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Democratic Convention

By Ed Smethers State Committeeman

The Democratic State Convention held in Spokane June 9 went off with little controversy. Delegates arriving in Spokane on a Friday were able to attend a banquet that featured an address by U.S. Congressional House Speaker Tom Foley.

Delegates as a whole had a good time, and those from the West side of the nountains actually enjoyed a bit of sunshine, something they had not enjoyed for some time.

The big controversy over a censure, reprimand or a call for the resignation of State Chair Karen Marchioro and assistant Jeff Smith never materialized. Proponents of such action were unable to muster enough support to bring it to a floor challenge.

The interesting thing about the state platform adopted at the convention was the effect it had on the Republican platform adopted one week later at the State Republican Convention. Jennifer Dunn, Republican State Chair, was quoted as saying:

"Our platform this year was put together easier than any time in the past. We just took the Democrats' platform. If they supported something, we opposed it."

This is the usual Republican negative approach. You can expect negative campaigning to dominate the upcoming election.

One issue that did not conform to unn's scenario was abortion. After losing some big races around the country this past year, the GOP is now waffling on abortion. One delegate was quoted as saying the plank adopted was fuzzy enough to satisfy both sides of the issue.

Another interesting plank in the GOP platform urges continued aid to El Salvador, but deplores terrorism against civilians. Deploring terrorism against civilians and providing money to sustain it seems like an effort in futility.

Another GOP plank favors corporal punishment in schools. Imagine the questions raised in debate on that one. Would school principals be required to take a four-credit course in Corporal Punishment 101? Who decides how many lashes a student gets for each infraction of the rules? Should State legislature enact uniform guidelines?

Hindsight being better than foresight, it now seems apparent that the Democratic Platform Committee should have written a strong plank in the platform urging strong support for motherhood and apple pie.

Coming Events

July 26

Democratic Central Committee, Bowen's Restaurant, Silver Creek, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. business meeting

August 5

Lewis County Air Fair. Volunteers needed to sell food from Democratic trailer, sign up at Democratic booth for shifts.

August 8

Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, St. Helens Inn, Chehalis. Social hour 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. SPECIAL GUESTS: Congressman Al Swift, Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld and Rep. Joe King, Speaker of the Washington State House of Representatives. Telephone Wyn Smethers (736-6486) for tickets.

August 11-12

Morton Loggers Jubilee, Morton, Wa. August 14-19

Southwest Washington Fair, volunteers needed to staff Democratic booth. Telephone Marilyn Logan (748-7595) to sign up.

August 23

Democratic Central Committee, ,6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. business meeting.

September 10

Board meeting, 7 p.m., Stu Halsan's office.

Democratic Central Committee, Executive

September

Primary Election

September 27

Democratic Central Committee, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. business meeting. (check

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By Stu Halsan

As I remember back, nothing ever seemed so folksy as the ads for Savings and Loans. All the "local" people putting their hard earned savings in their "local" bank, from which other "local" people borrowed to fulfill their lifetime "local" dream of building a modest "local" home, "locally" of course. Big, out of State, Super-Banks couldn't compare with the pride and service offered by these little, friendly institutions. Shoot, it was almost a public service that they performed. Sure they made a little money doing it, but what the heck, that's what it's all about.

Well the times change. After deregulation which everyone knew was just going to let them provide "better" service, they expanded their role for the betterment of the "local" community. Instead of giving away toasters to their depositors, they started giving away mega-million dollar loans to speculators wanting to build shopping centers or to finance corporate takeovers. Sure they made more than a little money doing it, but what the heck, that's what it's all about.

Things looked good, and since the speculators were doing so well in this wonderful, Republican, de-regulated economy, Junk Bonds and all, the newly empowered Savings and Loans Moguls thought, what the heck, lets do some speculating on our own. Sure they made a lot of money doing it, but after all that's what it's all about.

Riskier investments generally mean just that, and soon they found that many of these great deals were falling through. They got their salaries and bonuses, of course, but the institutions balance sheets started being pretty top heavy with liabilities and pretty short on assets. The deposits were insured through the FSLIC, so nobody was going to get hurt, least of all them. Sure they took home tons of money, but hey, that's what it's all about.

The Feds soon started fixing things, arranging mergers of the worst managed

Lewis County Demogram

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Thrifts with ones that hadn't been so greedy. The president pushed, and Congress passed a bailout that by some estimates will cost taxpayers as much as World War II, but nobody has had to go to jail. After all, these are not common shoplifters, these are good people like the President's son Neil Bush. Sure they stole a fortune, but isn't that what it's all about?

