



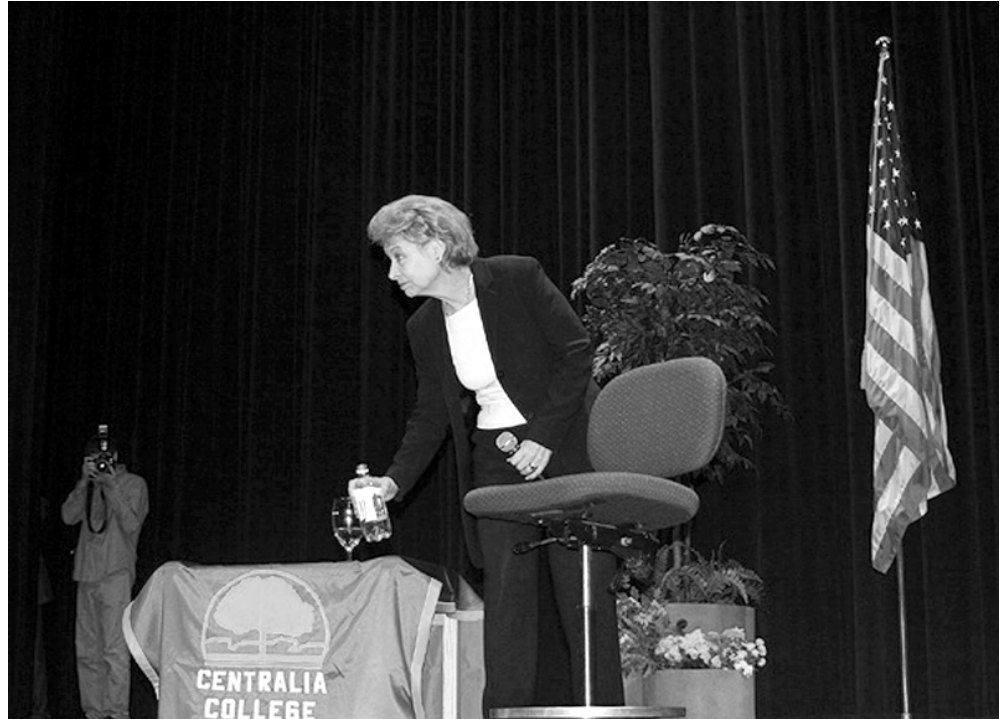
DEMOGRAM

Governor Christine Gregoire (right) came to Centralia College to listen to the public and talk about the recent TransAlta mine closure.

The Governor was there, as were Representative Alexander, Senator Swecker, and a host of county officials.

Notably absent was State Representative Richard DeBolt.

DeBolt works for TransAlta in Community Relations.



A Conflict Of Interest: The Mine Or You?

By Mike Rechner

On November 27, 2006, TransAlta, a Canadian-owned power company, closed its Centralia mining operations without warning and laid off 600 employees. The shutdown came just 20 days after the 2006 elections.

TransAlta officials said the shutdown was caused by the escalating cost of removing coal from the mine – making it impossible for the power plant to continue to produce electricity at competitive rates. Instead, the plant intends to have coal brought in by rail from Wyoming and Montana.

Your State Representative, Richard DeBolt, is the Community Relations Director for TransAlta. He has, in the past, been able to pass legislation favorable to the mine and plant. It is hard to understand why he wasn't willing or able to try and do something about the mine closure.

I don't think many believe that the decision made by TransAlta to close the mine, lay off 600 people and sell off multi-million dollar equipment

was made in the twenty days between the election and the shutdown.

Would it then be safe to assume that DeBolt knew of the pending closure sometime before the election? Why did he not take steps to try and prevent the closure?

Two possible explanations come to mind.

First, TransAlta did not want to find a way to keep the mine open. Second, DeBolt was concerned about political fallout if the public found out about the closure before the election. Either explanation would present a conflict of interest for DeBolt.

