



Meeting Agenda

July 19, 2005
7:30 pm—9:00 pm
University Baptist Church
NE 47th and 12th NE

- 7:30 Call to order —
Richard Kelley, Chair
Minutes—
Will Affleck-Asch,
Secretary
Finance report—
Lynn Chadsey,
Treasurer
- 7:40 Chair's report
1) Nominating conven-
tion and primary elec-
tion lawsuit
2) 43rd District en-
dorsement meeting
August 9.
- 7:50 Vice Chairs' reports,
State Committee and
KCDCC reports
- 8:00 Spring Party
Julian Wheeler, Events
Vice Chair
- 8:10 Program—
Neal Traven,
Vice Chair for
Programs

Candidate Forum—
Seattle City Council
- 9:20 Resolutions
- 9:25 Good of the Order
9:30 Adjournment

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS?

The 2004 book "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank is available in paperback for \$14. Seattle Public Library has 35 copies.

There are 40 pages of fine-print notes, devoted almost entirely to sources of statements quoted in the 250-page text.

A major complaint of conservatives in Kansas is the increasingly sordid nature of popular culture, but they do not blame it on business interest in making bucks but rather on liberals in control of Hollywood and TV. Our culture is the way it is because liberals have decided to make it so. Frank quotes Kansas City journalist Jack Cashill wondering "why tax dollars cannot be used for a nativity scene but can be used to underwrite works like Piss Christ."

They see "Democrats as the party of a wealthy, pampered, arrogant elite that lives as far as it can from real Americans . . . and perceive Republicanism as the faith of the hardworking common people of the heartland, an expression of their unpretentious, all-American ways." Thus, it is "the common people versus a haughty know-it-all liberal power structure." It is "intellectuals who call the shots, people with graduate degrees and careers in government, academia, law, and the professions." It is the "leftist pro-homosexual, pro-evolution, pro-abortion propaganda of the leftist socialist NEA."

The cultural backlash "is a working-class movement that has done incalculable, historic harm to working class people." On the economic front, "They're tired of everything being wonderful on Wall Street and terrible on Main Street, so they're voting Republican in order to get even with Wall Street." In their irrational support of the GOP, it is as if "they mass menacingly at the gates of the rich, screaming 'we are here to cut your taxes'."

Their view of life "is nothing more than an old-fashioned leftist vision of the world with the economics drained out." The social conservatives "raise their voices in praise of Jesus but cast their votes to exalt Caesar . . . All that Kansas asks today is a little help nailing itself to that cross of gold."

Frank assails the centrist impulse of Democrats by invoking the case of Dan Glickman's losing his U. S. House seat because of supporting NAFTA even though the labor unions in then-Democratic Wichita were adamantly opposed to it. "With Democrats and Republicans having merged on free trade, the issues that remained were abortion and guns." He was solidly pro-choice and he had supported measures to restrict assault weapons.

Con't on page 4



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

THE OTHER WASHINGTON

BY RICHARD KELLEY

Work took me to the Other Washington last week. No, I don't mean Washington, D.C. I mean Eastern Washington. It is always a sobering experience for a liberal Democrat, and one which forces us to examine where our party is going wrong.

Yes, people east of the mountains are more conservative than we are on cultural issues- abortion, race, gay rights, religion in public institutions, the death penalty. When these issues are the most pressing for them, Eastern Washington voters elect Republicans. These are the sorts of issues of extending rights to all and protecting our Constitution which should not form a partisan divide. But these issues have been brought to the fore as partisan by the Republican right, specifically to make voters in places like Eastern Washington ignore their own economic interest.

Spokane last week was sunny and warm, and the plane slid in low over the pine-rimmed lakes surrounding the city. If you could jump from the airport to the posh South Hill to the expensive commercial and residential developments along the river downtown, you might believe that all is well and the most important thing Spokaneites have to worry about is Jim West's pécadilloes. But to get downtown you need to drive

through the real Spokane, and within a few blocks of the fancy river developments you will find a very different reality.

Forty-six percent of Spokane households are receiving assistance from DSHS: TANF grants, food stamps, childcare subsidies. Almost one out of two. The sturdy small

"We need to speak to them about the things that scare every parent who ever lay awake thinking about how to get through the next week, the next rent payment, the next illness, the next semester."

bricks and two-story clapboard houses in the North side and the East Central, which housed the big Irish Catholic union families that made the city a Democratic bastion for decades, now need paint and repairs that are beyond the means of the shrinking and aging families left inside. The jobs which powered the Inland Empire, at the railroad and Kaiser Aluminum and the Bonneville contractors, are disappearing. In their place are the \$10 an hour assembly jobs, the

unskilled service jobs, and the fading hope of better times to come. In an aging Eastern Washington, the biggest industry in Spokane now is its hospitals.

