

News 'n' Views

by and for members of the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

Volume 6 Issue 3

March, 2005

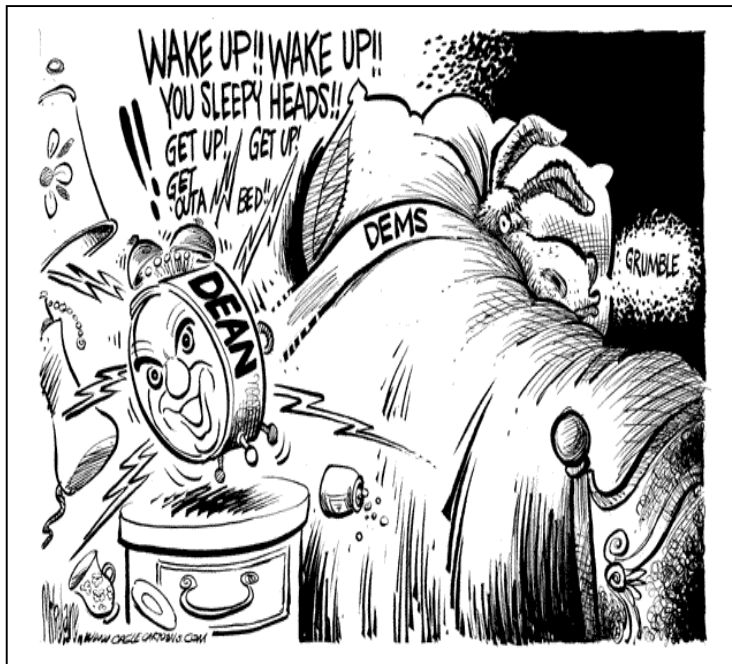
HHDC General Membership Meeting

Monday, March 21

**Coco's Restaurant
11510 South Street
Cerritos, CA
1/2 mile east of the 605 freeway
6:00 dinner 7:00 program**

**Program: Frontline Documentary:
Is Wal-Mart Good for America?
Guest Speaker Richard Alonzo, UAW 148 CAP Chair**

Topic: Wal-Mart and the Labor Unions



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My President's Report

By Alon Barlevy



I am honored to take over Victor's unfinished term as president of the Club. I'd like to thank Victor for the year of leadership that he has provided. During his reign as club president, we were all energized during the presidential primaries, with each one of us having a favorite candidate to replace George W. Bush, but we all agreed that any of the Democratic candidates would be far better than Bush. The energy then peaked for the general elections, only to lose by 118,599 votes in Ohio.

This year promises to be just as challenging. Schwarzenegger will most likely call for a special election this November, with the potential for a mind-boggling 70 propositions to be placed on the ballot. We will have to roll up our sleeves and fight him hard to ensure that he does not balance the budget on the backs of the poor and weak, nor on the backs of nurses and teachers.

Regardless if the special elections will be called, we will still have elections for the school board and the college board this November. As a club, we will work hard to get Democrats elected to those positions. Although those positions are officially listed as non-partisan, we all know that there is no such thing as "non-partisan" politics. We always have to work hard to get Democrats elected to all levels of government.

Additional activities that we are planning include demonstrations against the war in Iraq and handing out literature against the Republican plan to "privatize" Social Security (i.e. kill Social Security). Please see details in the newsletter, and make plans to attend.

We have just concluded some very hard fought city council elections. I would like to wish good luck to the 3 Hubert Humphrey Club endorsed candidates: Cho and Havice in Cerritos, and Allen in Norwalk. I would also like to wish good luck to Lakewood city council candidate Steve Croft, who spoke to our club at the last general meeting. By the time you read this message, the results will be known. I am hoping it will be 4 for 4.



What's Up with the HHDC

Sunday, March 20

1:30—4:30 PM

Signs will be provided

Demonstration Against the War

Corner of South Street and Gridley in Cerritos

Saturday, April 23

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cerritos Civic Center

We will be passing out literature opposing the privatization of social security

Table at Cerritos Spring Festival

Senate Leader Blasts Greenspan

By Dan Balz Washington Post Staff Writer

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan generally gets accolades for his public pronouncements. Yesterday he got a brickbat from Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.), who blasted Greenspan as "one of the biggest political hacks we have here in Washington."

