



Democrats stage successful auction

By Dennis Auvil
Demogram Editor

The All American Democratic Auction held by Lewis County Democrats April 13 proved more successful than expected.

After most expenses were paid, Democrats recorded net earnings of \$2,735 from the auction, held at the Centralia Eagles hall. Gross income from the event totaled \$3,497. As a result of the successful auction, Democrats donated \$400 to the Lewis County DARE program.

The success of the auction was attributed, in part, to a lemon-flavored April 10 editorial in the local newspaper, The Daily Chronicle. The editorial sparked interest in the event and, no doubt, prompted people to bid up many of the items auctioned.

Democrats attending the auction were sufficiently grateful for the well-timed editorial that they voted unanimously to nominate the newspaper for listing in the

prestigious National Democratic Book of Really Right Records. The nomination was transmitted by Rita Cleary, Lewis County Chair, to Ron Brown.

In making the nomination, Democrats cited the newspaper's mugging of the Kennedy coffee mug as a truly daring example of American journalism.

While the famed Kennedy Coffee Mug did not arrive in time for the auction, similar mugs donated by Dick Gephardt and Brock Adams did. The Gephardt mug went for \$37.50 and now resides at the home of Tom and Trish Cleary. Ed Smethers got a bargain on the Adams mug, paying a mere \$20.

Other items auctioned included a baby quilt, donated by Bill and Marilyn Logan; a Dogwood painting, donated by Stella Sowers; and a champagne brunch and hot tub party for six, donated by Roger Gestrine.

Bill Mason bought a gallon of

honey, donated by Henry and Evelyn Miller, not to mention a mysterious red, white and blue tie, donated by Neal and Lillis Nogler.

A little blackberry pie, donated by Mildred Kalich, went home with Barbara Holm, who bid the tasty sum of \$45. An autographed soccer ball donated by Gov. Booth Gardner went to Kathy Halsan for \$35, while lunch for two with Joe King went to George Marte.

Don and Bernice Buswell bid on two meal deals. The first is a meal a month, donated by Dairy Dan's. The second is steak dinner for two at the Roadhouse Inn, donated by Harold and Marge Cooper.

Joe Enbody was the successful bidder for the coveted Tom Foley cuff links, which sold for \$47.50. John Simpson bid even more, \$55, for a vintage Sen. Warren "Maggie" Magnuson poster, donated by the State Democratic Central Committee.

Co-chairs of the successful auction this year were Beverley Butters and Judi Fuller.

Redistricting hearings to start on May 29

The five-member State Redistricting Commission has scheduled public hearings for May, June and July.

The commission, comprised of Democratic members Shelly Yapp and Mary Kay Becker and Republicans Veda Jellen and Bill Polk, will hold its first hearings May 29 in Spokane (10 a.m.) and Pasco (5 p.m.).

Meeting locations will be announced later after they are confirmed.

Additionally, the commission will meet May 30 in Yakima, June 6 in Tacoma, June 13 in Everett, June 27-28 in Seattle and July 18 in Aberdeen.

Following the hearings, the commission will consider the various redistricting plans before it, and is

likely to schedule a second round of hearings later this year.

People wishing to contact the commission may do so by telephoning Jennifer Helget, executive director, at 786-7935 in Olympia.

According to the 1990 census count, the 20th Legislative District

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Redistricting

should be redrawn to add about 2,993 people.

Additionally, the state population has grown sufficiently that Washington may qualify for an additional congressional seat. The U.S. House of Representatives has certified Washington as qualifying for an additional, or ninth seat.

However, census numbers are likely to be challenged in court, according to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, and the outcome of such challenges will not be known for months.



Are poor people paying too much?

Pop quiz. What is the correct answer?

Are you are paying (A) your share, (B) too little or (C) too much in state and local taxes?

Answer: Yes, yes and yes.

Explanation: It depends on who you are.

If you are among Washington's low-income, poor families earning \$15,000 or less per year, your state-local tax burden as a share of income is about five times greater than the state-local tax burden upon the rich, families earning \$600,000 or more a year.

And if you are a middle-income family, earning about \$42,000 a year, your state-local tax burden as a share of income is three times that paid by the rich.

These are some of the conclusions contained in a study that identifies Washington's tax structure as one of the nation's "Terrible Ten."

The findings of the study, called "A Far Cry From Fair," were presented to state Democrats April 27 in Vancouver by Chicago political consultant David Wilhelm who said poor people in this state have the highest state-local tax burden in the nation.

On the average, Washington's poor families pay 17.5 percent of their income to state and local taxes, which includes the sales tax and various state-local excise taxes.

Middle-income families in this state, by comparison, pay 9.5 percent of their income to state-local taxes. For middle-income families, that is about the same paid in other states.

The richest 1 percent, those earning an average of \$600,000 a year, however, pay only 3.4 percent of their incomes to state-local taxes. "For people who are

Coming Events

May 23, 1991

Lewis County Democratic Central Committee, dinner 6:00 p.m., reception honoring precinct officers, 7 p.m., King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia.

