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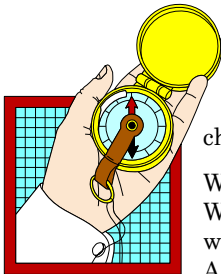
Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## Shaping the Next Forty Years of ACT

ACT, created in January 1973, has been a unique grassroots political organization. We are proud of our record of effectiveness and of our role in encouraging and supporting our members in politics and political activity.

As we approach the forty-year milestone, we think we should devote some time to discussing and planning for the next forty years. We have seen many changes in our world and our area (currently including our new district boundaries). And certainly we, as individuals, have changed. (We don't mean just increasing years here!)

What does all this mean for the future of our organization? What do we need to consider? What are our strengths and what are our weaknesses? Let's begin the work of shaping ACT's next forty years. Let's come together as ACT members to start.



To do so, we've scheduled our first planning session for **Sunday, September 11 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the home of Wendy Gordon and Michael Gottlieb, 1535 Ontario Avenue, Pasadena.** Every interested ACT member is invited to come and take part. Share your knowledge, experience and vision for ACT with other ACT (and ADC) members. We need you and urge you to join us on September 11.

### 2011 Steering Committee Calendar

All ACT and ADC members are welcome at ACT Steering Committee/ADC meetings on the first Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the month - in rotation. (Socializing begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.)

Remaining 2011 meeting dates are:

Tuesday, September 6

Wednesday, October 5

Thursday, November 3

Tuesday, December 6



**Robert Cuite**

We are deeply saddened by the death of our dear friend **Robert Cuite** on June 20, following a courageous struggle against mesothelioma. He was 62.

Robert was a warm and wonderful person. He was a former ACT Co-Chair and was - for years - Chair of the Election Procedures (endorsement balloting) Committee and a Recording Secretary. He was Long Island native and a U.S. Army veteran who relocated to California in the early '70s. He had a 33-year career with Pacific Bell (in all its identities) in telecommunications engineering.

In his hometown of Duarte he was the ultimate volunteer, having served as a director of the Friends of the Duarte Library, and the Duarte Education Foundation as well as Chair of the Planning Commission and Chair of the Economic Development Commission. He volunteered at Concerts in the Parks, the Tournament of Roses Float Viewing Project, Duarte's Route 66 Parade Committee, the Downtown Duarte Ad Hoc Committee, and on the Annual Wilderness Day when he always hiked to Fish Canyon Falls.

**Wendy Soltes**, Robert's wife of 32+ years and **Elliot**, their son, tell us the Robert wanted us

to do five things: to recycle, to eat more vegetables including broccoli and jicama, to listen to classical music, to read more, and to get better at playing Scrabble. We will do our best.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Wendy and Elliot. They have suggested that any memorial contributions may be made to the Robert Cuite Memorial Fund, c/o 3461 Deerland Drive, Duarte, CA 91010. Funds will be distributed to some of Robert's favorite organizations including the Duarte Education Foundation, Friends of the Duarte Library, and ACT.

- Sally Beer



### ***"Driving By Braille"***

Second generation ACT members **Richard Moon** and wife **Junie Hildebrandt** premiered their first full-length feature film, the impressive "Driving By Braille" at the Arclight Pasadena on July 25. Richard and Junie have formed Moonhill Productions to produce Richard's scripts. Richard wrote the "Driving By Braille" screenplay and Junie produced. Their young daughter **Madeline** shone with a very natural performance in the key role of the five-year-old version of the film's heroine.

"Driving By Braille" was the winner of the Golden Ace Award at the 2011 Las Vegas Film Festival. It received the Best Produced Screenplay Award and was runner-up for Best Picture at the Action on Film International Film Festival held in Pasadena in July.

The proud parents, parents-in-law, and grandparents are ACT charter members **Bobbie** and **Henry Moon**. (ACT members in the premiere audience think we may have seen Henry in one scene.)

Congratulations to all!

## Reapportionment – Final Maps are out, finally!

by Jon Fuhrman

After a long and torturous process, the Citizens Reapportionment Commission has an almost final set of maps. Technically, they still have to be approved by Aug. 15, but any further changes appear unlikely. From a statewide perspective, Democrats should gain seats, with a significant chance for a 2/3 majority in both Legislative houses. From a local perspective, we've been hosed!

