

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

Sept. 2007

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An Unexpected Conversation

I find interesting the variety of people that come to our booth at the County Fair. You get to talk to a variety of people, hard-core Democrats, curious independent non-voters, those who lean Democratic, regressive Bush Republicans, moderate Dems, etc. Sometimes the conversations can get a bit heated. But I heard about a conversation our Co-Chair Mickey Beary had with a young lady on Wednesday that he didn't expect.

The young lady came to our booth and Mickey asked if she was registered to vote. She said no. She was only 14. She said she'd been to the Republican booth and they said that they were going to bring the troops home. Mickey was a bit taken back by the comment and not sure how to respond. And she added that if Republicans were elected they'd surely bring the troops home. Mickey said that it hadn't happened yet in 5 years and there had been several pieces of legislation in front of Congress that would bring the troops home and its all been stymied by the

Republicans. She said, "I understand that we need to help the Iraqis stabilize their county". Mickey replied that our country already has done a lot and now it's up to the Iraqis, it's their country. The girl then said,

"My bother is over there and he's 18 years old and I'd like to have him come home". As she spoke, her quiet words lead to some tears. And as she tried to catch her emotions she said "My brother is only 18, he's over in Iraq and I miss him", then silence. Mickey was at a loss for words. How could he respond? It was one of those conversations you don't expect, not at a Fair Booth. After a bit of silence she turned away at that point still a bit teary-eyed, went over to her older sister or friend in the aisle and walked away.

Much of what we hear about politics is shaped into 'confrontation', verbal sparring, and polemic that is crafted, shaped, and spun by politicians, political pundits and even comedians. The hopes of a 14-year old sister concerned about her brother rarely get heard in such a spontaneous, one-to-one conversation. We sometimes loose sight of the tremendous impact government has on its citizens including its children. And yet we almost trivialize government; make fun of it; use it for entertainment, and diversion in our lives. The dimension by which many Americans understand government and democracy, and its impact in our lives is a mile wide but an inch deep. With all the communication technology we have at our fingertips, as a nation our attention span has narrowed and we appear more prone to make judgments based on smaller and smaller sound bites and video clips rather than seriously digging into issues.

It reminds me of a confrontation I had with a Limbaugh 'parrot' last year at the Fair. After sparring a bit, I tired of his rants and told him to get out, to

leave. He quieted down and in a more serious tone asked me when I thought Democrats would have a chance again to regain power. I said, “only when things get so bad and ridiculous that the pre-spun, artfully crafted sound bites and video clips of corporate media and pundit shows will no longer be believed.” Sadly enough I don’t think we’re at that point yet.

County Fair Booth 07

Bob Parazin

I’d like to thank our two Co-Chairs of the Fair Booth this year. Mickey Beary and Anne Muggli for raising their hand and saying YES. And I’d also like to thank all our supporters who put in their time at the booth and it’s assembly, decoration, removal and storage. We cleaned, assembled, decorated and retired the booth with help from both Benton and Franklin counties. Nice going!

The crowds this year appeared more cordial than in the past and I wasn’t aware of any problems as of this writing, but I haven’t heard all the stories yet. I heard that the Republicans had some disagreement with the Ron Paul supporters and refused them access to their booth. We registered close to 100 voters and about 25 folks sign up for our newsletter.

As opposed to last year, we experienced perfect attendance this year. Everyone came as scheduled. I believe it was due to the later scheduling we used and the reminder calls the day before the assigned work day. The workers using the bus sometimes were delayed a bit, but normally came within 15 or 20 minutes of the scheduled time. We may schedule work times more in line with the bus schedule in the future.

Unfortunately, we had one couple volunteer EARLY in the sign-up period with a confirmed time only to show up and find their spot already taken. It’s difficult enough to get volunteers, but when they DO raise their hand only to be ignored or in this case abused; it’s most regrettable. After looking into the matter, I found the fault to be mine when my preliminary schedule was ‘cleaned’ when sent to the Co-Chairs.

As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, you’re known by the “ripples” you create and this is one ripple I hope isn’t repeated. Being a volunteer

organization we ARE TOTALLY dependent upon our supporters so we must remember that “obligation” IS a two way street. We MUST respect our volunteer’s commitment as well.

Young Democrats at CBC

Fitzgerald Reyes

We’re working to re-establish our Young Democrats organization at CBC. If there are members of your family who are students at CBC and would be interested in helping the Young Dems get organized on CBC’s campus, PLEASE e-mail their name/phone number to outreach@bencodem.org. Or leave a message on our HOTLINE at 585 7682.

08 Presidential Candidates

Bob Parazin

In preparing for the Fair this year, one of our supporters, Bob Bowersock kindly offered to provide a DVD player at our Fair Booth to showcase our stable of Democratic Presidential candidates. To obtain candidate DVD’s we called the national Headquarters of each candidate asking to talk to their Press/Media Department.