State legislators are given a lot of leeway when it comes to conflicts of interest. But that is usually only taken into consideration when they are performing the duties of a legislator. Such is the case when DeBolt passed the tax breaks for PacifiCorp, the plant's previous owners, to install the plants exhaust scrubbers. And also when those tax breaks were

(Continued on page 2, bottom)

Voices and Viewpoints

The Opportunity

By Bob Poteat, PCO, Alpha

Questionable elections, illegal war, exacerbation of international hostility, threat of nuclear war, torture, extraordinary renditions, destruction of the Bill of Rights, unpayable debt, mal-distribution of wealth, decayed infrastructure, out-sourcing manufacturing, extreme trade imbalance, declining dollar, the most expensive medical care system in the world with a third of the population without access to full care, ineffective educational system, the most corrupt national legislative body since the Roman Senate, global warming, uranium poisoning of the environment and people with uranium munitions, paving our farm land while food surpluses dwindle, depletion of topsoil, receding aquifers, depletion of “fossil fuels,” and, last, but not least, and not all, empire!

Opportunities? I think so, if we are willing to go to work. These “problems” can be turned to opportunities.

Here are some suggestions to start.

Stop funding the war. Return Iraq to Iraqis with high economic incentives to stop the civil war. Put the misnomer insurgents to work rebuilding the country with high paying jobs.

Immediately initiate impeachment articles for George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, and Condoleeza Rice.

Return to paper ballots only until a digital voting process can be developed that guarantees accuracy to the level of ATM banking.

A Conflict Of Interest, cont.

repealed to facilitate the sale of the mine and power plant to TransAlta.

Leeway must be granted in order to maintain a citizen legislature; otherwise legislators wouldn't be able to vote on any bills that could possibly affect them – even in very minor ways.

This is not the kind of conflict of interest DeBolt faced. His conflict of interest was in trying to decide in whose interest he should act – those of the people who elected him, or his own. It is clear whose interests were more important.

Mike Rechner ran against DeBolt in 2006.

Set the highest standards of ethical behavior for elected officials. Prosecute and remove those not already removed including Democrats.

Repeal the Patriot Act and the Military Commissions Act. That should be followed by prosecutions of any and all parties, including current or former Cabinet members, involved in “extraordinary renditions”, torture, illegal surveillance, assassinations, and imprisonment without due process under existing law.

In order to establish sane and just foreign policy the Israeli-Palestinian situation must be justly resolved. Negotiations with all countries must be opened.

Repudiate empire.

The legal status of all fictional entities (corporations, et al) as persons must be repudiated.

The power of issuance of money must be removed from private entities and placed in the United States Treasury. Pay off or repudiate all accumulated debt.

The failure of NAFTA, CAFTA, and all such schemes to fulfill their promises must be recognized. The schemes must be repudiated.

All businesses doing business in the United States must keep all monetary accounts in the United States.

Put all international trade on a barter basis.

Return the manufacturing of goods to the United States.

Approximately five per cent of gasoline used in motor cars is consumed hauling passengers. The rest is use to haul mostly wasteful iron on soft tires. Much of our other consumption is highly wasteful. This will require resented regulation with high propaganda to convince consumers of the desirability of conservation.

Universal healthcare.

The steps above will enable social justice that includes medical care for everyone. Food, housing, and clothing for everyone. Education for everyone. And PEACE!

Paradigm shift, anyone? Let's do it now!

First Election Vote: Hillary or Obama?

By Lisa Herzog

I turn eighteen in 2008, qualifying me, by four months, to vote. I get to help decide this coming election. Ever since fifth grade I have lived under the tyranny of Gorge W. Bush and his squad of locusts, a.k.a. Republicans, and I am sick of it. I am eagerly looking forward to participating in this next Presidential Election.

Barak or Hillary? This is what the 2008 Democrat Primary may come down to. Now, when comparing either to the current president, they both look like a modern-day George Washington. But what do they look like when compared to one another? The Democrats are divided over who to choose with so many potential candidates, including these two. Barak and Hillary have emerged as the most well known frontrunners. But only one can win, and choosing the wrong candidate could mean disaster for the Democrats.

