

The GOOD News



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER OXNARD ORGANIZATION OF DEMOCRATS

President, Hope Holcomb - 985-7403

October 1995

Editor, Cloene Marson - 983-8111

The Time for the "Counter-Revolution" is NOW

by Brad Smith, Vice President/ Program Chair

Remember last March when our club meeting was devoted to the so-called "Contract With America"? We studied the outline of Newt's vision of the path America should take in the "Gingrich Revolution." The seeds of the Revolution, nourished in the soil of the Contract *On* America, have grown from ideas, to proposals, to bills. Now, it's harvest time for the Republican Congress.

The GOOD Club meeting of October 18 will be our "counter-revolution." In small groups, we will discuss the "who wins, who loses" aspects of the various bills being formulated by Congress, working from a summary of those bills prepared by a respected independent publication. Based on our individual concerns, we will write postcards, furnished by the club, to Senators and Representatives who are considered "swing votes" in Congress. A letter from the GOOD Club will be formulated to express your composite concerns to all of our Congressional representatives.

Now that Republican proposals have been fleshed out, grave threats to the economy and social well-being of the country are now exposed. As Congress approaches the deadline for appropriations, the real decisions on what will become law has begun. One bill would let industry pollute our air. Another would give employers a free pass to endanger the safety of their employees. Republicans would also raise taxes on the working poor, and lower them on the affluent, while raising fees for Medicare and cutting Medicaid.

If, by reading the newspapers, you have difficulty following the content, changes, implications and status of proposed legislation, this program is for you. If you never take time—or don't consider yourself informed enough—to write your legislators, this program is for you. Not only will you receive a printed analysis of Contract legislation to keep, but you will be able to share ideas with other concerned Democrats. **Join us at 7:00 p.m. on October 18 at 3400 Peninsula Road.**

COUNTY DEMOCRATS TO EAT, MEET WITH SENATOR JACK O'CONNELL

by Bob Holcomb

State Senator Jack O'Connell will be the featured speaker at a Brunch for Ventura County Democrats on **Saturday, October 28, 9:30 a.m., at 1094 East Main Street, Ventura**, the Operating Engineers Hall, Local 12. The Senator will present a "Sacramento Update." Friends and supporters of Jack know him to be an enjoyable speaker, combining a delightful sense of humor with excellent knowledge of the political scene. During the past decade he has represented parts of Ventura County, previously in the Assembly, and now in the Senate.

Accompanying Sen. O'Connell will be Bill Press, Chair of the Democratic Party of California, and Brad Sherman, our Ventura County representative on the State Board of Equalization. All Democrats and friends are urged to attend this **KICK-OFF MEETING FOR THE 1996 ELECTION YEAR**. The primary objectives of the event include fund-raising to establish a campaign headquarters, and a gathering of the members of the county's five Democratic Clubs and the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee.

Bob Galloway, recently-elected chair of the county central committee, will introduce the speakers. Two flags that have flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., will be auctioned to the highest bidders. Admission to the brunch is \$5, payable at the door. Let's have a GOOD turnout. More information will be available at the October 18 meeting.

The difference between Democrats and Republicans seems to be widening daily. As I read the newspapers and observe the differences, I become even happier with my decision to be a Democrat, and I am even more convinced that we must do everything we can to reinstate the Democratic party as the party of the future. Here are some of the differences:

On Welfare Reform

The Republican bill sponsored by Senator Bob Dole would convert federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), child care, job training, and food stamps into block grants to the states, while eliminating "entitlement status" to determine eligibility for the grants. States would have to decide how to spend less money on which groups of children and/or adults. Such bills would remove the guarantee of a "safety net" which Democrats feel is necessary to guarantee a decent future for our children.

At the same time, the Republicans are sponsoring a tax *cut* for the wealthy.

On Education

The Republicans are threatening to eliminate Head Start (a program with proven success), reduce nutrition programs for school children, eliminate the office of Secretary of Education, reduce student loans and occupational training programs.

By contrast, Democrats have traditionally given high priority to education, supporting programs at all levels from nursery schools for children of working mothers to vocational training and college loans.