One rule in this new process was that the Commission disregard where incumbents lived. This specific admonition grew out of the 2001 gerrymander, designed specifically to protect nearly every incumbent of both parties, and which resulted in an extraordinarily -- and inappropriately -- stable distribution of seats. It was expected that the new process would yield more competitive districts. The new maps do produce a few more competitive seats than the old ones, but not many. They do, however, wreak havoc on incumbents, pairing up long-serving legislators left and right.

It's true that in the past 10 years we've had remarkably little turnover. But the massive turnover we're likely to see is, I would argue, equally undesirable. In simple practical terms, it helps California and our citizens to have legislators with seniority. Pairing up Adam Schiff and Henry Waxman, or Howard Berman and Brad Sherman, or Karen Bass and Maxine Waters, or Fortney Stark and Jerry McNerney, or Xavier Becerra and Lucille Roybal-Allard in the same district does not help California. It simply deprives the state both of political muscle and of the service of mature, seasoned and effective legislators. Interestingly, Arizona also has an independent citizen's commission for reapportionment, but they are prohibited from drawing an

incumbent out of his or her district; the thought was that decision must be left to the voters. So don't be surprised to see a ballot measure in the future that may try to improve on the design of our citizen's commission.

While the commission created only a modest number of swing districts, the population trends inevitably led to a more Democratic set of districts. The current Congressional delegation is split 34 to 19; among the new districts are 33 "Democratic" districts (where Dem registration exceeds Republican registration by at least 10%), and one district that leans Democratic; there are 12 "Republican" districts and two that lean Republican; and 5 swing districts. Thus, particularly in a high turnout Presidential election, Dems have a good chance to pick up 5 additional House seats.

In the Assembly, the new maps have 48 safe Democratic districts, 2 that lean Democratic, and 5 swing districts. Winning 4 of the 5 swing districts would give Dems the magic 2/3 majority needed for tax and ballot measures. Further, 3 of those 5 swing districts have no incumbents currently living within those boundaries.

The Senate is a bit more complicated, since only half the seats are up for election in 2012. But among those odd-numbered seats, twelve should be safe Democratic seats, one leans Democratic, and two are swing seats. Added to the 14 Democrats holding even-numbered seats, the Dems need to win only 1 of the seats that either lean Democratic or are swing seats to hit the magic 2/3 benchmark. So the Senate looks pretty safe, and the Assembly is in range. Since Gov. Brown's term continues until 2014, these new maps just might radically change California's government.

Aside from the raw numbers, the Legislature will see some significant turnover. In the Senate maps, five out of the 20 odd-numbered

seats are "vacant" -- that is, no incumbent lives within those newly-defined districts. Five other districts have two incumbents living within them, although in some cases one of those incumbents is termed out. Perhaps the most interesting case is District 39, in San Diego. Christine Kehoe, who currently represents the 39th District, lives there, but she has already served her maximum two terms. Juan Vargas, elected from the 40th District, now lives in the 39th District, while the new 40th District has no incumbent living within its boundaries. Vargas' optimal strategy would be, while still serving as the Senator for SD40, to run for election this year in the 39th District and, if he wins, to resign from the 40th before getting sworn in to the 39th. Then a special election would be called to replace Vargas in the 40th; but it's not clear to me which 40th District boundaries -- the old ones used in 2010, or the new ones to be used in 2014--would be used for the special election.

In the Assembly, 9 seats have 2, or sometimes 3, Assemblymembers in the same new district, while 23 districts have no incumbent. Some of those "doubles" are termed out, reducing the impact; for example, Speaker Perez is now in the same district as Assemblymember Davis, but Davis is termed out, thus avoiding a nasty conflict between the African-American and Latino communities.

It is in the Congressional delegation that the disruption will be most noticeable, with 16 districts (out of 53) with no incumbent, and 12 districts with two incumbents. Republicans are probably being hurt a bit more than Democrats through this process. For example, Buck McKeon, currently the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, finds himself in the same district as Elton Gallogly. Jerry Lewis, former chair and 3rd senior member of the Appropriations Committee, finds himself in a Democratic district with Joe Baca. Darryl

Issa, who chairs the Oversight and Governmental Regulation Committee, is paired with Brian Bilbray. But Democrats are also being slammed -- with one example being our own Adam Schiff now sharing a district with Henry Waxman. Congressional candidates don't have to live in the district they represent, which provides a bit more flexibility, but even with that proviso, we're likely to see many new faces in Congress in 2013 -- and lose some folks we have known and supported for decades.