They say behind every great man is a great woman, and for a long time that was what Hillary Rodham Clinton was. However, Hillary never was one to remain in the background and is now stepping forward to become the first Woman President of the United States. Hillary would make a wonderful president. She was Bill Clinton's right-hand man, so to speak, throughout his presidential campaign, headed up his healthcare initiative, and now--even after her hubby has left the Hill--she is still there as a New York Senator. She's experienced, charismatic, well known and best of all, a woman. But she'll still have to beat out Barak in the primary.

Barak Obama has become something of a rock star in the political arena, appearing on the cover of *Time Magazine* and (something that will probably gain him more votes than some article in Time) appearing on *Oprah!*

Though his politics are innovative for this time (the *Time* article praised him for reaching across the aisle to work with Republicans) the thing that could well win him the presidency is his simple charm. Many Americans couldn't say why Barak would make a good President, but they'd vote for him on name recognition alone. He is young and, as far as politicians go, good looking. He has an adorable,



young family and, unlike Mr. Bush, he has worked his way from the bottom to get where he is today. He is an ideal candidate, slightly inexperienced, but that just means fewer skeletons in the closet.

So who will win the Democratic nomination? Both candidates are more than qualified for the job, but only one can win. Barak Obama. While I feel like a deserter not backing someone who could be the first woman president, I just don't think Hillary could win. She is a very strong woman and I would be more than happy to see her in office. But, as everyone knows, conservatives and even some moderate Republicans are scared of strong woman. And then there's the strong connection that Hillary has with Bill Clinton, someone Republicans still think is the Devil Incarnate.

While Democrats and progressive thinkers are more than ready to vote for a woman, Barak would be more likely to win those moderate republican votes that we will need to win the Presidency. Moderates don't see him as Liberal as they see Hillary. He is a fresh face unblemished by scandal or corruption. He has a chance, in fact he has more than a chance. If the Democrats run Barak he will win. Hillary might not.

The Bush Administration has once again cut school funding; I'm no longer allowed to make copies at school because they're short on paper; Bush's "No Child Left Behind" is a joke; I'm forced to pass the WASL. I am so angry and fed up and just pissed off with the Bush administration's reign, that I can hardly wait to vote these chumps out of office.

I'm just afraid that if the Democrats run Hillary Clinton we might not win. I can't handle four more years of Republican idiocy. I bet you can't either. I know this country can't.

How To Cope With Local Talk Radio

By Don Reinseth, Newaukum PCO

One of the most important things the incoming Congress can do in the coming 24-months is ensure that anyone nominated to the Federal Communication Commission will seek to reinstitute the Fairness Doctrine that a sensible Congress devised in the 1940s following the assaults by Father Coughlin on the Roosevelt Administration.

And we should be alerted to such nominations until the Presidential election, when justice will again prevail. The Chairman of the FCC must be in favor of the Fairness Doctrine in order that the imbalance in PTR (political talk radio) will be corrected.

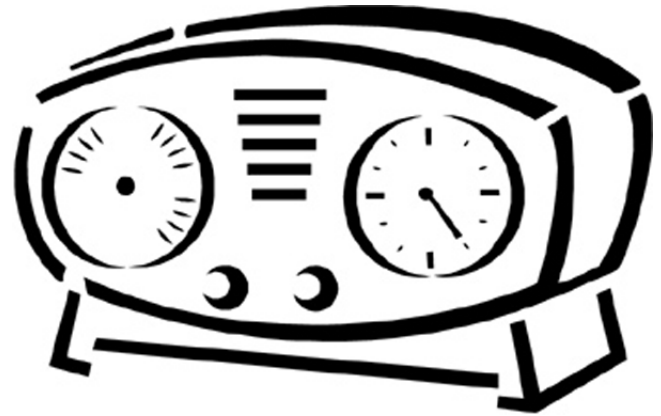
Until 1987, if stations gave time to a conservative host, they were required to give response time to opposing views. There were less than 100 talk radio stations in the country when the Fairness Doctrine was repealed under President Reagan. Today there are more than 1200 "news/talk" stations and more than 3,000 hosts, according to the industry trade publication *Talkers Magazine*.