And Spokane is not a particularly depressed part of Eastern Washington. A few hours of driving up to Kettle Falls or Lone or Colville will show you much, much worse. Poverty in rural Washington is real and pervasive. The small towns don't have family-wage jobs, they don't have doctors, they don't have public transportation. Yet with the exception of the one urban district in the middle of Spokane, the voters in all these counties send Republicans to the State House, the Capitol and the White House. The people they elect vote consistently to make life more miserable for poor and more painless for the rich. The disconnect here is staggering.

The Democratic Party has systematically failed to convince the rural poor that politics is about using the power of government to improve their lives. They don't believe it. Some of them have been persuaded that politics is about siding with God against the ACLU, the gays, and the abortion

doctors. Some of them believe that Charlton Heston is their President, and that politics is about protecting their guns. Those who believe that politics and politicians should make poor people's lives better often don't vote, because they are bitter and disillusioned that neither party speaks to their needs, and neither party, when in power, delivers anything that actually improves the circumstances of their lives.

Washington is a "blue" state. Here in King County, we produce six-figure margins for Democratic candidates for president, senate and governor, outvoting the rural poor. And the Other Washington is here, too. In Seattle, we sit on the balance beam of a precarious structure of high incomes and higher housing costs. The people who wash our floors and clear our tables and even teach our children can't afford to live in our solid blue neighborhoods, or even in the city at all.

The Democratic Party needs to reconnect with its base among the people who work hard, have little and still love this country. We need to speak to them about the things that scare every

FAITH, MEDIA, DEMOCRACY PROJECT

Crafting a potent, clear, and ever present voice for Religious progressives, progressive Activists, and political Progressives.

Meeting Schedule: Wed. July 27th, and Tuesday August 2nd.

1018 East Thomas Street (Call to confirm location, we may be relocating to a larger space - 206-329-0931)

7:00PM - 8:30PM

Training: We will be discussing an intensive media training session by one of the leading media trainers on the west coast - Tentative date is August 10th, 1-5PM, location to be announced. We will address some of the tough questions likely to be faced by Democrats and progressive religious leaders in the next election cycles, Training will include: determining and keeping on message, and getting heard in broadcast media, specifically Television. If you are interested please send your contact information, and the reason you're interested to: borroff@comcast.net NOTE: Please make the subject line: Media Training!

Training: Also, there will be training sessions for researching the needs of pastors in rural communities, and the needs of minority religious leaders, Dates to be determined. Find out what the challenges are for progressive and moderate religious leaders in rural areas. Provide resources, networks, and contacts. If you are interested in this please respond to: borroff@comcast.net NOTE: Please make the subject line: Outreach

THE OTHER WASHINGTON CON'T

parent who ever lay awake thinking about how to get through the next week, the next rent payment, the next illness, the next semester. We need to offer them one or two things that are clear and unconditional, not fudged up with maybes and compromises, and that would really improve their lives. One which George Bush has handed us is Social Security. This fool has managed to make the Democratic Party the defender of the only thing that stands between poor working people and starvation in their old age. Now, I think, is the time to go him one better.

Now is the time we should propose a clear, simple health insurance plan for everyone - no ifs, ands or buts. One payer, everything covered, and everyone shares in the cost based on their ability to contribute. And then, when we have as clear an idea as we can write, we need to tell them. Don't hide our ideas, be proud of them. Tell the voters on television, in the newspaper, on the radio, over and over again until every voter and nonvoter in the country knows that if the Democrats win they intend to really do something for them, to insure the health of every person in the country. When the election comes around, we need to say it louder and meet them on their doorsteps and ask them specifically to come out and vote for that one thing. That is how to make sure the election is not about gay marriage and burning flags. If we do all this, we will win the Congress and the White House.

Then we need to deliver.