### **So what do our districts look like?**

Well, they could have been worse, but they're not pretty. The Commission's first draft split Altadena from Pasadena and tore Pasadena asunder. Over 100 ACT members signed a petition -- which I presented to the Commission in oral testimony in June -- asking to keep our communities together, and perhaps that had some effect.

Our new 41st Assembly District keeps all of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena and Sierra Madre together, which is the good news. However, it then grabs all of Monrovia (but not Duarte), and then skips over Azusa and Glendora to catch all of San Dimas, La Verne and Claremont, and then keeps going into San Bernardino County to take all of Upland and some of Rancho Cucamonga. The only way all these cities are connected is through the Angeles Forest, which of course is not only uninhabited but also has no roads going across it. Without the uninhabited Forest, these pieces of the district are not contiguous, to say nothing of not being compact (two qualities explicitly called for in the ballot initiative that created the Commission). This "barbell" district is as exquisite a gerrymander as any that Phil Burton or Michael Berman ever created. It's obvious that we have nothing in common with Upland, nor they with us. But here we are, and it's likely too late to do

much about it. (You can view the maps at [www.wedrawthelines.org](http://www.wedrawthelines.org), or at [www.redistrictingpartners.com](http://www.redistrictingpartners.com), or at [www.redrawca.org](http://www.redrawca.org).)

From a political perspective, the District is considered a Democratic seat: Dems have a 9% registration edge (with 19% Decline to States), Gov. Brown carried the district 53% to 40%, but Obama basically tied with McCain. The data suggest that perhaps voters on the eastern edge of the district have some reluctance in supporting African-American candidates (which might hint at some trouble for Councilmember Chris Holden as he runs to succeed Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, who has reached his term limit). Interestingly, the "incumbent" in our new district is Republican Mike Morrell, from the Upland area; Morrell's current district includes only the small San Bernardino piece of the district, and then goes east and south from there, covering a chunk of San Bernardino and Riverside counties. So his incumbency is unlikely to offer Morrell much help. The Pasadena - Altadena - South Pas. - Sierra Madre - Monrovia piece of the district is still the predominant part, including about 260,000 residents; there are about another 100,000 in the San Dimas - La Verne - Claremont piece, and then another 100,000 in the San Bernardino County piece. There is a significant Hispanic population in the district -- 31% of overall population, but only 23% of the Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP -- a yardstick used to measure political strength).

Our new State Senate District is the 25th; it includes both the new 41st Assembly District, and the 43rd Assembly District, which takes in La Canada, La Crescenta, all of Glendale, most (but not all) of Burbank, Sunland Tujunga, and a chunk of northeast Los Angeles between Interstates 5 and 210. It is considered a Democratic district, with a 9% registration edge; President Obama carried the district by 9%, and Gov. Brown won by 12% here.

Incumbent Sen. Carol Liu continues to live within the district, so she should have a good leg up toward her re-election. The Hispanic population is a bit lower in the Senate district -- 26% of overall population, 20% of CVAP.

Lastly, we come to our new 27th Congressional District, which will be the biggest change for us. The Commission drew Congressional Districts such that they are exactly equal in population, rather than allowing even a 1/2 % variation in population (which, to me, seems a somewhat extreme interpretation of Supreme Court language). As a result, it's almost impossible not to split cities, and split they did.

All of Altadena is in the new 27th, but Pasadena is split roughly along the Arroyo and 210 Freeway, with the western pieces (roughly, City Council District 6) landing in the Glendale / Burbank / Hollywood district (where Adam Schiff and Henry Waxman both live). The rest of Pasadena, along with most of South Pasadena, is combined with Alhambra, San Gabriel, Temple City, Rosemead, Arcadia, San Marino, and Sierra Madre and the northern part of Monrovia. But that still left the district short on population, so the Commission replicated the "barbell" strategy they used for our Assembly district. The district jumps over Azusa to grab Glendora, then jumps over La Verne to grab Claremont and a modest part of Upland. This creates a particularly ugly "triple barbell", with the pieces again connected only by uninhabited Angeles Forest land.

Adam Schiff, who has represented much of this area, is now in the district to our west. However, Judy Chu is now our incumbent Congresswoman, even though she has never represented 90% of the new district. Fortunately, Judy has some close connections to Pasadena, having long been supportive of, and supported by, the National Women's Political Caucus branch in Pasadena. The district is

comfortably Democratic, with a 13% registration edge, and giving President Obama an 8% edge and Gov. Brown a 16% edge. Ethnically, it's a very mixed district, with Hispanics representing 27% of the population and 23% of CVAP, Asians representing 37% of the population and 32% of CVAP, and Anglos representing 30% of the population and 39% of CVAP.