Studies at Rutgers University Department of Communications have found that the influence of PTR over time is small at best. Whether that is true in Lewis County with the right in control of the media is a question.

Our problem is not only that the drug addicts (Rush Limbaugh) and convicted felons (Gordon Liddy) have taken over national talk-radio. It is also that, at even on a local level, the moralists, union bashers, child haters, anti-environments, and others with a disposition to thumb their nose at the future are marching behind the high-profile Oliver Norths and Rush Limbaughs under the guise of "entertainment". Whether this type of AM radio is an anticipation of the end-times or something else is a more philosophical discussion.

Talk radio in our area is a half-hour each weekday morning with a former prosecutor. His program follows local news, which is generally considered to be even-handed, fair and balanced. This prosecutor typically uses this format to segue to other well-written (originally) news items that he has skillfully skewed on the air to reflect his own bias.

If we were to take the time to find the articles he is citing, we would find he has left out the reasoning



of the other (more liberal) side. This is contrary to his former duty in the courthouse - to make all the relevant facts known to the defense. And that makes his radio technique more a problem of ethics and intellectual integrity.

We are asked to comment on the host's propositions regarding the "failure" of the schools, for example. (We will ignore the fact for now that by his own admission, said host has large real estate holdings or that taxing them to any degree for the benefit of the schools is unjust as he does not have children of his own. Children are a nuisance).

The answer he seeks from the listening audience is that money should be withheld from the schools until they change to his satisfaction. Then they will be worthy.

As with many other subjects, we are reminded of how it was in his generation, when he would be disciplined by the exemplary father or grandfather for any deviation from the social norm. Women apparently had no part in his childhood as there is no mention. When asked to visit the schools he angrily responds that he "has a life" and has more important things to do.

There is a retinue of like-minded callers to the prosecutor's program. We hear the fellow with the folksy Texas drawl who has "researched" the topic very carefully (he is an "expert" witness) and has come to some excellent conclusions - by the host's standards. Tex is treated as a friendly witness and questioned as if on direct examination.

We next hear the caller who seems to have enjoyed a long nap with Rip Van Winkle and poses the question, "John, have you heard this thing about

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Coping With Local Talk Radio, continued

continued from previous page

the earth being a sphere?” Our talk show host allows that, yes, he has, and asks, “What do you think about that?” The caller is bewildered, since the aforesaid world has just been spinning too fast for him.

Inevitably during a typical week, a lady we will call K. will call and ask about the responsibility of Republican Congress and President for some problem we are facing. This is a hostile witness and she must be dealt with as if on cross-examination. The unwritten rules allow only the host and his friends to bring up subjects of a national nature.

K. has been ridiculed on the program for saying that the Russians are mostly Christian. Another caller will be treated well for saying that, during the Soviet period, Russians held church services in the forest so as not to be seen by the authorities. The truth: 70-80 percent of Russians think of themselves as Russian Orthodox, a Christian Church. The obviously elderly K. will be mocked and that has caused at least one caller to respond that the host is an arrogant SOB.

While it may be true that among the hundreds listening, there are many who would respond in the same way (mainly because he is an arrogant SOB,) this is not productive.

It is only with the facts that we can deal with right-wing radio in Lewis County. A potential challenger to the local host should be thoroughly prepared with the correct facts.

There will be an attempt to change the subject on such a caller. We should be satisfied to correct the host’s statement and not be dragged into a discussion we aren’t prepared for. It is enough that he loses credibility. He and the listening audience should be reminded at the end of the call that he had his facts wrong and that our purpose was just to set the record straight. The most successful challenges we have heard have proceeded that way.