Voice of Dissent Heard

During the years of the Reagan Revolution, perhaps the most lasting impact the conservative Republicans wrought on this country was in the restructuring of the United States Supreme Court. Relatively young lithmus test conservatives, appointed for life, can be expected to continue what has already been a dramatic shift to the right well into the next century.

One of the last of the old guard liberals, a voice now of dissent, William Brennan, who along with Thurgood Marshall, is now in his eighties and certainly someday soon will be replaced by an appointee of the Bush presidency. Whether his successor will be in the narrow mold of Anthony Scalia, William Rhenquist, or even the never confirmed Robert Bork remains to be seen. We can only hope that President Bush places Judicial competency and American principles of Justice and Fairness for all above considerations of party ieology.

As a lasting tribute, I am sure, to the contributions that Justice Brennan has given to our nation, the Demogram is pleased to announce the birth in January of the newest Democrat in Lewis County, **BRENNAN FOSTER BAILEY**, to Twentieth District Chair and former Legislative Candidate Chris Bailey and his wife Tonya.

Certainly, at least in one house in Centralia, the voice of dissent can be expected to be heard, and heard, and heard for some time to come. Congratulations.



Partisan Patter

A teacher asked the young members of her first grade class, one day, to stand up and say whether they were Republicans or Democrats. So one by one the children answered: "Republican."

All the children, when asked, answered the teacher "Republican"- all except the last.

The last child to be called was a boy, who told the teacher, "Democrat."

This answer seemed to puzzle the teacher, and so she asked the boy, "Why do you call yourself a Democrat?"

And the boy, who was six years old, thought for a moment and then replied.

"My daddy is a Democrat. And my mommy is a Democrat. And my grandaddy was a Democrat. And that's why I'm a Democrat."

This answer made the teacher frown, and so she replied with another question:

"Well, if your daddy was a horse thief, and your mommy was a horse thief and your grandaddy was a horse thief, would that make you a horse thief too?"

And the boy thought for a moment, and then said to the teacher:

"No. I guess that would make me a Republican."



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Right to Choose By Jan Leth

Every woman has the fundamental right to make her own private reproductive health decisions. For women in the United States, freedom has not always been a guarantee.

From Colonial times to the 19th Century, women were relegated to wifehood and motherhood. They were of value because of their ability to bear and nurture children for a growing land. Many women died prematurely because of a difficult childbirth, lack of medical knowledge and aseptic conditions, or from bearing too many children in the space of a few years.

From the early days into the 19th Century, the choice to abort was the woman's until the time she felt the fetus moving within. By 1900, drastic economic and social changes were turning the society from agrarian to urban-industrial. People moved to the cities. The birth rate declined.

The AMA, anxious to enhance the influence of physicians, lobbied against abortions performed by anyone except licensed physicians. They wanted control over when, where, why and by whom an abortion was given. At the same time, the AMA barred women from medical schools and entrance into the profession that sought control over women's reproductivity.

A woman's right to make choices about her body and life should not be legislated. To force one group's morality on a generation of child-bearing women is unconscionable.

Every generation witnesses a new group of citizens who believe themselves keepers of the faith. It is not a disease unique to our country. The difference is that in America we have seen and experienced the dangers of moralists who are so convinced they are right that they choose to impose their morality on all.

Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision of Roe versus Wade, maternal mortality has fallen to an all-time low; the majority of these deaths are the result of botched and aseptic abortions.

What is important here is the woman's fundamental right to life-quality life.

As a nation, we are not for wholesale abortion as a means of birth control. We are much more for family planning. However, once an unwanted pregnancy occurs, there must be a choice of alternatives available to all women. One of these alternatives is abortion.

As a country, we are reminded daily in health care centers, public schools, churches and day-care centers of children who are unwanted, abused, and "thrown away."

Terminating a pregnancy in the first trimester, rather than bringing an unwanted child into a hostile environment, cannot be equated with forcing a mother to continue a pregnancy, forbidding her a choice, and ultimately dooming her and the child to a tumultuous and nonnurturing life.

Women make up over half of the country's population. Women share the workload in our rapidly changing country. Women conceive the children, experience the changes of pregnancy and feel the pain of childbirth.

Women have the right solely to determine whether they have privacy of reproductive choice in this century and the generations to come.

