



DEMOGRAM

The Obama Campaign in Lewis County

Invasion of the Body Snatchers, or "Who is Grassroot" and what have they done with me?

By Vickie Hinkley

Barack Obama says "This election has never been about me, it's about You!" The Obama campaign reminds us that it's the individual stories that tell the story of America. Well, this is a little story about how I became a Grassroot.

Minding my own business one fine January day, surfing BarackObama.com, I decided to register. That was my first mistake. Little did I know something would slowly be taking over my body. Before I knew what was happening, they were making me do all sorts of weird things. Like caucusing. What is caucusing, anyway? But we did it. Hundreds of us. They didn't know why either, but they came, they saw, and they caucused.

My second mistake was saying "Yes." I just couldn't stop myself. Do you want to make some calls, Vickie? Yes. Do you want to be in parades every weekend, Vickie? Yes. Do you want to get yard signs, Vickie? Yes. Do you have anything else to do, Vickie? Yes. But it didn't matter, the conversion was complete, I was a Grassroot.



It's a strange out-of-body experience, this politics thing. It had never taken me over before. I was content, being my shy self. Just staying at home, just

being a pig farmer. Don't laugh!

But over 800 of us were drawn into this thing last February, most of us for the first time. Did we think there were even 800 Democrats in Lewis County? Nooooo. And now some have become new PCOs. Some went to the County or State Convention. Some



have become Grassroots. Some are supporting the effort quietly. And some have continued doing what they'd been doing for years and years, volunteering with the Lewis County Democratic Party.

When asked, over 30 people said "Yes, We Can!" to the idea of Obama-Biden billboards on Hwy 5. They contributed \$700 for the project! That enabled us to rent extensive I-5 frontage (North of exit 68), put up four large Obama signs, as well as signs for Cutler, Rechner, Goldmark, Baird, and Gregoire. We were also able to place two additional double-sided Obama-Biden signs off Hwy 12 on donated frontage property. And we donated additional Obama signs for placement in the County.

Election Day is so close now, but there are still things any of us can do. At www.BarackObama.com they list "5 Things You Can Do:"

- Volunteer,
- Knock on Doors,
- Make Calls,
- Find Events,
- Plus (one of my favorites) Letters to the Editor.

Login to MyBarackObama so you can use the tools. With the Obama site tool, you can select your choice of local, regional and national papers, and multiply your impact.

You can call the Lewis County Democratic Party

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Voices and Viewpoints

OPUS: A Civics Lesson

By Holly McNutt, PCO, Whealdon

The first hint we had that there was trouble brewing in the neighborhood was when our neighbor two doors up Mayberry towards the Chehalis River strolled over and remarked that the Port of Centralia was up to something huge--something that would result in all of our homes being flooded.

My first reaction was to smile politely, say nothing, and assume that the "powers that be" were watching over my home and my interests. After all, that IS the reason for government agencies, is it not?

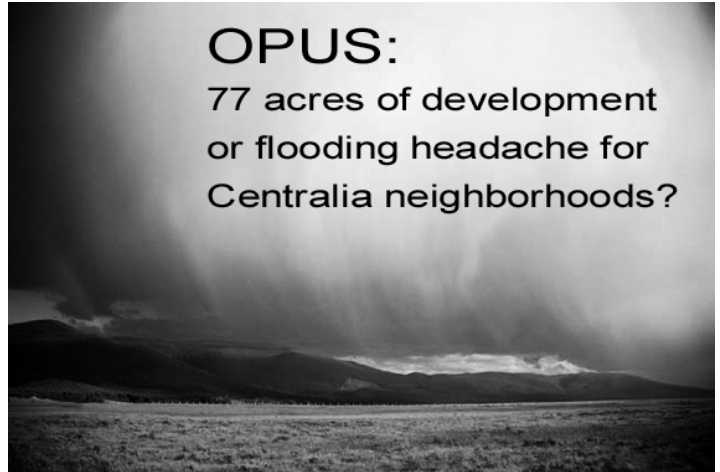
By the 22nd of August, my interest had risen considerably. That day I learned a citizens' group had already gathered twice to discuss the OPUS Project at Port of Centralia #1 on Galvin Road without bothering to invite us...although neighbors in all four directions of our home were included.

