

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

May 2005 Issue

www.bencodem.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

Watching the morning news shows on Sunday should be mandatory for Democrats: the problems with John Bolton's nomination as U.N. rep, the disastrous actions of Tom DeLay, Bill Frist's threat to do away with the filibuster, and a new, conservative Catholic pope. It reminds me that we're lucky to live in a country where we can disagree with the current administration and it points out that Republicans would like to rescind that right. We can still march to a different drummer, but we'd better march double-time.

One way to work on changing the discussion is to buy or borrow a copy of George Lakoff's most recent book; *Don't Think of an Elephant*. It'll arm you with methods to change the tone of discussion from the Republicans' slant. We have a few copies at our price of \$6.00 if you'd like to own it and can order more if we run out. There's more than one way to frame a dialog!

To follow up on last month's report on our Benton County brainstorming session, Washington State Democrats are planning a similar strategy session for May 21st, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Grant County Public Works Bldg., 124 Enterprise St. S.E. in Ephrata. Democrats from all over the 4th Congressional District (CD) will attend. You can give detailed answers to questions on the pre-session survey at:

<http://survey.perseus.com/1f7a5518.htm>
OR you can mail Jaxon Ravens at P.O. Box 4027, Seattle WA 98194 to answer the following questions:

1) When you think about the 4th CD,

what issue is most in need of immediate attention?

- 2) When you think about the 4th CD, what other issues or things are in need of attention?
- 3) Are there any other items related to the 4th CD you'd like to see addressed?

This is a chance for all PCOs and activists to determine the goals and objectives for our Congressional District.

We have some new PCOs in our organization whom we'd like to welcome. We hope you'll find a forum for your passions and a way to express those passions, as well as get some training to reach out to other Democrats and Independents in your precinct. Be sure to e-mail Benton County Democratic Chair, Mimi Latta at chair@bencodem.org with your e-mail address so you'll receive information as quickly as possible. Remember our May meeting on the 18th, 7:00 pm in the Richland Library. I hope we'll see you there to finalize our Bylaws.
Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

4th CD Grassroots Strategy Session

2005 and 2006 are the *Years of the Grassroots* for the Democratic Party. The challenge we face is to determine how we can build the grassroots and engage all of the new people who have been brought into the Democratic Party through our caucuses and Democratic activism over the course of the past year.

To meet this challenge, the Washington State Democrats are sponsoring a series of strategy sessions in conjunction with local party organizations. During the next three months, strategy sessions will be held in each of the state's nine Congressional Districts.

The purpose of these sessions is two-fold:

- First, to facilitate a discussion with PCOs and local party activists to determine what issues are most relevant

to that Congressional District

- Second, to have an open and candid discussion about the best ways to engage and mobilize the grassroots of the Party within that CD

The 4th CD session will be on May 21st in Ephrata. Although a suggested \$10 registration fee will be collected at the door to help defray the costs of hosting this session, a donation is not required for participation. Call Leona Hassing at 946-8140 or e-mail her at lhassing@aol.com to arrange for carpooling

May BCDCC Meeting

The May BCDCC Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 18th, at 7:00 pm, at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union in Kennewick.

2005 Golden Tennis Shoe Awards

Patty Murray's 10th Annual Golden Tennis Shoe Awards will be held in Seattle at the Westin Hotel May 6th at 12:00 noon. Madeleine Albright will be the guest speaker. This is a fundraiser event. Call Amanda Brothers at 206-286-9199 for ticket prices, or to reserve your seat. You may send an e-mail to: gtsawards@pattymurray.com for more information.

Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. Personally written material should be kept to 125 words or less. Submissions of excessive length will be returned, and a shorter revision requested. Reference articles will be summarized, or edited to an appropriate length.

Please submit material for consideration by the date listed in the calendar for each month. Due to limited space, material received earliest will receive priority consideration. Reference articles without publication name, date, and author will not be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Edited submissions will be returned for review.

Please send submissions to Matt Kizerian at editor@bencodem.org
E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

Upcoming Events—Con't

Tri-Cities Democrats Meeting

The May meeting of the Tri-City Democrats will be held at the Labor Hall, 1305 Knight St. in Richland, on Friday, May 6th. The program for the evening will be presented by Vice Chair of the Benton County Democrats, Bob Parazin. Bob, representing DFA, Democrats for America, will talk about the book, *Don't Think Like an Elephant*, written by George Lakoff. The evening starts with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, program begins at 7:00 pm. Hosts will be Jerad Koepp and Caity Guyette.

Leona Hassing, President,
Tri-City Democrats

Democracy For America Meet-Up

The May Meet-Up will be held May 4th at the Mid-Columbia Library in Kennewick on Union Street. We will meet at 7:00 pm in Room A.

Bob Parazin

John Kerry in Seattle

Senator John Kerry will appear in Seattle on Sunday, May 1st from 6:30–8:30 pm. This is a fundraiser for the Washington State Party's Governor's Defense Fund. The event will take place at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Discovery Park. Tickets are \$75/\$100/\$250. Reservations need to be made in advance: call Shawna Ousse at 206–583–0664, or e-mail her at shawna@wa-democrats.org

Event Reports

State Central Committee Meeting

The last State Party meeting, held in Pasco the first weekend in April, saw the announcement of the creation of an Eastern Washington Field Coordinator

position. The State Central Committee also passed a resolution establishing an Eastern Washington Field Office, to act as a home-base for the increased efforts east of the mountains.