Interestingly, the District excludes La Cañada, so Assemblymember Portantino is left in a pickle. Our new district would be ideal for him, since he has represented much of the District in the Assembly for the past 6 years. But running against Cong. Judy Chu would be difficult. Most of Cong. Chu's old district, however, is in the new 32nd CD -- heavily Latino, but also overwhelmingly Democratic, and also, curiously, where Cong. David Dreier finds himself. Chu, as an incumbent, might be the stronger candidate to take on Dreier, but if she decides to run in the 27th (where she now lives), Portantino might well take on Dreier in the 32nd. That could be one of the premier races of 2012.



## Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the September *Phoenix* will be Sunday, September 11. Please send items to Chuck Hains at [Hains27@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Hains27@SBCGlobal.net). *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, September 15 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Altadena and mailed the next morning. (Volunteer mailers please call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)

## Do we have your current Email address?

Please send new Email addresses to Jon Fuhrman at [jon\\_fuhrman@charter.net](mailto:jon_fuhrman@charter.net)

# Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Friday, August 5.

It's hard to think of anything other than budgets and debt deals. The President managed to coax and cajole an intransigent House into at least a minimally acceptable deal to avoid formally defaulting on our debt. But doubts and discomfort plague progressive supporters; did the President give away the store? Did he cave to the extremists? Couldn't we have gotten at least a little revenue enhancement in the deal?

Perhaps what's really eating at progressive supporters is the sense that the Tea Party extremists got the better of us. And in a sense, they did. From the beginning, the Republicans succeeded in framing the argument by tying together debt limits and spending cuts. In truth, one has nothing to do with the other. All the money we spent and are spending has already been approved by the Congress, either

in annual appropriations bills or in setting rules for entitlements (like Social Security and Medicare). It's like going out to buy a flat screen, but then deciding we really don't want to pay for it. Once you've already bought the flat screen, it's too late to argue about how much debt you're carrying -- that argument belongs up front, when we're buying the flat screen, not after we've taken it home and are enjoying it in our living room.

But the Republicans tied the two together, in part, perhaps, because they realized increasing the debt limit had to be done, so perhaps they could leverage that to achieve what they hadn't really been able to in the normal appropriation or budget process (with Congressman Paul Ryan's budget proposals having been roundly rejected).

The key to that strategy was a willingness to let default happen, to go to the edge and then over the edge in pursuit of, to them, the greater good. (And if the economy tanked and a world depression hit, and Obama got blamed for that, so much the better, regardless of the damage it might wreak on their fellow citizens.)

When you're negotiating with people who are willing to blow themselves up, sadly you don't have much negotiating power. Ultimately, the Republican leadership, while not sharing the Tea Party willingness to jump off the cliff, nonetheless could not openly repudiate that position. So we went through an extended charade, creating a super-committee to find additional budgetary cuts that would, theoretically, meet the Tea Party bottom line.

Interestingly, however, the super-committee has broad latitude -- broad enough to include tax code reform (read close some of the most egregious loopholes) and thereby increase rev-

enues, even if we don't raise any rates. So the President may have found a way to get to his goal without forcing the Republican leadership directly to defy and confront the Tea Party activists. All in all, it is probably as good as we could possibly have gotten out of the deal.

As we talk about the deficit and aggregate debt, it's useful to remember where that debt comes from. Ezra Klein, in the New York Times, compared the cost of programs initiated under President Bush with those of President Obama. The Bush programs dramatically outweigh those started under President Obama; further, several of them (like the war costs, the tax cut costs, and the Medicare drug benefits) continue indefinitely. Of course, such details seem lost on the public generally, but perhaps the President can remind voters of facts like these during the campaign.