By this time, the concerned citizens (which includes those of us on Ford's Prairie as well as folks up on River Heights) had:

- decided to hire attorneys,
- formed a non-profit corporation of which we are allegedly members and therefore liable for some of those afore-mentioned attorneys' fees,
- generally riled up a whole lot of people.

A public meeting with Centralia Mayor Tim Browning and Port attorney Sandy Mackie was held on September 3rd. We went because we wanted answers. From what we were being told (through the grapevine) by those now openly opposed to the project, NOTHING about it had been done legally or openly.

Frankly, neither the mayor nor Mackie was saying anything to answer my questions or concerns, so I finally spoke up and interrupted the attorney. My con-



OPUS:

77 acres of development
or flooding headache for
Centralia neighborhoods?

cerns that evening were increased chance of flooding on our street, air and water pollution, congestion on major arterials on our end of town, and the apparent lack of open, transparent government on the part of the Port of Centralia.

Following that meeting, we began getting nearly daily e-mail updates from one of the leaders of the resistance. I was also suddenly being informed of Port of Centralia meetings and e-mailed the agendas for those meetings.

Because of the volume of anti-OPUS information we were receiving, I decided to begin asking questions on my own. I met a couple of times with a city official, attended a Port Commission meeting, spoke with members of the media who had been investigating the situation, studied the plans for the project, and drove over and really looked at the site.

Five weeks later, by the time OPUS and the Port hosted another public meeting, I was a supporter of the project. For the first two hours that evening, a very professional presentation was made, including peer reviews of both the flood study and traffic study which had originally been done during the permitting process. I heard nothing which caused me any concern.

When public comments were requested, I announced I no longer had any objections. Instead of the cheers and applause of that first meeting, my comments were now greeted by a deafening silence as I made my way back to my seat – except,

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Invasion of the Body Snatchers

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– 330-5006 – and ask to volunteer. You can JOIN the Lewis County Democratic Party! Just 10 Bucks! There's a handy membership form on the back page of this Demogram.

If you build it, they will come. No wait ...wrong movie. Grassroots forever!

Bob and Judy Guenther Make History

Bob and Judy Guenther were the only husband-wife delegate team at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. They made history in Lewis County, too, being the only tandem of delegates ever chosen to go to a National Convention.

While there, Bob sent back photos and text that we posted daily on our web site. You can see it at: <http://lewiscountydemocrats.net/bobandjudy.htm>

Here's a taste of their Aug. 29th entry:

We are in Billings tonight; it has been quite a day. We talked about how this last week has to be one of the highlights of our political involvement. We both felt the energy that was in the stadium. As was stated by one of the many speakers, we felt we were not talking about history, we--along with over 80 thousand people--were making history.

As we sat, cheered, shed a few tears, we both felt there is hope for this country. We talked about the Republicans' pick. We are sure she is a fine person, but do we want to put our nation in the hands of those limited qualifications?

*I am sure running a small town in Alaska is just not quite what we need to possibly run our nation. Let's face it folks--**she would be just one heartbeat away from being the President should citizens vote for the Republican ticket!***



Bob and Judy with Congressman Brian Baird. And yes, that's King County Executive Ron Sims in the background.

[...] I am sure John McCain was truthful when he stated that once you get to know her you will like her. I heard he met her one time. Is that the person we need as President, making decisions from one meeting that would elevate a person to be President within one heartbeat?

We wish every person in Lewis County could have felt the power at Invesco Field last night. It not only came from the speakers, it came from those in the stadium. We greatly hope it continues.

OPUS: A Civics Lesson, continued from page 2

of course, for a couple of quietly spoken comments about my having been "bought-off". So be it. One thing is for sure: time will tell whether my analysis of the situation is correct.

The past few days I have realized that this has been a good lesson in civics. Yes, we are represented by our elected officials. Should we just blindly assume they are doing the right thing? No. That is why we have open meeting laws.