By-Laws Committee

Adoption of the proposed Bylaws, 2005-06 for the Benton County Democratic Central Committee will be on the agenda of the May 18th BCDCC meeting. A copy of the Bylaws may be obtained by contacting Bob Bowersock (e-mail pnbsock@aol.com) or by phone 943–4559.

Bob Bowersock, Bylaws Chair

Earth Day Celebration

Thanks to those who participated in BCDCC's 1st Annual Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd. We met at the new Lewis & Clark Overlook in Kennewick to pick up garbage along the Yakima Delta Area to the west of Bateman Island. We removed over eight VERY full bags of trash from along the river and trail.

Afterwards we headed off to Columbia Trail Park for a campfire, complete with s'mores. We also enjoyed the cool, cool, cool of the evening listening to the smooth vocal stylings of guitarist Bobby Paragon (Bob Parazin) and singing along to '60s anthems like *If I Had a Hammer* and *Blowin' in the Wind*.

Put April 22nd 2006 on your calendar for the 2nd Annual BCDCC Earth Day.

New PCOs

New PCOs appointed in the April BCDCC meeting were:

- Richard Wright, pct 630
- Matt Kizerian, pct 555 (acting)

- Alma Lewandowski, pct 145
- Virginia McIntyre, pct 310
- David Harvey, pct 160

If you are interested in serving as a PCO in your precinct, or acting as PCO in another precinct which has no elected PCO, contact Chair Mimi Latta at 627–2679 or e-mail her at chair@bencodems.org

Into the Future

The BCDCC is about to enter the electronic age...sort of. E-mail's been with us for how long...10 years? So what's new? At our last Central Committee meeting a motion passed that stated that e-mail will now become a formal means of communication between Party offices and their membership.

But BEFORE we get ahead of ourselves, NOTE that for those of you that dislike e-mail or prefer US Postal snail mail, that option will remain open. If we have your CURRENT e-mail address but you prefer to receive your correspondence by the USPS, please let us know by leaving a message to that effect on our answering machine 505–7682, or send a note to our secretary at secretary@bencodems.org, and we'll duly note it on our mailing list. Please do the same when your e-mail changes. And if you don't have an e-mail address or computer, don't worry. The postman will deliver.

E-mail is obviously both a faster and more economical way to communicate information. But for it to work, we will need your cooperation and your CURRENT e-mail address. For 'critical' e-mail communications, we will flag each recipient for a 'Read Receipt' to make sure mail is received and opened. And if we don't receive a receipt...we'll call.

Bob Parazin



Web Resources

★ www.americanprogress.org Center for American Progress Make sure you sign up for their daily news email—The Progress Report. They also have a "Daily Talking Points" e-mail.

★ www.turnaroundamericaday.com Turn Around America Day. Good source of ideas for increasing Democratic activism.

★ www.eia.gov/neic/experts/contactexperts.htm Department of Energy primer on gasoline sources and markets.

★ www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/finders/cg574.htm Catalog of WA State Dem Party Archives at WSU Holland Library.



Book List

★ *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Toqueville

★ *Crossing of the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil* by Michael C. Rupert

★ *The Discovery of Global Warming (New Histories of Science, Technology, and Medicine)* by Spencer R. Weart

★ *Winning Back America* by Howard Dean

★ *The Exception to the Rulers* by Amy Goodman

Governor's Race Redux

SEATTLE—Washington Democratic Party Chair Paul Berendt today called on Dino Rossi to instruct his lawyers to tell the court and Washington voters the whole truth about last fall's gubernatorial election.

In recent news accounts, Republican attorney Peter Schalestock admitted that Rossi's case was not about ensuring that every vote was counted, stating, "There's no obligation in court to present all the evidence that helps or hurts you." Last week, Rossi took his absurd position to the court and argued that he should be able to point out votes he claims were illegal and would have benefited Christine Gregoire while at the same time he argued that Democrats should not be able to present evidence of the illegal votes and errors that benefited Rossi around the state.

Rossi has been alleging that certain votes in King County may have been counted in error. However, he has made no effort to reveal the numerous votes in King County that wrongfully were never counted and also has been ignoring problems with votes cast that benefited Rossi in other areas of the state.

"It is terribly disappointing that there were voters in King County who made the effort to go to the polls on Election Day and whose votes did not get counted," Berendt said. "But Dino Rossi wants to ignore that fact. Rossi only wants to talk about mistakes that hurt him. Clearly, there were more errors that hurt Governor Gregoire. Why can't Rossi and his lawyers just admit that obvious fact?"

Republican Secretary of State Sam Reed has said there are 20 counties that made mistakes in the 2004 election. Berendt said, "The question that all Washingtonians need to ask is, 'Why is Dino Rossi focused only on one kind of problem in one county?' The answer is clear. Dino Rossi is fighting for himself, not for Washington or its voters."