June 8, 1991

First annual 20th Legislative District spaghetti dinner fund raiser, Fort Borst Park, Centralia.

June 27, 1991

Lewis County Democratic Central Committee, 6:30 p.m., King Solomon Restaurant, Centralia.

September 14, 1991

Washington State Democratic Central Committee, Wenatchee, Wa.

rich," Wilhelm commented, "Washington is a low tax state."

Ranked on the basis of fairness, only six states were identified as having overall tax structures more unfair than Washington's.

Wilhelm also said that between 1985 and 1991, the State of Washington increased the tax burden on the poor while at the same time lowering the tax burden on the rich. The same also occurred at the national level.

States with unfair tax systems also have another thing in common, Wilhelm said: They keep running out of money. The problem is simply not unique to the State of Washington.



Unsoeld bill would ban curtains of death

By Jolene Unsoeld

In an ongoing effort to put an end to the use of destructive curtains of death, I've just introduced a resolution that urges the President to seek an international moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets, while also working to achieve a permanent ban on their use. Thus far, 33 members of Congress have co-sponsored this resolution.

Poor hatcheries commitment
I'm disappointed by the lukewarm commitment to funding Columbia River hatcheries, high seas driftnet research and many other critical Northwest fisheries programs in the administration's proposed 1992 National Marine Fisheries budget.

Why jeopardize our coast?
At a recent hearing on the role of offshore oil and gas exploration in

our national energy strategy, I questioned the wisdom of any exploration or drilling off the Oregon-Washington coast. Despite my protests, and protests from the rest of the Washington Cong. delegation, the administration continues to keep this option open - even though leasing Washington-Oregon coastal lands for oil and gas drilling would provide less than a week of national supply.

Why should we jeopardize billion dollar fish and tourism industries - not to mention our pristine coastline - for such a limited and uncertain benefit?

Jolene supports NW projects
I recently went to bat for several critical Northwest projects at a 1992 Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee hearing. Here are some of the

projects for which I am seeking funding, along with the specific request:

- **Hanford Nuclear Waste Cleanup** - Seeking full funding.
- **Vancouver, Kalama Port Work, Wahkiakum Ferry Channel** - Restore small projects funding that the administration seeks to cut.
- **Fish bypass screens on Columbia/Snake Rivers** - Support administration's \$31.7 million request.
- **Deeper Draft project, Grays Harbor** - Support administration's \$12.7 million request.
- **Aberdeen/Cosmopolis Flood Control** - Ask for federal funds to be released if local bond issue passes.
- **"Spartina" control in Willapa Bay, Puget Sound** - \$300,000.

Prosecutor defends Adams at DC reception

The Sen. Brock Adams campaign raised more than \$100,000 April 11 at Adams' first major fundraiser, held in Washington, D.C.

Upwards of 150 people attended the Adams reception, including Senators Mitchell, Ford and Kennedy, Reps. Dicks, McDermott, Swift and Unsoeld, along with many other Senate colleagues.

"This is the most successful fundraiser I've ever had," Sen. Adams commented later.

Also attending the April 11 reception, not to support Adams but rather to defend him against unfair charges, was Republican Joseph DiGenova, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

DiGenova, a Reagan-appointed U.S. Attorney, reviewed the sexual assault allegation made by Kari

Tupper and then called the allegation "meritless, absolutely meritless."

"(My staff) reviewed the evidence and talked to the people," said prosecutor DiGenova, "and concluded that the allegation was meritless, absolutely meritless. I am a Reagan appointee, a lifelong Republican," DiGenova added. "We took our cases as we saw them. We took that one and got rid of it because it had absolutely no merit whatsoever. None. Zip," DiGenova said.

"It's a matter of fundamental fairness. It is more than unfair," DiGenova explained his reason for appearing at the reception to defend Adams.

Tupper's father recently sent letters to scores of Adams supporters, recounting the old allegation and urging them not to support the senator.

"It's a matter of principle," explained DiGenova. "This matter has been raised to coincide with campaign activities and to the extent that I can add more truthful commentary to what has been going on I just feel obligated to do so."

Adams recognized as champion of women's issues

For his work in focusing national attention on women's health issues, Sen. Brock Adams was recognized in an April 11 article, published by the Seattle Times, as a "champion of women's issues in the U.S. Senate."

Representatives from numerous women's organizations have expressed their gratitude and continued support for Adams.

"His record has been very good on women's issues," says Molly

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Adams defended

Yard, president of the National Organization of Women. "He stands very tall in the Senate."

The Washington State Director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, Esther Herst, characterized Sen. Adams as "someone we can count on. He's with us," she said.

"The thing we are focusing on is the Senator's environmental record, which is excellent," said Ali Webb, political director of the League of Conservation Voters.

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