Do government officials become complacent when they are never challenged for re-election? Yes, and we Democrats in this county need to get off our duffs and do something about that! There is a difference between government agencies following the "letter of the law" and the "spirit of the law" regard-

ing public notifications. Even in little Centralia, there are spheres of influence as evidenced by the Port of Centralia somehow acquiring my e-mail address and putting me on their list without my having requested it.

There IS such a thing as "mob-mentality" as exhibited by an awful lot of my neighbors who believe everything they are being spoon-fed via the nearly daily e-mail updates from "The Answer Man". Emotions should be "checked at the door" when public policy is under discussion. Personal insults get neither side anywhere. There is a difference between "flip-flopping" and changing one's mind when one becomes aware of all sides of an issue. (Kind of like the difference between a politician and a statesperson.)

Energy production in Lewis County?

Exciting local trends in energy technology

By Jim Lowery

Where is energy production going? In the Pacific Northwest, we have been blessed with fairly cheap electricity thanks to the hydro production and capacity, but times are changing. As we experience tremendous growth, especially in the Puget Sound region, the demand for energy is also growing. So where do we go for electrical power?

There are some interesting and innovative business folks and inventors working in our region. Here in Lewis County, one person is working on a more efficient solar panel. It has been reported that he has been successful in coming up with a solid design that will improve efficiency and possibly open the doors to more solar panels being used for housing and business.

Wind and wave power is being studied off the coast of Grays Harbor. On days the wind isn't blowing, the wave power will still produce electricity. There are many wind turbines operating in Europe and the feasibility study for their potential in our area is well under way. They would be placed up to ten miles off the coast.

The same company that is looking at wind and wave power has designed a paddle box that can be placed in an irrigation canal and produce energy. They are working with a winery in eastern Washington to determine if they can produce all of the winery's electrical needs with this device.

In west Lewis County a company is working with Weyerhaeuser near Pe Ell to install our first wind farm in this area. Companies are also looking at another area in west Lewis County, as well as locations in Pacific County and Grays Harbor. While attending the Northwest Green Expo, I spoke with a fellow who has invented a smaller system of wind turbines. They are much smaller and would have four or five turbines on a single stand, and could be used for home generation. It wouldn't be a huge producer of power, but with improved technology, it could have potential.

Tidal power is another area being studied in Pacific County in a partnership with the PUD and a private company. I recently had the pleasure of attending a tidal power conference in Seattle where a UK trade mission made a presentation. They have



Wind power being utilized in Washington D.C.

made substantial progress in developing tidal power and are working on even more efficient technologies. Snohomish PUD has 7 permits for feasibility studies in Puget Sound. They are approaching it with 6 or 7 state agencies and several federal agencies. The issues they are considering are impact on marine life and impact on the bottom where these devices need to be anchored.

These are just a small sample of the things happening with electrical power production. On the fuel side, there are some exciting things happening as well.

Where will the work force come from to meet these new demands? That's where a WIRED grant from the Department of Labor comes into play. It is a three year project that is divided into four sectors:

- Green Construction
- Energy/Technology
- Manufacturing
- Innovation

The grant creates an industry, labor, and education led training program with the latest technology. Programs will be developed for incumbent worker training, dislocated worker training and K through 12 opportunities in these industries. This work force training and availability will be the cornerstone for a new kind of economic development in a five county region including Lewis County.

2008 LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATS JEFFERSON JACKSON DINNER

With Keynote Speaker
John Ladenburg

**Dem. Candidate for
Attorney General &
Pierce County Executive**



**Saturday, October 25, 2008
from 6 to 9 pm**

**American Legion Hall
111 West Main Street in Centralia**

\$25 per person (Steak or Fish) w/ Beer and Wine \$2.00

To confirm please RSVP ASAP to 740-0733 with # of attendees and dinner choice

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*Employer: _____

Address: _____

*Employer Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Number of Tickets: ____ Payment Enclosed: _____

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Mail to: LCDCC
417 N. Pearl #9
Centralia, WA 98531