43rd District Officers

Richard Kelley

Chair
richardkelley@w-link.net (206)
522-2735

Will Affleck-Asch

Secretary
waffleck-asch@qwest.net
(206) 632-3010

Lynn Chadsey

Treasurer
lynn@chadsey.us
(206) 632-2695

Derek Stanford

1st Vice Chair for Membership
derekstanford@comcast.net
(206) 524-1737

Elva Gonzalez

Vice Chair for Communications
egonzalez@perkinscoie.com
(206) 335-7376

Julian Wheeler

Vice Chair for Events
julianfwheeler@aol.com
(206) 522-9495

Neal Traven

Vice Chair for Programs
beisbol@alumni.pitt.edu
(206) 632-0093

David Kunselman

State Committee Man
dkunselman@yahoo.com
(206) 545-6867

Lisa Stuebing

State Committee Woman
tulera@aol.com
(206) 523-3644

Bill Sherman

King County Committeeman
mail@billsherman.org
(206) 985-7336

Charlie Bendock

King County Committeeman
Alternate
cbendock@hotmail.com
(206) 525-3431

Linda Clifton

King County Committeewoman
lclifton1@mindspring.com
(206) 633-1090

Katie Evans

King County Committeewoman
Alternate
Katie@lighten-up.com
(206) 323-1161

Javier Valdez

Past Chair
airjav@msn.com
(206) 548-9510

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

Our June meeting featured the Port Commission Candidate Forum, during which eight of the ten candidates for the three Port Commission positions faced a series of probing questions from the membership of the 43rd District Democrats. I'm pleased to note that I've heard quite a few compliments about the value of the Forum, both from members and from the candidates themselves.

We built a robust format for the Forum. All candidates for a specific position sat together as a panel. Each candidate gave short introductory remarks and a brief closing statement. Between those, they answered questions, with each question addressed by all candidates on the panel. Though I, as moderator and Vice Chair for Programs, posed the questions to the candidates, the queries were actually written by 43rd District members and passed to me. My role was largely to organize the questions by subject matter, and to assure that the topics were well-distributed across the candidate panels.

We're going to do it again on July 19 ... this time, with a City Council Candidate Forum. As I write, there are 13 announced candidates for the four positions on the 2005 ballot, and we've received commitments to appear from just about every one of them. It should be a full, exciting, fast-moving meeting!

A successful Candidate Forum is completely dependent on the questions we ask of the candidates. We had a supply of index cards available at the check-in desk so that attendees could write questions as they thought of them, and we'll do the same at the City Council Forum. But I also encourage you to send me your questions beforehand, so that we'll have a really good supply of really probing questions to choose from (and to avoid problems reading your handwriting). Please don't address your questions to a specific candidate; we want items that all candidates on one of the four panels can address. As long as they're for all candidates, though, your items can be general or specific.

Let me know what's on your mind when it comes to Seattle City Council! Send your proposed questions for our July 19 Candidate Forum to me at beisbol@alumni.pitt.edu

Submitted by Neal Traven

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS? CON'T

Frank lays out his pessimistic view of the liberal cause in the first half of the book. He sees Kansas both as a case study of the situation nationwide and also with its own unique elements. In the second half he makes some digressions into the latter, one a forgettable chapter (Russia Iran Disco Suck) on his youth in suburban Kansas City, another about a Catholic disaffected by Vatican II who proclaimed himself Pope Michael of Kansas and identified Pope Paul VI as the Antichrist.

In the chapter Kansas Bleeds For Your Sins, he cites a mural in the Topeka statehouse portraying John Brown "in the grip of otherworldly outrage, clutching a bible in one hand and a rifle in the other as he leads the nation into civil war." For conservatives, Frank says, this makes it a no-brainer: "God, guts, and guns, now as then, are the combination that makes America great."

Frank offers no solution for remedying the problem. Neither do I.

It seems unlikely that repugnance toward the culturally objectionable could, by itself, cancel out disapproval of the long list of bumbling, deceit, and ruthlessness of the present administration. There must also be a searing pain at feeling culturally and intellectually inferior. I am still haunted by the letter in the PI after the 2004 election in which a woman of modest circumstances in Bremerton wrote, "I would never vote for anyone who thinks I am stupid."

Submitted by Al Rasmussen

EXCERPT FROM MINUTES OF THE 43RD DISTRICT DEMOCRATS—JUNE 21, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm by Chair Richard Kelley.

* M/S/Pass Minutes Approved.

FINANCE REPORT - given by Richard Kelley

Our bank balance on June 21 was \$16,788.03.