The other factor weighing on peoples' minds is the economy, particularly with the sudden market slide. Fortunately, employment seems to be picking up a bit, which should relieve some anxiety. But once again, it may

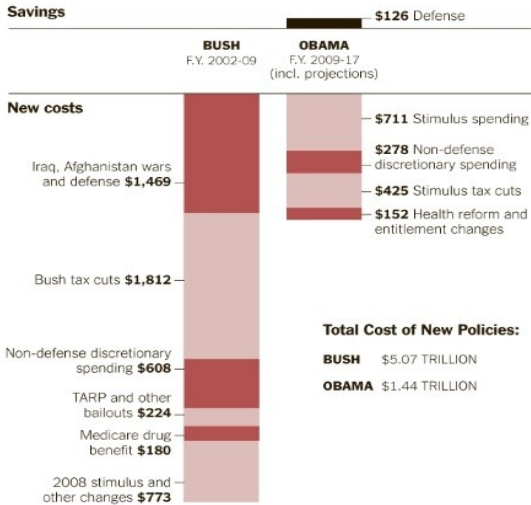
be useful to consider our current situation in some historical context.

State Controller John Chiang issues monthly reports on California's revenues and expenditures, and he includes in each report an "op-ed" piece by a noted economist or financial expert. Last month, Prof. Esmael Adibi, an economist from Chapman University, compared our recent recession to prior ones.

In the 1990 - 1993 recession, California lost 517,000 jobs over a 34 month period; it took 30 months after that to return to the job peak prior to the recession. In the 2001 - 2003 recession, the state lost 365,000 jobs over a 28 month period, and it took 21 months to return



## Policy Changes Under Two Presidents FIGURES IN BILLIONS



to the prior job peak.

In comparison, in this last recession, the state lost 1.75 million jobs -- 4 times as many as in 2001, 3 times the 1990 recession. After 15 months, we've recovered about 250,000 jobs, 1/7 of those lost. That helps explain not just our state's budget crisis, but also the depth of the problems the President faces nationally, and why it might take another year or two to get the economy back in shape.

-- Jon Fuhrman



### Red Check Time, Check Your Label!

Is there a **red** check ( ) on your mailing label on this *Phoenix*? If so, it means we have not yet received your 2011 renewal check. Please use the enclosed renewal coupon to send in your dues right away. Or go to [www/ACTPasadena.org](http://www/ACTPasadena.org) and follow the renewal steps. ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club need and appreciate your continued membership and involvement.

(Our grateful thanks go to the 227 ACT and ADC member households that have already joined or renewed this year.)

## From 44th District Assemblymember Anthony Portantino



Greetings from  
Sacramento!

As many of you know, I ran for office because I believe in the value of public education. In California, public education is facing a serious crisis as a result of recent state actions.

In June, I could not support further cuts to higher education and the poorly drafted AB 114 (education financing measure) that never had a hearing or vetting before the Education Committee. I also could not support the removal of redevelopment agencies in the San Gabriel Valley. These agencies are an important economic driver for our region. The prison realignment plan was also not thought out and the income projections were overly optimistic.

In short, I broke ranks with Democratic leaders by voting "no" on the budget for what I believed were sound reasons. As a result of my votes, my district and capitol staffs are now being threatened with a six-week, unpaid furlough that will certainly result in a shutdown of services for the residents of the 44th Assembly District.

It's a sad day for the State Legislature when an Assemblymember can't vote his or her conscience without reprisal from the leadership. In this case, my office budget was cut in an unprecedented maneuver to force these layoffs and tarnish my reputation.

As many of you know, I am not a big spender. I have never taken a state district car and have turned down the \$300 per month car



allowance. I don't use a state cell phone, and I voluntarily turned down the 2007 pay raise, long before the Assembly and the Governor cut salaries.

Recently, I filed a formal Public Records Request to shine some light on Legislative budget records, but Assembly Speaker Perez and Rules Chair Skinner have refused to release complete Assembly budgets to me, the press or the public. Frankly, they are afraid to admit that I am being singled out for my principled positions and votes. If there is belt tightening going on in the legislature, I'm all for it. But don't punish my staff or my district to get back at me. And, there is nothing more fundamental in good government practices than transparency.

Rest assured that these actions will not deter me from voting my conscience in the future nor will they stop my efforts to fight for public education. And, I will ardently continue to push for an open, transparent Sacramento.

If you see my staff around town, give them a pat on the back or thumbs up. They are proud working men and women who care deeply about our communities. They deserve to be treated properly and respected, not short-changed through a petty, punitive action. I am proud of my staff and they continue to earn my deepest appreciation for their dedication. Not one of them has uttered a complaint through this entire debacle. Although the Rules Committee has shut off their mileage reimbursements and they have been directed by the Rules Committee to not perform their duties from now until Oct. 21st, they are continuing to serve all of us to the best of their ability.