E-Mail: _____

* Required by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

Newspapers in Key Battlegrounds Flipping for Gregoire

Source: Washington State Democrats

SEATTLE - As political watchers everywhere anxiously await the Seattle Times' endorsement of Republican Dino Rossi for his courageous stance on the estate tax, key newspapers elsewhere are either flipping their endorsements from 2004 or calling out Republican Dino Rossi for his relentlessly negative, substance-free campaign for governor. In the last two weeks, flagship newspapers in two key swing counties that will play a pivotal role in deciding the 2008 gubernatorial race -- The Tacoma News-Tribune in Pierce and The Columbian in Clark -- have switched their 2004 endorsement of Republican Dino Rossi and are now backing Gov. Gregoire.

1. Pierce County is a critical battleground in the race between Gregoire and Rossi. In 2004, Gov. Gregoire received just under 47% of the vote, around 4% behind Republican Dino Rossi. In the 2008 primary, she received 47.51%, finishing just ahead of Rossi in a very tight race.
2. Clark County is also a critical battleground. In 2004, Gov. Gregoire received 44.7% of the vote, 8.04% behind Republican Dino Rossi. In the 2008 primary, she got nearly 46%, which was only 1.31% behind Rossi.
3. These endorsements could make a real difference, giving Gregoire a key boost as voters

begin casting ballots in just 2 days.

Meanwhile, newspapers that endorsed Gregoire in 2004 are encouraging voters to give her 4 more years, based on her record of getting real results in tough times for Washingtonians. Rossi's relentless negativity and evasion, delivered with his used-car-salesman smile, have drawn less-than-kind reviews.

The Olympian -- who called Rossi "a slick carnival hawker" -- argued:

"[Rossi] promises not to cut education, not to cut programs for vulnerable citizens, not to raise taxes and, in fact, he wants to further deplete the general fund budget by moving money into transportation projects and securing additional dollars for education. Where's he going to get the money? Rossi refuses to be specific, offering only to go through the budget line-by-line. In other words, voters are going to have to wait until he's in office to find out which state programs are gutted, whether teacher and state employee salary increases will be delayed or if entire state programs will be eliminated. That's a huge gamble - a gamble this editorial board is not willing to take."

The Seattle P-I argued that Gregoire was "a clear choice" and criticized Rossi for his evasion and unreadiness to be governor:

"[Rossi's] avoidance of questions about his social conservatism, his unrealistic transportation ideas and even his unwillingness to be labeled Republican on the ballot all warn there's a lot about how Rossi would govern that most of us, including perhaps the candidate, would learn only after he took on the job."



General Election Endorsements

President of the United States

Barack Obama - www.barackobama.com

Governor

Christine Gregoire - www.ChrisGregoire.com

Lieutenant Governor

Brad Owen

Washington State Public Lands Commissioner

Peter Goldmark - www.votepetergoldmark.com

Washington State Insurance Commissioner

Mike Kreidler - www.mikekreidler.com

Washington State Treasurer

Jim McIntire - www.jimmcintire.com

Washington State Attorney General

John Ladenburg - www.ladenburg.org

Washington State Secretary of State

Jason Osgood - www.jasonosgood.com

Washington State Auditor

Brian Sonntag - www.sonntag2008.com

Congressional District 3

Brian Baird - www.brianbaird.com

20th Legislative District Representative # 1

Mike Rechner - www.mikerechner.com

20th Legislative District Representative # 2

Jim Cutler - www.jim-cutler.com

20th Legislative District Senator

Chuck Bojarski

Rita Cleary All-American Auction Only Months Away!

By Lisa Miller, Auction Committee

Attention all! The Lewis County Democratic Auction Committee would like to let you know that the 2009 Rita Cleary All-American Auction will be Saturday, March 7th at the Centralia Eagles. As usual, the event features dinner, both a live and silent auction, and a chance to socialize with fellow Democrats.

Auction items will range from large to small, so mark your calendar for this date to reserve your chance to participate and win. Cocktail hour begins at 5:00 p.m., but get there early to check out the Silent Auction tables!