If a caller says we bought the land from the Mexicans and that suits JP, we may want to call to give a brief history of the Westward Expansion, but not until we are sufficiently versed on the subject. We all have our particular areas of expertise and,

correspondingly, misrepresentations that get our dander up.

The FCC is mandated by federal law to grant broadcasting licenses in such a way that the airwaves are used in the “public convenience, interest or necessity.”

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1969 unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the Fairness Doctrine, expressing the view that the airwaves were a “public trust” and that “fairness” required that the public trust accurately reflect opposing views.

“A license permits broadcasting, but the licensee has no constitutional right to be the one who holds the license or to monopolize a...frequency to the exclusion of his fellow citizens. There is nothing in the First Amendment which prevents the Government from requiring a licensee to share his frequency with others.... It is the right of the viewers and listeners, not the right of the broadcasters, which is paramount.”

That was the U.S. Supreme Court, upholding the constitutionality of the Fairness Doctrine in *Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC*, 1969.

Thom Hartmann has said at Commondreams.com, “... if you listen to radio, call your local stations (both talk and music) to let them know that you want to hear progressive or Democrat voices, and will even patronize the advertisers of such shows when they run them.”

That’s good advice. The advertisers could also be informed that their businesses would have more customers if the rest of the people felt they were being treated fairly.

2007 Executive Board

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1st Vice Chair: Bob Guenther

2nd Vice Chair: Ken Norberg

Secretary: Don Reinseth

Treasurer: Carol Draper

State Committeeman: Craig Sullivan

State Committeewoman: Judy Guenther

Thanks For The Vision & Persistence

By Bob Guenther, 20th Legislative Democrats, Chair

Due to the efforts of East Lewis County's local residents six years ago I would like to acknowledge their participation with regard to keeping Watch Mountain as Forest Service Land.

These folks had a vision as to what could happen to Randle if it were traded to a private timber company. (I- 90 Land exchange) I feel personal time and money spent by many people who were against trading the property has benefited the county, state and federal government. (Taxpayers)

Several of Randle's residents and others visited Washington D.C. telling the story of what they feared would happen if the mountain was to be

traded. Third District Congressman Brian Baird came up, took a look, and listened to the citizens concerns. Senator Murray sent top staff to Randle. Community members had it right; believing they could make a difference by protecting their town from slides and possible floods. They ask for the help of many, privatization of federal land was prevented.

Who knows what may have happened to the town of Randle the first week of November 2006 with the heavy rain fall we experienced. As Brian Baird and I drove into the Town of Randle on November 7th, we both looked up at the Miller Creek Drainage and thanked the people of East County for their vision and persistence.

The KELA Minute

What Does The Future Hold In Store For Lewis County?

KELA plays "The Great Divide" weekly, featuring responses by Lewis County Democrat and Republican Chairs to a weekly question of the station's choosing. Here's one of our minutes.

This is my community and I pray that things will work out. But, my fear is that the people of Lewis County will get exactly what they voted for.

If Commissioners Averill and Gross follow through with their campaign promises, Lewis County will have another layer of bureaucracy separating the commission from the voters and the people working under them at the courthouse.

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE
THE DEMOGRAM VIA E-MAIL

Mail to: Lewis County Democrats
417 N. Pearl #9
Centralia, WA 98531

Add me to the Headlines List!

Name: _____

Address: _____

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If county reorganization, takes place the way Gross, Averill and the Chronicle advocated, the commissioner position will become part time. We Democrats hope they will do the right thing and reduce their salaries accordingly

We anticipate accelerating problems with growth management. The new commissioners will have to deal with the reality of the law -- which they ignored during the campaign.

People are reeling from the flooding and the mine closure. It would be tragic to see taxpayer money spent on lawsuits and bureaucracy rather than the needs of Lewis County residents

Averill's recent derogatory references about Seattle and Olympia were ill-advised. We don't need leaders who seek to isolate us. We need all the friends we can get at the state and national levels. It is foolhardy to alienate the very people we will be asking for help.

