If we do not regroup, we are likely to have a very difficult '06 and '08."

Republicans believe that, given clear choices, voters will continue to favor candidates who preach, if not always practice, smaller government and who favor lower taxes and the vigorous pursuit of terrorists. But the Republican coalition is showing signs of fraying after almost 11 years of nearly continuous majority status. Conservatives have rebelled against some of Bush's priorities, and moderates are voicing increasing disaffection with their leaders.

If next year's elections prove to be a referendum on the party in power, as is often the case in midterm contests, the image of the Democrats may be less important than the broader unrest in the country over Iraq, immigration, energy and health care prices and the president's popularity.

The findings in this report are based on interviews in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Ohio and Colorado, as well as on a survey of 1,202 randomly selected adults nationwide contacted between Oct. 30 and Nov. 2. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus three percentage points.

### **More Trust for Democrats**

Two-thirds of those surveyed by The Post and ABC News said the country is heading in the wrong direction. Asked whom they were likely to support in next year's House elections, 52 percent of registered voters said the Democratic candidate, while 37 percent said the Republican. While this testing of generic preferences is not always a reliable indicator of elections, the result suggests that Republicans for now are in trouble.

Republicans may find solace in the fact that 60 percent of those surveyed approved of the job their own House member is doing -- but that, too, was the case one year before the 1994 election. Then the percentage declined throughout 1994; if the same happens next year, Republicans will be in serious trouble.

In another indication of unrest, a majority now say they have little or no confidence in the government in Washington to solve problems, another statistic that is similar to findings at this point 12 years ago.

## By-law Amendment to add *Assistant Treasurer* as an Officer Will Be Discussed by HHDC Members

A proposed by-law amendment to add *Assistant Treasurer* as an officer, whose responsibility will include filing all required forms with the appropriate government agencies, will be discussed at the December Holiday Party and voted upon at the January general membership meeting. Only dues paying members can vote.

### **HHDC Enters the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!**

Our HHDC Newsletter will now be available on your computer!

Please send your email to: Larry Caballero  
email:

[democab@comcast.net](mailto:democab@comcast.net)

We also are prepared to accept advertisements to be published monthly according to the following rates:

1/8 page \$20

1/4 page \$35

1/2 page \$65

full page \$125

Six Month Rate	Yearly Rate
1/8 page \$100	\$200
1/4 page \$175	\$350
1/2 page \$325	\$650
full page \$525	\$1,050

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## *Our Endangered Values*

### **A Review of Jimmy Carter's new book by Charlie Ara**

Jimmy Carter has always been one of my heroes. As a former president he has spent his life building homes for the poor, settling international disputes and fighting for a more peaceful world. The list of Mr. Carter's involvement is longer than this but these are some of the things that I admire in this most moral man.

Recently, I had the opportunity to read, in its entirety, his new book entitled OUR ENDANGERED VALUES.

What immediately became clear was that the Republican Party has adopted as its platform the narrowly defined tenets of rigid religious fundamentalism.

The book begins with a restatement of America's traditional moral values. These values, according to Mr. Carter, include promoting economic & social justice, preserving peace for ourselves and others, raising the banner of freedom and human rights, protecting the quality of our environment, alleviating human suffering and co-operating with other peoples around the globe to reach these goals.

Mr. Carter documents in his book the religious right attack on these values by trying to justify preemptive war, by striving to deny women's rights, by attempting to take away our civil liberties, by degrading the environment, by putting religious beliefs over science and by otherwise melding religion and politics.

Interesting Chapter titles include Must Women Be Subservient? Worshiping the Prince Peace, or Preemptive War? No Conflict between Science and Religion. The Entwining of Church and State. The Distortion of American Foreign Policy. Attacking Terrorism, Not Human Rights?

Through this easy to read book, President Carter comes across as an excellent teacher, political analyst and a compassionate human being deeply concerned about the trend away from traditional moral values in the false name of religion.

Would that our political leaders could follow Carter's advice of Peace through Diplomacy as a way to protect America's interests and make a better world.

I recommend this book to all who want to understand an objective view of the great moral issues surrounding the current events in American Politics.

I conclude the review of his book with a quote from Thomas Jefferson on a plaque given to Mr. Carter on the day he left office:

***I HAVE THE CONSOLATION TO REFLECT  
THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF MY ADMINISTRATION  
NOT A DROP OF BLOOD OF A SINGLE CITIZEN  
WAS SHED BY THE SWORD OF WAR***



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**PLEASE JOIN US!**

Please fill out the information below and return it with your **annual dues** to HHDC Membership, 11245 183<sup>rd</sup> Street #136 Cerritos, CA 90703. Make your check payable to the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club.

**YEAR 2006 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**Annual Dues are not tax deductible (please circle one)**

**Single membership \$20.00**

**Member and spouse \$30.00**

**Senior (65 or older)**

**and Students \$10.00**

**Lifetime \$150.00 couple \$250.00**

Please check here  if you do **not** want your name, address, e-mail, and phone numbers released to other club members.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

- I am anxious to help all I can.
- I can help part-time. Please call me.
- Unable to help at this time.

***HHDC Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11***