By Rita Cleary

I am a charter member of Human Life. I am a Democrat and have been "since I was old enough to read". Yes, it's possible to be both.

Many people have lost sight of the fact that the strength of the Democratic party is in its diversity. We come from many walks of life and have a variety of philosophies. But, as Democrats, we all share the belief in the common good of all people regardless of race, creed or sex. Those of us who work within the party structure usually do so because of a belief in and want of good government for all people, not just a limited few.

A recent article regarding Califormia's primary addressed "why the world's oldest Democratic party keeps getting smaller". The article stated that during a campaign certain workers and candidates feel that "real Democrats" are only the individuals who agree with certain fine points of a given candidate. This is far from what I have read, studied, and believed all my political life. The Democratic party has always welcomed people with diverse beliefs. This is our strength. Narrow thinking and behavior does not belong within the Democratic party. That type of thinking belongs to the other party.

The abortion issue has become a political football, when in fact it is a moral issue. I strongly support the Human Life philosophy. However, I do not believe in

voting for a candidate based on a single issue. The right to have or not to have an abortion has become an emotional football with extremists on both sides of the issue.

Radicals are trying to force individuals to become one-issue candidates. A one-issue candidate does no good for any constituency. These radicals from both sides threaten individuals, many who are or would be good public servants, that they will be blackballed if the candidate dares to publicly disagree with the stand which that particular individual or organization takes.

I feel personally, that as a Democrat and a member of Human Life, I have supported and worked for good and just causes. I sincerely believe in supporting the needs of all people and in this, the Democratic party has a long history. Today, it is more important than ever that we work together as Democrats and respect each other's individual beliefs. We will not win elections when we refuse to support good and true democrats because of disagreement over one issue.

As an individual, I support the Human Life concept. As a Democrat, I support the philosophy of working for the good of all people.

Auvil appointed Demogram editor

Chairman Stu Halsan has appointed a Chehalis Democrat, Dennis Auvil, to serve as editor of the Lewis County Demogram.

The new Demogram editor accepted the appointment during the May meeting of the Lewis County Democratic Central Committee and hopes to do a good job, he said, in providing Lewis County Democrats with timely information about current issues.

Auvil, 46, was born and raised in Lewis County, attended school at Mossyrock and earned his bachelor of arts degree in print communications from Washington State University. Auvil was employed, in the past, as a reporter for The Daily Chronicle where, Auvil says, he gained some interesting insights into the inner workings of a partisan newspaper.

Auvil's past association with the Chronicle came to an abrupt halt in November of 1988 when he, rather than endure another of the newspaper's offensive editorial crusades, resigned.

Auvil and his wife, Carolin, along with their two children and several stray cats and dogs, reside in Chehalis. BULK RATE
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The Lewis County Democratic Central Committee

By Stu Halsan

Recently, at Winlock's Egg Day Celebration, I was approached by a man who was admiring my "True Blue Democrat" Tshirt. After telling him where he could get one, I explained how they came to be created in the first place. Since many of you might not know, perhaps a little explanation is in order.

At our last party re-organization, in December of 1988, there was a great deal of discussion of one of my favorite topics, the Daily Cronicle, and several Democrats were urging that we all should cancel our subscriptions if we hadn't already. In reporting this debate, your favorite Daily stated that all "True Blue Democrats" would most likely demonstrate their displeasure by seeking their news elsewhere. From this sage advice grew the "True Blue Democrat" logo. Ah, history in the making.

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Do you support the Eight-Hour Work Day, Collective Bargaining, and Unemployment Insurance, and not want hard working people to have to live in fear of an employer who can make the most unreasonable demands and put a family on welfare at the slightest whim? If so, you're a True Blue Democrat, cancel your subscription to the Chronicle and order a T-shirt!

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107 S. Tower • Centralia (206) 736-8269 gallons of oil, or by Fat Cat Bankers buying big homes and flashy Mercedes automobiles while forcing the taxpayers to foot the bill for Hundreds of Billions of dollars of "Bailout" money so we "little guys" won't lose our life savings to their swindles? If so, you're a True Blue Democrat, cancel your subscription to the Chronicle and order a T-shirt!

If you can't get by without reading "Sirens" or the Obituaries, what the heck, order your T-shirt anyway!

Certainly the Chronicle, or at least their editorial board..."Curley", "Moe", and "Larry", would have to agree.

Call Chris Bailey at 736-2502 to order your T-shirt, now! Show your true colors!

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