Reid ripped Greenspan during an interview on CNN's "Inside Politics." He said the Fed chairman has given President Bush a pass on deficits that have built up in the past four years and should be challenging Republicans on their fiscal policies, rather than promoting Bush's plan to introduce personal accounts into Social Security.

"I'm not a big Greenspan fan -- Alan Greenspan fan," Reid said when asked about the Fed chairman's testimony this week urging Congress to deal quickly with the financial problems facing Social Security and Medicare. "I voted against him the last two times. I think he's one of the biggest political hacks we have in Washington."

Reid said that when Bill Clinton was president, Democrats had confronted the deficit problem by enacting a tax increase in 1993, which helped bring about a balanced budget and strong economic growth later in the decade.

"Why doesn't he respond to the Republicans and tell them the big problem here is the debt that this administration [has] created?" he said. "We had a \$7 trillion-dollar surplus when Bush took office. Now we have a \$3 or \$4 trillion-dollar deficit. That's, in fact, what Greenspan should be telling people."

A spokeswoman said the Federal Reserve would have no comment. Brian Jones, spokesman for the Republican National Committee, which a few weeks ago sharply attacked Reid, called the minority leader's comments regrettable.

"It's unfortunate that at a time when the president is looking to engage Congress in a substantive and meaningful discussion on Social Security that Harry Reid is spending his time attacking the Federal Reserve chairman," he said.

Reid's personal attack reflected Democrats' frustration over Greenspan's support for the key element of Bush's Social Security plan -- voluntary personal saving accounts for younger workers funded by diverting a portion of payroll taxes. Reid has led the Democrats in their united opposition to Bush's plan, and Reid spokesman Jim Manley said Greenspan's congressional testimony on Wednesday amounted to "shilling for the president with proposals that would put us deeper in debt."

As Reid made clear in his interview with CNN's Judy Woodruff, he has been a longtime critic of Greenspan. In 1996, Reid opposed a third four-year term for Greenspan and ordered a General Accounting Office report critical of the Fed's management. He described Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board as "arrogant."

Reid also differed with Greenspan on monetary policy, arguing that he was keeping interest rates too high. "We should put the brakes on Mr. Greenspan's nomination before we once again empower him with the ability to put the brakes on the economy," he said.

Stranger than Fiction

The Department of Homeland Security is experimenting with a controversial new method to keep better track of immigrants who are applying to remain in the United States. It is requiring aliens in eight cities to wear electronic monitors 24 hours a day.

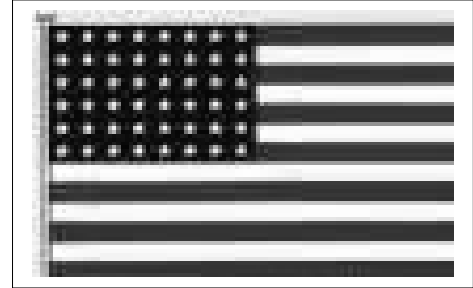
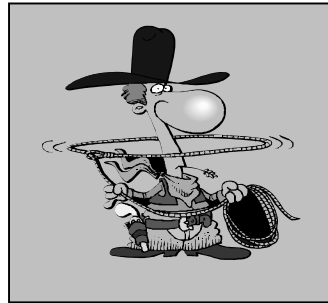
The ankle bracelets are the same monitors that some rapists and other convicted criminals have to wear on parole. But the government's pilot project is putting monitors on aliens who have never been accused of a crime.

So far, the Department of Homeland Security has put electronic monitors on more than 1,700 immigrants. Victor Cerda, director of Detention and Removal Operations at Homeland Security, says the anklets will help prevent tens of thousands of immigrants who are ordered to leave the country each year from "absconding" -- going into hiding to avoid deportation.

But critics say Cerda and other Homeland Security officials have exaggerated the extent of the problem. They point to a Justice Department study that put part of the blame on immigration officials, saying they'd failed to keep adequate records to track aliens.