It was an interesting journey. After explaining the purpose of the call, we quickly got a sense of where Washington State ranked on their priority list. Most of the campaigns explained why our state wasn’t a priority and thus, couldn’t help. Some were very blunt about it. Others directed our request to their websites to download information. Many were eager to send us to their campaign store to purchase DVD’s, bumper stickers, etc. Some kindly took our phone number and PO Box for later contact (which never came). Only the Gravel and Obama camps seemed willing to provide something. In all, we received only ONE DVD, from the Chicago Obama headquarters.

I don’t exactly know what that tells us about the campaigns OR the candidates, except that they’re spending dollars where they believe it will do them the

most good, but NOT in eastern Washington. Don't view it as an insult. It's a reality of 08 primary politics.

After Labor Day, George will attend Chelan County's fair and Yakima's Central WA State Fair – both in September as well. He will sit in on the Democratic Agricultural and Rural Caucus conference in Moses Lake and attend the Eastern WA Democratic

George Fearing Campaign Update

Mimi Latta

It's almost September and the campaign schedule has really heated up! George and his supporters have participated in the Grant County Fair and the Benton Franklin Fair Parade as well as George spending time in the Benton/Franklin County Democratic booth at the Benton Franklin fair. George has new literature to hand out and is having a good time talking to fair-goers who ask about his campaign.

You can see George's entry in the Benton Franklin Fair parade by watching the video of it on cable channel 3. George's banner, carried by John Latta and Kendall Miller is visible for nearly a minute while the moderators talk about the well-decorated cars and George's supporters. The campaign wants to thank Naomi Sherer, Anne Muggli, Kendall Miller, John Latta as well as George's namesake 11-year-old son and fiancée, Deborah Feurborn for helping decorate the vehicles and hand out literature and candy.

On Labor Day weekend, George will have an entry in the Ellensburg Rodeo Parade on Saturday, September 1st and in the Wapato Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 3rd. If you wish to help George with his entry, please call Mimi Latta @ 627-2679 or George at 736-1330 to volunteer. We will all be dressing in either a red or white shirt, blue jeans and sneakers for the Ellensburg parade. If you have a cowboy hat to wave or a bandana neckerchief, it will add to our western theme look.

We particularly welcome Labor locals to walk with George wearing their union T-shirts. Doc consistently votes against Labor and needs to be sent the message that there are consequences for votes against ordinary working Americans. George has always stood strong for Labor and collective bargaining. Come stand strong with George in Ellensburg or Wapato.

Convention in Ellensburg coming up in mid-September and October, respectively.

George is working hard and getting his name out in the 4th. If you'd like to volunteer to help on George's campaign, please call Mimi Latta 627-2679 or George 736-1330 or go to George's website: www.georgefearing.com to see what's happening.

Upcoming Events

Drinking Liberally, every **Tuesday at 7 pm** at O'Callahan's on the Deck (weather permitting) Richland. Water, coffee, tea and soda drinkers are most welcome and appreciated.

Friday Sept 7th

Tri-City Democrats, Richland Labor Temple, 6 pm Potluck, 7 pm Program

Wed Sept 12th

Outreach Committee, 6:30 pm at the Richland Community Center North Patio

Thursday, Sept 13th

Executive Board Mtg, 6:30 pm at the Richland Community Center Conference Room

Wednesday, Sept 19th

Benton County Dem Central Committee Mtg, 7 pm, Richland Public Library Conference Room

Thursday, Sept 20th

Candidate Development Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Mid Columbia Library 16th and S. Union.

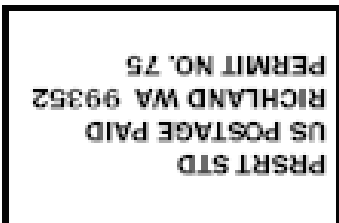
Tuesday, Sept 25th

Organization Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Richland Public Library, Conference Room.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 *Drink Liberally Shilo/O'Callahans 7pm	5	6	7 TriCity Democrats, Labor Temple, Richland 6 pm food 7pm program	8
9	10	11 *	12 Outreach Comm 6:30 pm RCC Patio	13 Executive Board Mtg, 6:30 pm RCC	14	15
16	17	18 *	19 Central Committee Mtg 7 pm RPL	20 Candidate Development, 6:30 MCLU	21	22
23	24	25 * Organization Committee Mtg 7:00 RPL	26	27 Finance Comm Budget/Fundraising Mtg 6:30	28	29
30						

* **Drinking Liberally** - Every Tuesday at the Shilo/O'Callahan's in Richland - 7 pm soft drinks and water are available! NOTE O'Callahan's & Restaurant are operated by a subcontractor NOT the Shilo Inn Corporation.
 RPL --- Richland Public Library RCC -- Richland Community Center MCLU -Mid-Columbia Library 16th & Union
 MCLD -- Mid-Columbia Library 405 Dayton St, Kennewick in Keewaydin Park



Return Service Requested
 Benton County Democratic Party
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