Many folks have been asking about my mom. I just took the girls back East to spend some time with her. It's been tough since my brother died, but spending time with her grandchildren was a good prescription. Thanks for

keeping her in your thoughts.

Respectfully,

-- Anthony

*Assemblymember Anthony Portantino represents the 44th Assembly District of California, including La Canada, Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Glassell Park, Temple City, Duarte and parts of Arcadia and Monrovia. He can be reached by Email at:*

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a44/>

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**From  
43th District  
Assemblymember  
Mike Gatto**



Greetings from Sacramento!

**An Important Reform  
to Ballot Box Budgeting**

Good lawmaking requires good information. As a legislator, I have access to in-depth analyses, often from several different points-of-view, on just about every measure I consider in committee or on the Assembly floor. Voters, on the other hand, often must rely on 15-second sound bites as they consider ballot measures that make fundamental changes to the state constitution.

I have amended my AB 65 to require disclosure to voters when a ballot initiative seeks to irrevocably dedicate our taxpayer dollars to one program forever. Perhaps you are like me: you generally support the concept of tobacco cessation programs, but you want the flexibility to spend some (of the millions the state spends on such programs) on things like schools, when our schools are in danger of closing. Put another way, I wonder how many voters knew that when they approved an initiative to spend taxpayer funds on tobacco education, that those taxpayer dollars could

never be spent on higher education.

Imagine a monthly household budget of \$3K: \$1500 goes to rent, \$500 to car insurance and gas, \$500 on food, and \$500 on entertainment. Now imagine living with a rule that the \$500 entertainment budget could never, ever, be spent on anything else. It would be pretty upsetting if someone broke their leg during the month and could only go to the movies, not the hospital!

This is no way to run a household and no way to run a government. It also contributes to frustration. When large percentages of our taxpayer dollars are "spoken for" (between 75 - 90% of the budget, depending on who you believe), there is little flexibility to move money around. During tough budget times, it is a shame to continue spending on what seem like lower priorities as we slash spending on core functions of government.

My bill would require the attorney general and secretary of state to provide factual background in voter materials whenever an initiative seeks to forever dedicate revenue to the pet program of the day. It is readily apparent that we have to break down the silos in state government, to give us the flexibility everyone wants to adeptly configure our budget spending for an imminent crisis, a current need, or a future technology. In the meantime, it is important that voters are warned when they are about to create a new silo that could very well exist forever.

*Mike Gatto is the Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly. He represents the cities of Burbank, Glendale, and parts of Los Angeles, including Atwater Village, Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, North Hollywood, Silver Lake, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, and Van Nuys. Website of Assemblyman Mike Gatto: [www.asm.ca.gov/gatto](http://www.asm.ca.gov/gatto)*



## Pakistan's loose nukes

### Comprehensive nuclear disarmament remains as urgent as ever

By John Grula, first published in the Pasadena Weekly

If you think the demise of Osama bin Laden is going to make the world a safer place, think again.

There has already been an upsurge in violence in Pakistan, where on May 12 more than 80 Pakistani recruits were killed by twin suicide bombings in an attack Taliban militants said was meant to avenge bin Laden's assassination by US Navy SEALs. The May 12 attacks are the deadliest so far this year in Pakistan.

In addition to more Taliban attacks in Pakistan as well as Afghanistan (where a roadside bomb killed eight US troops on May 26), military and intelligence cooperation between the US and Pakistan has been crumbling. Ongoing Pakistani resentment has been fueled by, among other things, the US's secret unilateral raid on bin Laden's residence in Pakistan and a sharp escalation of US drone strikes within Pakistan over the last two years.

Pakistan has become a third war front for our country. "Mission creep" has resulted in US boots on the ground in Pakistan and the huge surge in our drone strikes, which have often killed innocent civilians. More recently, US attack helicopters have also been added to our military presence in Pakistan. Putting aside for now important questions about the wisdom and constitutionality of our new war in Pakistan, a major downside is the strong backlash our actions are generating at all levels of Pakistani society — from the street to the highest levels of the government, military and intelligence apparatus.

Over the last six months, Pakistani authorities have twice leaked the name of our CIA station chief in Islamabad. These leaks clearly demonstrate an ominous shift to a hostile relationship between the CIA and the main Pakistani spy agency, the Inter-Service Intelligence Directorate (ISI). In late May, Pakistan also moved to close three intelligence liaison centers that facilitate cooperation between the US and Pakistani militaries.