The introduction of more sophisticated technologies in the workplace, and the increasing need for our nation to be able to compete in the international market, calls for improvements in the education of our children—not elimination of successful programs.

On Health Care

The Republicans who did not acknowledge a health care crisis two years ago, are trying to put through a program that would reduce Medicare and Medicaid while enriching the insurance companies and providing enough savings to give a tax cut to the rich.

President Clinton struggled mightily in his first year to put in place a program that would provide health care for all Americans, but was stymied by the Republican Congress.

I am happy to echo the words of Congressman Xavier Becerra, who said, **"I am a Democrat because we are the party that cares about people of all backgrounds; inclusion, not exclusion. That's the Democratic Party."**

EL CONCILIO PROGRAM TRIUMPHS

by Jean Harris

On Sunday evening, October 1, Oxnard's Breakthrough Youth for Success Program lived up to its ambitious name. Returning from a week-long camping experience at Big Bear, 41 at-risk youth, ages 15 to 18, stepped off a bus to make a triumphal march between rows of 200 cheering and clapping family members, volunteers and civic leaders. The Oxnard Room of the Community Center, decorated with multi-colored floating balloons, was the site of the joyous event which celebrated many personal victories as each youth gave testimony about the inspiring and intensive program of physical challenge and group counseling.

The youths spoke of their new confidence, trust in others, personal insights, and changed attitudes. They asked their families' forgiveness for what they had "put them through," and shared the discovery that if you keep trying and keep your temper in check, you can find satisfactory solutions to problems and conflicts. Each one expressed hope and commitment toward a new future, and vowed to

work hard in school and to listen to their parents. Their sincerity and respect for the staff rang true, and each youth was cheered loudly and long.

Councilman Tom Holden, who was instrumental in promoting the program, congratulated the group on their accomplishment, and challenged them to become role models for their friends. Their new "committed partners," or mentors—volunteer adults from the community—will support them through the coming year to encourage fulfillment of the vision each had created in the "longest seven days of my life."

The Breakthrough Youth for Success Program has had phenomenal success in 28 cities across the U.S., Canada and the U.K. It has reduced felony crime, drug use, and truancy among youth. Past participants have a 550% increase in employment hours.

We wish all 41 participants continued success, through their renewed confidence and determination, to build a positive future for themselves. "Remember," said one volunteer who was on the camping trip, "it takes a whole village to raise a child." He had certainly done his part. More mentors are needed. Phone 983-2336.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 1996 Officers to be Elected October 18

The following slate of officers will be offered to the club membership at the October regular meeting:

President	Allen Dirrim
Vice President	Jean Harris
Recording Secretary	Chris Alapont
Corresponding Secretary	Merri Ann Harbert (pending consent)
Treasurer	Hope Holcomb
Liaison	Brad Smith

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. Nominees must have given consent, and be a member in good standing. All members in good standing (dues paid) are eligible to vote. Officers take office in January.

The Nominating Committee, having been elected at the September meeting, consists of Kay Banyai, Bob Holcomb, Brad Smith, Jean Harris, and Cloene Marson, Chair.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM UPDATE

by Bradley Smith

As of October 1, more than 100,000 signatures had been obtained statewide on the petition being circulated by the coalition of Californians for Political Reform. This is slightly lower than the target set to reach 650,000 signatures by December 15. A continuing effort by our volunteers is required to reach our goal. Many volunteers from the GOOD Club have done commendable work for the cause, but **we need more circulators** who are concerned about the obscene amounts of money that now drive political campaigns.

A study of the 1993-4 election cycle donations was released by Common Cause on October 4. It shows why reform is vitally needed in California. State Senator Rob Hurtt contributed more campaign money than any other individual in the state's history. He personally passed out \$1,215,559, and— through his jointly-owned Allied Business PAC— donated an additional \$1,085,388 to various campaigns. Rob Hurtt and Allied Business PAC are part of the Religious Right which is seeking to control the California Legislature by financing candidates with similar religious leanings.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE THREE REPUBLICANS who went to the Wizard of Oz to ask for help?

"I really need a heart," said Newt Gingrich.

"Can I get a brain?" asked Bob Dornan.