The Caballero Roundup

By Larry Caballero



Stop the Draft before it starts

<http://www.NoDraftNoWay.org>

On March 31, the Selective Service System will report to President Bush that it is ready to implement a draft within 75 days. We have to organize now to stop the draft before it starts.

Despite what politicians say, there is a high probability that the Bush Administration will attempt to reinstate the draft.

The U.S. military is in a quagmire in Iraq, facing a national popular uprising against the occupation. Soldiers are dying every day. A report issued in January 2004 by Jeffrey Record, a visiting professor at the Air War College, said the Army is "near the breaking point." The Pentagon has been forced to issue repeated "stop loss" orders and recall soldiers who retired or otherwise returned to civilian life.

Out of 10 Army Divisions, part or all of 9 of them are either deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Twenty-one out of 33 regular combat brigades are on active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, or the Balkans. That's 63% of the Army's combat strength. This means the Army is overextended. The Bush Administration has been trying to fill the gap with Reserve and National Guard troops, but this is a temporary fix at best.

The head of the Army Reserves has recently written a memo saying that the readiness of his forces has been drastically reduced over-deployment and is "degenerating into a broken force."

Meanwhile, official U.S. foreign policy is now the doctrine of "pre-emptive war" and "regime change" wherever a leader runs afoul of U.S. corporate interests. An invasion of Iran, Syria, Korea, or Cuba -- all of whom are on Washington and Wall Street's list of targets -- would require tens or hundreds of thousands of new soldiers.

Enlistment rates not even able to maintain current force levels, much less provide troops for new invasions and occupations. All four services missed their enlistment quotas last year, and enlistments in the Reserves, National Guard, and regular military are at a 30-year low.

Many current members of the armed forces plan to get out as soon as their current enlistment ends. According to a poll conducted by the military newspaper Stars & Stripes, 49% of soldiers stationed in Iraq do not plan to re-enlist.

The President has given the Selective Service System a set of readiness goals to be implemented by March 31, 2005. As part of these performance goals, the System must be ready to be fully operational within 75 days. This means we can look for the Draft to be in operation as early as June 15, 2005.

March 19 is the second anniversary of the war. On the weekend of March 19-20, activists all over the globe will take to the streets to demand and end to the war and occupation. No Draft No Way will be mobilizing to take part in these demonstrations, which will take place just a few days before the Selective Service System reports to Bush that it is ready to go. We must be in the streets to let them know that we oppose the draft and will not be used as cannon fodder in Iraq or in any new war.

For those of you who read the *Los Cerritos Community News*, be sure to read our weekly *Column Left* articles written by HHDC members Charlie Ara, Alon Barlevy, Larry Caballero, and President Victor Manalo. If you have any great ideas for any future article for *Column Lefts*, please let us know at our web address http://www.hhhdemocrats.com/Column_Left.html

GOP---The Party of Family Values!



CALEEFORNEEYA

by Rex Babin



An Urgent Call to Republicans

By Donald Trader

I'd like to put out an urgent call to Republicans to make sure their sons and daughters volunteer for active military service. Uncle Sam needs you. National Guard and Army Reserve recruitment is falling short by some 50%, and it's getting tougher and tougher for the Marines, the Army and the other services to get the kind of recruit they want. Wait a minute -- the Marines and the Army ought to be flooded with volunteers!

I know that George Bush ran as a war president, and his main declaration was that he would stay the course in Iraq and Afghanistan, and wherever he felt military intervention was required. He held one crowded and cheering rally after another on this theme all across the United States. I saw all those good people on TV waving their American flags and doing high fives. I read many letters in newspapers supporting the war, including some from students of fighting age.

Some 59,000,000 Americans voted for George Bush and the Republicans. That includes the majority of the people in Tennessee. So why are we short of recruits to fight in Iraq? We ought to be inundated with enthusiastic volunteers. Tomorrow morning, I'd like to see 59,000,000 SUV's pulling up in front of Marine Corps and Army enlistment offices.