Inflaming relations with the ISI and Pakistan's mili-

tary is, for many reasons, dangerously counterproductive in ways that have global as well as regional implications. For example, the ISI and Pakistani military are responsible for the security of Pakistan's arsenal of approximately 100 nuclear warheads. As tensions between the US and Pakistan's ISI and military escalate, world leaders have become increasingly concerned about the possibility that Pakistan's nuclear weapons or fissile materials could fall into the wrong hands.

These concerns were recently heightened by the brazen May 23 attack by six Pakistani Taliban militants on the Mehran Naval Station in Karachi. The militants penetrated the heart of the station and waged a bloody and humiliating 18-hour standoff with navy personnel, killing at least 10 of them. The militants — four of whom were killed while two escaped — also destroyed two US-supplied surveillance aircraft. Some analysts think this attack, which the Taliban said was meant to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden, may have been aided and abetted by inside information and/or assistance provided by rogue elements in the Pakistani military or the ISI.

Pakistan does not disclose where it stores its nuclear warheads, but the Mehran base is rumored to be a home for some of them. In a New York Times article published on May 23, Kamran Bokhari, an analyst with STRATFOR, a private security think tank in Austin, Texas, said: "We know that the Pakistani security establishment has been penetrated by jihadists. Are there such people inside the nuclear establishment? One can never rule out the possibility."

While the US and NATO remain focused on the War on Terror in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Pakistan itself remains far more concerned with its long-time arch enemy, India. In a recent Newsweek article, the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, A.Q. Khan, recently stated that it was India's nuclear explosion in 1974 that motivated him to return to Pakistan and "help create a credible nuclear deterrent and save my country from Indian nuclear blackmail."

The regional arms race triggered by India's 1974 test explosion continues unabated, and India's nuclear arsenal of approximately 100 warheads matches that of Pakistan. Unlike other nuclear weapons

states such as the US, Russia, France and Great Britain, which have been reducing the size of their nuclear arsenals, Pakistan and India are building more warheads. By 2021 the American Federation of Scientists projects both countries will have roughly doubled their numbers. And so a complex chain of cause and effect has created the possibility that the Pakistan Taliban, through their infiltration of Pakistan's ISI and military, may eventually acquire nuclear warheads and/or fissile materials.

Meanwhile, the probability that India and Pakistan may wage nuclear war is by no means zero, and if this were to occur it would be catastrophic not just for these two nations. According to Nature magazine, scientific models have shown that even such a "small" regional exchange of nuclear weapons would ignite fires that would spew so much smoke into the atmosphere that a global "nuclear winter" would ensue, jeopardizing world food production and threatening many life forms.

The need for comprehensive nuclear disarmament remains as urgent as ever.

-- John Grula is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists



## Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Bill Crowfoot, Pasadena  
Daniel Lopez, San Marino

## Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Sue Heck, Pasadena  
Nancy Warner & Christine Reynolds

## Special Thanks to Patrons

Janice & Victor Laruccia, San Diego

## And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating and Political Accounts

Sue Heck, Pasadena  
Janice & Victor Laruccia, San Diego  
Nancy Warner & Christine Reynolds,  
Pasadena



# Aug Sept Calendar

Aug 15  
Monday  
Redistricting Commission final vote on Congressional, Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization district boundaries.

Aug 19  
Friday  
8-9 a.m.  
Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group at Conrad's Restaurant, NW corner Lake & Walnut, Pasa. Call Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201. We meet on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays.

Sept 2  
Friday  
Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 8/19.)

Sept 6  
Tuesday  
7 p.m.  
ACT Steering Committee and ADC meeting at the home of Carolyn Carlborg, 2041 Rose-

mont Ave., #2, Pasa. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. All members welcome and urged to attend.

Sept 9  
Friday  
10:00 am  
San Gabriel Valley Democratic Women's Club meeting at the Altadena Library 600 E. Mariposa St. Program: Jon Fuhrman on our new voting district.

Sept 11  
Sunday  
3-5 p.m.  
Special Meeting to discuss the future of ACT at the home of Wendy Gordon and Michael Gottlieb, 1535 Ontario Ave., Pasadena. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

Sept 16  
Friday  
Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 8/19.)

## A Missing Phoenix?

No. We publish *The Phoenix* **eleven** times each year. July was the "no-*Phoenix*" month for 2011.



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