CHAIR'S REPORT - Richard Kelley, Chair

1. Bill Wasserman, PCO for more than half a century in this district, has died. His wife will continue in serving their precinct.
2. Status on Primary and Nominating Convention: Meet next Tuesday night, June 28th, to nominate Democratic candidates for this year. Each PCO, elected or appointed - not acting, will cast votes equal to the delegates for their precinct for the Presidential caucus. Directions at www.kcdems.org to Bellevue Community College. Metro 271 goes almost directly to the door of the meeting location from the University District.
3. August 9th is our August meeting for Endorsements: all PCOs (elected, appointed, and acting) and all paid members will vote on Endorsements.
4. Sunday is the Pride Parade on Broadway, and the 43rd District Democrats are marching at 11 am at Pine or Pike. Also, the King County Democrats will be marching.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT - St. Rep. Ed Murray

Ed apologized for missing all the 43rd District Democrat meetings due to our working majority. Mark Ruup, former Legislative Aide, is now working for Gov. Gregoire. Passed the largest transportation budget ever.

Top Seven Achievements:

7. Restored passenger only ferry service.
6. Funded I-90 wildlife corridors.
5. Pedestrians given \$58 million (up from \$2 million), mostly for school children safety.
4. Increased Commute Trip Reduction program.
3. Competitive grants from the state.
2. Noise wall mitigation fund fully funded.
1. California Clean Car Emission Standards.

ELECTION REFORM DISCUSSION CONTINUES IN THE 43RD DISTRICT

The 43rd Democrats Progressive Caucus invites all 43rd District members to join us as the election issues discussion continues. We will meet again on Sunday, July 17 at 7:00pm

When I announced that Dick Kelley had asked me to host an election issues discussion group for members of the 43rd District, many people came forward to voice their concerns and ideas. Florida 2000 is a bitter example of how serious these election issues are, but we need look no further than our own state of Washington to find threats to our democratic rights that we must address.

Our initial discussions on electoral issues have identified a few key points of special concern. For example, electronic voting and vote tabulation machines with secret proprietary software and poor security currently threaten the integrity of our ballot. As we move forward, our focus will be on organizing to promote needed legislative reforms to protect our democratic rights. Your involvement as we continue would be welcomed and appreciated.

For more information contact Charlie Bendock: cbendock@hotmail.com 206-525-3431

IF AX FALLS ON ROVE, IT MAY ALSO SPLIT GOP

By Peter Wallsten, Los AngelesTimes Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Social conservatives relish the idea that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's resignation from the Supreme Court has moved them one step closer to their goal of outlawing abortion. Liberals are vowing to fight any potential successor who would, unlike O'Connor, favor overturning Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 ruling that affirmed a woman's right to end a pregnancy.

But the political irony that few on either side readily acknowledge — but many are pondering — is that Roe's demise could transform American elections by crippling the conservative political majority that opposes abortion and by giving new life to hobbled liberals who support the ruling's preservation.

That the 32-year-old landmark decision could be overturned seems a distant possibility. Justices who believe the ruling should stand hold five seats on the nine-member court, even with O'Connor gone.

But the prospect of progress toward overturning Roe — and the realization that President Bush could have at least two chances to make transformative appointments to the court — has exposed a disagreement between conservatives who want abortion criminalized and pragmatic Republicans concerned that shifting the issue from the courts to the ballot box would lead to massive GOP losses.

Of particular concern is the party's fate in closely contested battlegrounds such as Ohio, Florida and Michigan, where the resurgence of the abortion issue could alienate moderate voters who have helped Republicans make gains on all levels.

"Smart strategists inside the party don't want the status quo changed," said Tony Fabrizio, chief pollster for the 1996 Republican presidential campaign of Bob Dole.

"This may cause Republicans like Arnold Schwarzenegger — who are strongly committed to being pro-choice — to flip or to push for a third-party movement," he added. "If they did outlaw it, it would ultimately turn the Republican Party into a theocratic-based party rather than an ideological party, and the party would necessarily start shedding people."

Strategists worry that overturning Roe would make abortion a top-tier political issue again, galvanizing liberals and moderates who have long assumed the issue was settled. At the same time, it would eliminate a major organizing principle of the evangelical movement that gained prominence in last year's elections. And Republican candidates, who have long sidestepped the issue by assuring moderate voters that judges had the final say on abortion, would suddenly be forced to say how they would vote on a woman's right to choose.

"A candidate could no longer say, 'I'm running for state representative, not the Supreme Court,' " said David Johnson, former director of the Republican Party of Florida, who has advised GOP campaigns, including that of John Thune, who last year defeated the Senate's top Democrat, Tom Daschle, in South Dakota. "That response would no longer be valid because their vote would matter."