I see Tax Cut Hummers full of happy families, including healthy looking young people, whizzing by U.S. recruitment offices, and I wonder what the problem is: brake failure every time you get close to signing up to fight in a war you supported for a President you elected?

Now if you're a young Republican who hates taxes and supports the war in Iraq, you can't get away any longer with a ridiculous yellow ribbon on the back of your car. You're going to have to pay for the war, and you're going to have to fight in it. Who did you think was going to do that, if not you? Democrats?



HHDC Enters the 21st Century!

Our HHDC Newsletter will now be available on your computer!

*Please send your email to:
Larry Caballero*

email:

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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Democratic party needs a fighter

By Gene Lyons, Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Back when former Gov. Howard Dean appeared likely to win the Democratic presidential nomination, I thought he'd make a terrible candidate. I admired his straightforward style, but I doubted the Vermonter could win a single Southern state. Gay marriage alone would sink him. It wouldn't matter that Dean had brokered a compromise in Vermont favoring "civil unions." By the time Republicans got done demagoguing the issue, most "red state" voters wouldn't notice the distinction.

I also feared they'd tag Dean as unpatriotic for opposing the Iraq war, although he was right about that also. To the surprise of Washington pundits, most Democratic primary voters turned out to be thinking tactically, too. They gave the nomination to Sen. John Kerry, a fellow New Englander who had the advantage of being a Vietnam war hero. Alas, the Massachusetts Supreme Court hung gay marriage around his neck, he failed to defend himself effectively against the vile smears of the so called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and he proved incapable of explaining his position on Iraq in two short sentences.

Yet he came within 65,000 votes of defeating George W. Bush in Ohio and winning the presidency.

Would Dean have done better? That's impossible to say. But win or lose, he definitely would have gone down fighting. That's why his recent election as chair of the Democratic National Committee strikes me as good news. If nothing else, Dean's a scrapper, and the Democrats definitely need one.

Bush's ill-conceived Social Security "reforms," moreover, have handed them exactly the kind of issue they need. "You ever wonder why Republican campaigns are all run the same? Guns, God and gays. That's all they do," Dean said recently. "Why is that? It's because they never have anything constructive to say about jobs, health care and a real defense policy. They bring up those issues because they want people to vote against their economic interests.... We need to stop letting them tell America what we stand for, and we need to tell America what we stand for ourselves."

Almost on cue, a group called USA Next produced maybe the dumbest attack ad in the storied history of GOP smears. The thing is so preposterously over the top it seems like a parody. What's the latest anti-American group to display its unreasoning hatred of Bush? Believe it or not, it's the AARP, a. k. a. the American Association of Retired Persons. Grandma has gone subversive.

The ad, which ran briefly on The American Spectator Web site, showed a camouflaged U.S. soldier under a big red X and a pair of bridegrooms kissing under a green check mark. The caption read: "The REAL AARP Agenda." By resisting Bush's plan to borrow several trillion dollars to set up "personal accounts" and slash guaranteed Social Security benefits, the powerful geezer lobby had shown itself to be anti defense and pro-gay marriage.

Lest anybody think such grotesque illogic was the result of an LSD flashback, USA Next majordomo Charlie Jarvis warned that AARP could run—well, toddle, anyway—but it couldn't hide. He vowed to spend \$10 million exposing its sins. "They are the boulder in the middle of the highway to personal savings accounts," he told reporters. "We will be the dynamite that removes them."

Because its members tend to be aware that they already have tax deferred retirement options such as 401 (k) s and IRAs, they question the need for another investment plan that would yank the safety net from underneath society's most vulnerable members. You cannot trust Republicans with your money.



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PLEASE JOIN US!

Please fill out the information below and return it with your **\$15 annual dues** to HHDC Membership, 11245 183rd Street #136 Cerritos, CA 90703. Make your check payable to the Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club.

YEAR 2005 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

Annual Dues (please circle one)

- Single membership** **\$15.00**
- Member and spouse** **\$25.00**
- Senior (55 or older)** **\$10.00**
- Couple, if one member
is a senior** **\$20.00**

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

Wall-Mart and the Unions—the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Come to our March meeting—Monday, March 21