Upcoming Special Events

February 19th PCO Training and Crab Feed
– St. Martin's Pavilion, Lacey WA

March 24th 2007 All-American Auction – location TBA – Back to our roots with Demoburgers, salads and a great time for folks of all ages

Chair's Corner: Many Ways to Get Involved

by Jan Nontell, Lewis County Democrats Chair

I want to thank the Precinct Committee Officers for electing me as the Chair of this great organization for the 2007-2008 term. I promise you that I will do everything within my ability to help this organization grow, to educate the voters of Lewis County and to get Democrats elected in the Court-house, the State Legislature and on the national level. It is a new year, a year filled with promise and exciting new opportunities for the Democrats of Lewis County.

But I cannot do it alone.

The newly elected Executive Board brings a diversity of strengths and knowledge. They have a history of being hard-working, dedicated members of the Democratic Party and will take that history into this new election cycle (and yes, the 2008 election cycle has already started)

But we cannot do it alone.

Our candidates were out every night doorbell-ing. They participated in parades and community events every weekend. They put their money and reputations on the line to make county government one that would best serve all the residents of Lewis County.

But they could not do it alone.

We need to point out each and every poorly written Chronicle article and let them know when their editorials are based on fallacy or falsehood. I understand that editorial opinions are just an opinion, however we Democrats need to barrage them with letters letting them know that we have the facts on our side... and that their opinions, like so many of their "news" articles are often nothing more than elephant dung.

But we cannot do it alone.

While we are writing letters we might as well be calling into the local and national talk shows. Take the time, get the facts and understand what you believe. Don't argue, don't threaten, don't name call, don't let a rude host talk over you and don't give up. Many of us work during the day and can't call, but (if you can stand to listen) call in and let the rest of the listening audience know the truths that are being ignored by the radio hosts.

We cannot do this alone.

We have many, many opportunities for you to join in on the fun and the work. The All-American Auction is scheduled for March 24th and we need people to sell tickets, others to procure wonderful auction items, help with the decorating, work on publicity, put the auction booklet together, enter items into the database... There is enough work for everyone – call the office (330-5006) or email us (chair@lewiscountymocrats.net) and we will give you a little job, one that may only take a few minutes.

Two or three people cannot do this alone.

Every meeting of the Lewis County Democrats will include some training, new ways to work together and new skills and ideas. You can learn how to get your point across in a knowledgeable and concise manner. We will discuss how to best work in your precinct. You can learn how to go about the daunting task of getting Democrats elected in Lewis County.

You don't have to do this alone.

There are over 10,000 people in this county who consistently vote Democrat. We need to find them and let them know that they are not alone and that they are important in helping to make this a better place to live and work. This Demogram goes out to over 800 households. If every person receiving it would give a minimum of one hour a month, we could change the world. At least our little world here in Lewis County

We are not alone

As I write this, we have only 634 days until November 4th, 2008. That is not a lot of time but it is enough time to come together as one cohesive unit and begin to make some of the major changes that we must make. There is a lot of work we must do to get Democrats elected and protect the ideals that are important to us. Together, we can do this.

What happened to the 2006 JJ Dinner?

In the face of massive lay-offs at the mine and the resulting economic concerns; flooding that our community still has not recovered from; windstorms that knocked out power, comfort and many homes; and a lack of response, the 2006 JJ Dinner has been postponed to November 28th 2007.

JOIN THE LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Yes--I want to support the Lewis County Democrats! Here are my \$10.00 Annual Dues for 2007 .

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

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Amount Enclosed: \$_____ (We will gratefully accept a larger amount)

Your contribution helps support the Demogram, our web site and other party-building expenses.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE DEMOCRATS

Yes--I believe in winning instead of whining and I'm ready to help! Here's what I'm willing to do:

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I'm available to help: Evenings Weekends Weekdays

Please clip and then mail this form, along with your dues check, to:

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