This event serves as our biggest annual fundraiser. Proceeds earned through this event not only aid Lewis County Democratic candidates, but also fund most of our entire county organization. Our daily operating expenses—the office, Demogram, web site, Headlines, meeting supplies & expenses, mailings, and everything else are funded by this one annual event.

Last year was a very successful auction, but we think this year can be even better and we need your support. Just like our votes, each one counts. Please mark this date on your calendars and tell your friends. Each person who attends and each dollar that is donated serves as the catalyst that makes change happen. You can make change happen.



Please call Robert Schroeter, Auction Committee Chair, at 740-0733 or the Lewis County Democratic Headquarters at 330-5006 with any questions, or if you have an item you would like to donate.

2008 Executive Board

Chair: Jan Nontell

1st Vice Chair: Ken Norberg

2nd Vice Chair: Brian Dow

Secretary: Don Reinseth

Treasurer: Holly Marie McNutt

State Committeeman: Bob Guenther

State Committeewoman: Judy Guenther

Thanks For The Vision & Persistence

By Bob Schroeter

The economy looked bleak. After years of Republican rule in the White House, uncertainty with banks finally took its toll with house foreclosures and bank closures. Industrial output lagged and people began to worry about whether their job might be the next lost. The Democrats offered hope – hope in a future of economic growth and fairness. They had a fresh, new face as their presidential candidate who brought with him hosts of new democratic leaders to Washington D.C.

Which year are we referring to – 1932 or 2008? The answer is both, with determined optimism as to the latter.

We know how strong our message and candidates are this year. It has been a truism that Democratic candidates nationwide are being looked toward as true messengers of meaningful & progressive change. In the darkest days of the Great Depression in 1932-33, our party and nation faced a similar crossroads – with a crossing that made progressive history.

In late 1932 our nation was suffering a tremendous economic downturn. Industrial output was sagging, jobs were being lost, and housing "bubbles" had for several years been collapsing. Banks began to fail, first a few then growing to being a systemic issue. With storm clouds poised across this nation, it gave its support and gave voice to a new leader – President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Roosevelt's election brought our nation back to business, providing hope, jobs and support to millions of Americans. With inventive ideas such as the Works Progress Administration, National Recovery Administration, Social Security, TVA and the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations), FDR's 1932 election provided the basis for sweeping positive change felt even today.

In addition to huge majorities in both houses of Congress, the 1932 election brought Washington State Legislative majorities in the House and Senate. The numbers were truly astounding.

In the State House of Representatives, Democrats went from 62 to 70 members and the Senate from 1 member to 25! While an effort to retain a graduated income tax passed by the voters failed in 1934, significant changes to workers compensation and minimum wage protections consistently showed what



Mr. President:
We are with
YOU 100%

We have already gone on the N. R. A. six-hour day schedule, at no reduction in wages. This change has made it possible for us to employ another Chehalis baker.

We know that the many friends and patrons of the Daily Bread Shop will be glad to learn that we jumped right in without delay to do our part in the National Recovery program.

The Daily Bread Shop

Phone 620

Chehalis, Washington

progressive action can accomplish.

Even Lewis County was not immune to the Democratic sweep. The 1932 election gave all 3 legislative seats to Democrats – the Senate to Dr. D.O. Nugent and the House seats to T.R. Donahoe (a long-time Lewis County Democratic family) and Charles Gessell. It wasn't until 1938, and after FDR's Supreme Court "packing" controversy, that the legislative seats were lost to the GOP. They did not return consistently to the Democratic fold until the 1960s with Gary Odegaard, Bud Kalich and Elmer Jastad.

The point of this historical journey is to show that we have walked a similar path before. With all respect to Robert Schuller, from tough times great things can come. We've shown it during the FDR era – and we will see it again in the Obama era to come from Washington DC to Washington AC (alternate coast), and even right here in Lewis County.

Upcoming Special Events

Election Party

November 4th starting at about 5:00 and lasting until we can't go any longer. Bring food to share, your hopes and cheers and celebrate the evening with friends and fellow Democrats as we watch the results come in from across the country and the state.