And Bob Packwood said, "By golly, where's Dorothy?"

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

By Sandee Bates, Environmental Chair

On September 19, I witnessed the importance of citizen involvement in government. The Oxnard City Council chamber was filled with citizens involved in heated discussion about Village West, the proposed housing development for part of the Ormond Beach property owned by the Baldwin Company. Those opposed— the majority who were present— represented diverse interests.

I had the privilege of presenting Jean Harris' wonderful letter, in her absence. She called attention to the potential for eco-tourism by preserving the area with its 300 species of birds. Chris Alapont presented the position of the GOOD Club Executive Board: opposition to any development at Ormond Beach which would endanger either people or the wetland ecosystem.

Other speakers expressed concern about the chemicals and noise associated with heavy industries already located in close proximity to the proposed development, or the possible loss of jobs if those industries were forced to move or to curtail operations because of residential development. Truckers who work in South Oxnard were concerned about increased traffic congestion.

Another issue raised by speakers was the potential of lawsuits against the City of Oxnard, as residents of the future Village West become aware of hazardous industrial chemicals nearby their properties. The Baldwin Company's credibility and honesty were questioned, referring to its bankruptcy proceedings while giving generously to its executives, and the lawsuit being brought against the company by former construction workers in the San Diego area.

Ted Schultz and Roma Armbrust provided Village West opponents with "Save Our Wetlands" badges, while supporters of the development wore yellow tee shirts. It was a colorful and stimulating evening which prompted the City Council to delay their decision. But let's not drop our watchful guard!

BOOKS FOR BUCKS, a club fund raiser that's educational as well as entertaining, was postponed at the September meeting, due to time constraints. **BRING YOUR BOOKS AND BUCKS** and try your luck at the October meeting.

JANE TOLMACH
656 DOUGLAS AVENUE
OXNARD CA 93030

NEXT MEETING: October 18, 7:00 p.m.
3400 Peninsula Rd., Oxnard
TOPIC: Critiquing the Contract With America:
Who wins? Who loses?

OXNARD, CALIFORNIA 93031

P.O. BOX 5864

Member of the Greater Oxnard Organization of Democrats

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GOOD Club Members You Should Know:

SANDEE BATES: HER LIFE HAS BEEN A MOVING EXPERIENCE

by Chris Alapont

It was the evening of the GOOD Club's Executive Board meeting, and I naively thought I could do an expeditious interview with Sandee Bates, who has always been on the move. Born to Norwegian and Irish settlers, Sandee Somdal started life in Illinois. The family moved frequently, following her father's career as an editorial cartoonist.

After 10 years with the Evanston Daily, Carl Somdal was hired by the Fresno Bee as their chief editorial cartoonist. Thus, charming strawberry blonde Sandee became a fine student of drama at Clovis High School in Fresno, obtaining the lead role of Ginger in *Time Out for Ginger* in her senior year. After graduation, Fresno State University captured Sandee's eye for drama. She majored in broadcasting to "get her foot in the door" as an aspiring actress.

It was in her senior year at Fresno State that "Chuck" Bates discovered Sandee. He whirled her off to the altar just before whisking her to Spain where the air force stationed "Chuck" for several years. She mastered Spanish with uncanny ease, and had their first child in San Pablo, near Seville. Successive tours of duty took the Bates family to Germany, France, Holland, Scotland, Belgium, England, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Yugoslavia (what's it called now?), Greece, Italy—and finally Wyoming, three more children later.

In Wyoming, Sandee became a member of the League of Women Voters, for whom Sandee wrote humorous skits on women. She co-authored articles on energy sources and pollution, and completed a study for the League on World Hunger.

Settling in Oxnard after her husband began business in the tile industry, Sandee landed her first job with the California Department of Employment, where she still works. Yet she found time to serve two terms as president of the GOOD Club prior to her current job on the Executive Board as Chair, Environmental Concerns Committee.

Add her talents in singing, writing, and drawing, and I think of Sandee as a "wandering minstrel." She's quite a lady, no matter how you know her.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ON DECEMBER 14! The GOOD Club's Annual HOLIDAY HAPPENING