Dino Rossi has been making false, outrageous claims since the day he lost the election. He even resorted to using military families as political pawns.

"Rossi continues to hide the whole story from Washington's voters and instead is trying to cherry-pick his way to

the governor's mansion," Berendt continued. "The most important fact he has been ignoring is that Washington has laws in place for close elections. As a State Senator, Dino Rossi voted for those laws. Those laws were followed and Christine Gregoire was certified Governor. Now he wants to use a court to change the rules."

WA State Democratic Party
April 18, 2005

More on Social Security

Washington, DC—Millions of Americans have invested their savings in government bonds, yet President Bush continues to contradict the Social Security Administration and suggest they are worthless "IOUs" from the government. The truth is, according to the Treasury Department, President Bush will pay nearly \$322 billion in interest on the public debt this year alone. That includes payments to China and Japan for the \$896.1 billion in U.S. government bonds they own. But now, the President has declared the American-owned bonds in the Social Security Trust Fund worthless "IOUs."

"In his failing attempt to sell his scheme to privatize Social Security, George Bush is misleading the American people," said DNC Communications Director Karen Finney. "How can he suggest that millions of hard working Americans who own government bonds in the Social Security Trust Fund won't be paid back? If that's really the policy of Washington Republicans, it's no surprise that public support for their extreme agenda is rapidly falling."

DNC Press Release

Parade Committee

Although we will not have an entry for the Cinco de Mayo parade this year, we will have entries for the 4th of July parade and the Benton County Fair parade. Jim Dillman, Co-Chair of the Parade Committee, wants to incorporate images of contributions Democrats have made to the nation and to the local area, such as Social Security, the space program, and Grand Coulee Dam.

If you are interested in participating in the parades, or helping assemble our entries, please contact either Jim Dillman (375-0322) or Laurel Piippo (943-3415).

Letters to the Editor

If you haven't done so yet, visit bencodem.org and check out the new forums. You can post comments on a variety of topics, create polls, and reply to other people's ideas.

Social Security

I think the short term solution for Social Security is obvious. Currently, Social Security is only paid on \$90,000 of income. For those below this level, all of their income is taxed. For those above this level, only a portion of their income is taxed. This tax is obviously regressive and raising the 'cap' will increase revenue, without jeopardizing the current system. My question is, why don't policy makers—BOTH Democrat and Republican, offer this as an obvious initial solution to the long-term problem? I can see why ties to wealthy individuals and corporations may lead some to avoid this option, but Democratic leaders need loudly proclaim this solution! I am tired of seeing Democratic commercials saying things like, "We only need to make a few minor adjustments". The American public likes details when it comes to their money! We need to lay a plan on the table, or we are playing into the Republican accusation that we don't really have a solution! I encourage our senators to make their voices heard on the matter and get specific!!!!

Anne Kizerian

Newsletter Committee

I want to thank the wonderful volunteers who have so faithfully helped with preparing the newsletter for mailing. It is an important responsibility and has been a lot of work, especially during the pre-election period last fall. Your willingness to pitch in and get the job done has been humbling. I especially wish to thank Donna and Frank Ling for their generous donation of sturdy scotch tape dispensers which made the process go so much more quickly and easily. **YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

Missy Keeney Baker

Letters to the editor may be submitted concerning local, national, or international issues, or as a forum for commentary on the newsletter.

May 2005

Events

April

29 Young Democrats Meeting, Hastings's Bookstore Café in Richland, 7:00 pm.

May

- 1 Senator John Kerry at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, Discovery Park, Seattle, 6:30 pm
- 4 Democrats for America Meet-Up, Mid-Columbia Library, Union St. in Kennewick, Room A at 7:00 pm
- 6 Tri-City Democrats Meeting, Richland Labor Hall, 7:00 pm
- 6 Golden Tennis Shoe Awards, Westin Hotel, Seattle, 12:00 noon
- 10 May Exec Committee Meeting, Richland Library Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 14 4th CD meeting, Richland Library, 7:00 pm
- 18 May BCDCC Meeting Richland Library Gallery 7:00 pm
- 24 4th CD Grassroots Strategy Session, Grant County Public Works Building, 124 Enterprise St. SE, Ephrata, WA. 10:00-2:00

27 Last day to submit material for the June newsletter

June

- 14 June Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Union St. in Kennewick, Room B, 7:00 pm
- 15 June BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library, 7:00 pm
- 24 Last day to submit material for the July newsletter

July

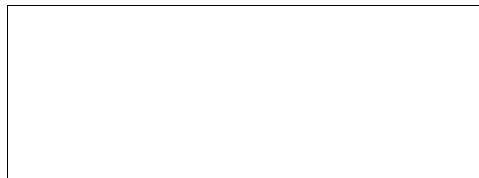
- 12 July Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 20 July BCDCC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 29 Last day to submit material for the August newsletter

August

- 6 4th CD meeting, Moses Lake, 10:00 am
- 13 Benton County Summer Picnic Keewaydin Park, Kennewick Noon to dusk
- 26 Last day to submit material for the September newsletter

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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