Few experts believe O'Connor's resignation would swing the court on abortion, since five justices — Anthony M. Kennedy, John Paul Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, David H. Souter and Stephen G. Breyer — have indicated that they would not vote to overturn Roe. But social conservatives say O'Connor's departure offers the first chance in decades to reshape the court's ideological makeup. Kennedy is considered a swing vote, and Stevens' age — he is 85 — gives conservatives hope that the end of Roe is close at hand.

For that to happen, however, Bush would have to comply with conservative demands to appoint strict constructionists with the judicial philosophies of Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, both opponents of Roe.

JULY

Daily
Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090

17 43rd District Membership Meeting

University Baptist Church Hall
7:30 pm—9:30 pm,
4554 12th Ave NE (47th and 12)

23-24 Central Area Community Festival

Join the KCDCC and the 37th LD Democrats, tabling at the festival, Garfield Community Center—Saturday and Sunday

26 KCDCC Monthly Meeting

Auburn IAM Hall,
A St. SW at 2nd St SW
7:00pm

29 Julian Wheeler Aging Out Party!

A Young Democrats of WA Fund-raiser to help send YD's to the YDA National Convention:

Date: Friday, July 29th
Time: 7 - 10 pm

Place: 1415 2nd Ave. (2nd Ave. and Pike St.), Downtown Seattle.
RSVP to julianfwheeler@aol.com."

Come roast and toast Mr. Wheeler as we gently ease him into the "senior Democrat" category. Will he go quietly?

30 KC Democrats Picnic

Green Lake at
Lower Woodland Park
12:00pm

Sending John Bolton to the United Nations would have to rank as the worst nomination since the Emperor Caligula named Incitatus as Roman Consul.

Unlike Bolton, Incitatus never said a bad word about anyone. Incitatus was Caligula's horse. At least Caligula had the decency to nominate an entire horse.

Please visit www.43rddems.org for additional listings.

Don't see your event listed? Please send all event information to Elva at editor43rddems@hotmail.com

AUGUST

Daily
Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090

3 **Barney Frank**
Benaroya Hall, Seattle
7:30pm
www.foolproof.org

6 **Rev'ing it up with Congressman McDermott**
Seafair Saturday Brunch in support of US Congressman McDermott.
11:00am - 1:00pm at the home of Greg and John Rodriguez. Suggested Donation \$50.00
1934 31st Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144

9 43rd District Endorsement Meeting

Please note that this August meeting is **one week earlier** than usual.

23 KCDCC Endorsement Meeting

Location TBD

Next Issue

The latest trend: Podcasts

The biggest thing in radio is happening via podcasts. There are thousands of free shows that one can download covering music, talk radio, politics, sports, comedy, etc.

What is your favorite?

Please send your thoughts, favorite podcasts to editor43rddems@hotmail.com

Attention Contributors

We have expanded our newsletter in order to focus on more substantive and topical articles. We urge the contribution of articles from any member on a topic of general interest. Editing will be done because of space and/or page constraints. The editor reserves the right to reject any news item or article.

Articles: We welcome articles reporting on events and news. All items should be typed and spell-checked and submitted in an email, in Word or text format.

Events: All announcements and/or calendar events should be emailed including available hyperlinks.

Deadlines: The deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month.

43rd District Democrats
Richard Kelley, Chair
6312 18th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO. 12504

Return Service Requested

Save the Date!

August 9th

Endorsement
Meeting

Renew your dues TODAY!

Please take a moment to look at your name as it is printed on this newsletter's Address Label. If "2005" appears after your name, Thank You! You are a dues paying member of the 43rd District Democrats. If "2005" does not appear, we hope you will send in your Membership Dues today. We need your dues to support this newsletter and our activities as we strengthen our operations.

Sign up today by clipping this form and mailing a check, payable to the
43rd District Democrats, c/o Lynn Chadsey, 2135 N. 51st Street, Seattle, WA 98103

Name* _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

**Please list all household names joining if membership is for a Family, Sponsor, or Donor Membership)*

Contribution Levels (Dues are for the period Jan—December 2005)

_____ Regular Membership (\$25)	_____ Family Membership (\$40)
_____ Sponsor Membership (\$43)	_____ Family Sponsor Membership (\$43)
_____ Donor Membership (\$100)	_____ Family Donor Membership (\$100)
_____ Limited Income Membership (\$5)	_____ Family Limited Income (\$10)

Opt in for an electronic newsletter.