Reorganization

Saturday, December 6th. If you are interested in running for a position on the Executive Board please contact Dave Herzog, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at 360-740-9503.

Chair's Corner: Keeping Hope Alive

by Jan Nontell, Lewis County Democrats Chair

*Change happens because the American people demand it - because they rise up and insist on new ideas and new leadership, a new politics for a new time.
America, this is one of those moments.
Barack Obama*

I look around and can't help but worry that we have become a nation interested only in Brittany's rehabilitation, Lindsey's new love, and Paris's BFF. I see the large number of people who vote for the next American Idol and listen to conversations on why a singer should be allowed to stay on that show, and I've wondered if we would ever again have that depth of discourse about the direction of our country.

Just when hope begins to ebb, I get a glimpse at the future.

I walked into the Democrats' office last Saturday and the place was filled to overflowing with high school and middle school students. Samantha (Mike Rechner's campaign manager) and Jessica (Jim Cutler's campaign manager) were working with these students, doing research for letters, teaching about the need for a Get Out The Vote campaign, discuss-

Have you noticed the signs?

The Democrats are making their presence felt here in Lewis County and we would like to send a special thank you to:

Vickie and John Hinkley for your endless work, the signs that you purchased and your organization skills;

Don Reinseth who is consistently in and out of the office placing signs, taking calls putting signs together and distributing signs to those who want them;

Bob Guenther for getting so many of the Obama and Gregoire signs for us;

Bob McInnis and **Brian Dow** for building sign structures and all of your sign placement,;

Bob Schroeter for the first batch of Obama signs. And everyone who has taken signs, gotten them out to their friends and neighbors

ing party platforms, how to make an informed decision, where to go to get real answers, and how to be most effective in a campaign.

As the students were preparing to go doorbelling, do phone banking and spend time researching, Norma Schanz was on the phone, letting a caller know what the party had planned for the up-coming week. It made me smile to see these two generations working so hard for something so much bigger than any one person.

I heard my son speak with a deep knowledge of where we are as a nation, where we need to head, and his ideas on how to get there. I doorbelled with Rochelle, a wonderful young woman who will turn 18 this Saturday and will vote for the first time a few days later. I listened to her quiet dreams for the future and saw the depth of her understanding of the direction we, as individuals and a nation, need to take.

I see the determination in the eyes of people who have rarely stepped out in the political arena but believe so strongly that they are willing to take leadership positions working for their candidates.

When I talk to strangers about my Obama t-shirt or button, I feel as though the slow decent we have been experiencing has turned...that people have re-awakened and we appear to be, once again, facing the light and moving forward.

Finally, when I saw Ed Smether's slow, easy smile I felt assured that we, as a people, will do what it takes to make change happen.

And I was reminded, again, of the words that thundered across this country and around the world the night Barack Obama accepted the nomination of our party:

America, we cannot turn back. Not with so much work to be done. Not with so many children to educate, and so many veterans to care for. Not with an economy to fix and cities to rebuild and farms to save. Not with so many families to protect and so many lives to mend. America, we cannot turn back. We cannot walk alone. At this moment, in this election, we must pledge once more to march into the future. Let us keep that promise - that American promise - and in the words of Scripture hold firmly, without wavering, to the hope that we confess.

JOIN THE LEWIS COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Yes--I want to support the Lewis County Democrats! Here are my \$10.00 Annual Dues for 2008.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Employer*: _____ Employer Address*: _____

* Required by the Public Disclosure Commission

Please mail this form, along with your check, to:

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(We will gratefully accept a larger amount)

Lewis County Democrats
417 N. Pearl St. #9
Centralia, WA 98531

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Help on campaigns--doorbelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the office, answer phones | <input type="checkbox"/> Help on campaigns--sign placement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the office, make calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Help on campaigns--sign monitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the office, database entry | <input type="checkbox"/> Help on campaigns--sign retrieval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with events | |

I'm available to help: Evenings Weekends Weekdays

Lewis County Democrats DEMOGRAM
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Jefferson-Jackson Dinner October 25th!
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