



The Official Publication of ACT

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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT & ADC Members Unanimously Support the PUSD Parcel Tax Measure!

For the first time in ACT history, ACT members have unanimously voted their support of a measure. The vote in favor of the Measure CC -- the PUSD Parcel Tax -- was 62 in favor, none against. The ADC vote was also unanimous -- 53 in favor, none against. Clearly our members are strong supporters of public education.

At the March 4 meeting, the Steering Committee voted, also unanimously, to contribute \$1,500 from our Political Fund to the campaign in support of the measure.

Measure CC will be a mail-only ballot -- absentee ballots for all voters in the Pasadena Unified School District will arrive around April 6th. Voters will have four weeks to return the ballots by mail. The deadline is May 4th.

Proponents of Measure CC are organizing phone banks every evening, and afternoons as well, from their headquarters at the First United Methodist Church, 500 E. Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena (on the second floor). We need help phoning 20,000 households to encourage them to vote, so don't be surprised if you get a call asking you to volunteer. Or you can sign up yourself on the Measure CC website -- www.yesoncc.org.

Research Committee to Report on State Ballot Measures

At the April 1 (not a joke!!) Steering Committee Meeting, the ACT Research Committee will present its report on the 5 statewide ballot measures on the June 8, 2010 Primary Election ballot. The measures are:

Proposition 13 Property Tax: new construc-

tion exclusion: seismic retrofitting.

Proposition 14 Elections: Open primaries.

Proposition 15 Political Reform Act of 1974: California Fair Elections Act of 2008.

Proposition 16 New 2/3 Vote Requirement for Local Public Utility Providers. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Proposition 17 Allows Auto Insurance Com-

panies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage. Initiative Statute.

for details see

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm>.

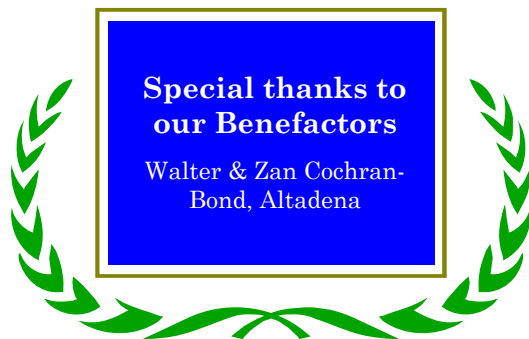
Research Committee members please contact Greg Harrison at gregandnikki@earthlink.net for Research Committee meeting details.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Mike Basmajian

We were deeply saddened by the unexpected death of longtime ACT member **Mike Basmajian** on February 19 at age 76. Mike, who was a pharmacist with a 35-year career at Kaiser, served on the Pasadena Human Relations Commission in the late 70s and early 80s. His personal passions - besides progressive politics - were nature and landscape photography and classical music. A memorial service in his memory was held at Ross Chapel at Neighborhood Church on March 12.

Our sympathy goes to Sue and the extended Basmajian family. They have suggested that memorial contributions may be made to the Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 or to Classical KUSC, P O Box 77913, Los Angeles, CA 90007.



Between a Rock and a Hard Place – Printing *the Phoenix*

We are facing a drastic increase in the cost of printing *the Phoenix* and, therefore, either this month or next, you will see a big difference in the appearance of the printed version of this newsletter. It will most likely no longer have color – or will have very little color - and its size (number of pages) will probably be reduced (maybe halved.)

We are struggling (agonizing) in our search for the best solution to the problem. We believe *the Phoenix* continues to be a vital part of our organization – it's how our membership has communicated since January of 1973 - so some painful choices will have to be made. Do we publish fewer issues? Stop printing altogether and send *the Phoenix* via email or make it available online only? Provide a mini printed version that is expanded on the website?

We believe most ACT and ADC members are online, but we also know that some are not. We just don't know how many and who they are. We don't want anyone to miss out, so be assured we will find a way!

In the meantime, you will find the current issue (in the format you are accustomed to seeing) online at our web page, <http://www.ACTPasadena.org>.

P.S. Jon Fuhrman has been collecting member email addresses and now has them for about 50% of the membership. Please if you haven't already done so, send him your email address at jon_fuhrman@charter.net or to actpasadena1@gmail.com.



ACTPasadena.org – Now you can be an ACTivist from home!

When I envision the future of ACT I get very excited. ACT has a history of doing incredible work and I'm always looking for ways to improve and continue making it even stronger. One of the next efforts I'm most excited about is the development and implementation of the ACT website. We've already put together a basic informational site, where one can go to get meeting times, a brief history and contact information. Recently, we also started posting the Phoenix online as well. The current issue is available to members and the archive is publicly available.

Looking forward we plan on making the ACT website an essential resource for ACT members. We're working on many features including membership management, hosting online discussions and online voting. These will empower members who cannot always attend monthly meetings to be involved with the essential aspects of ACT's mission. If you'd like to be in on the discussions surrounding the development of the ACT website, please register on the site and submit your comments on the forum. We'd love to hear from you.



-- Elliot Cuite, Computer Committee



Special Thanks to Our Patrons:

Steve English & Molly Munger, Pasadena
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And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

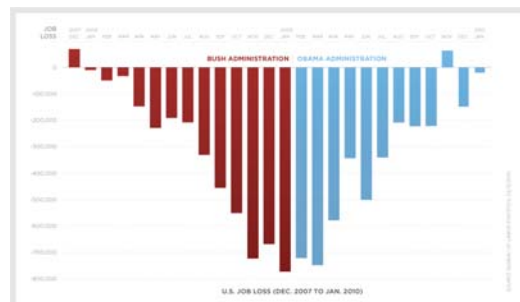
Margaret Marsh, La Canada
 Frieda Stahl, Pasadena

And Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Margaret Marsh, La Canada
 Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes, Sierra Madre
 Emily Stork, Pasadena



Job Loss: 2007 through 2010



Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, March 7.

Attention these last few weeks has focused on resurrecting the Administration's health care reform. Senate Majority Leader Reid has settled on a somewhat convoluted strategy: using the reconciliation process, which requires only a majority vote, to enact a streamlined set of modifications to the reform bill already passed by the Senate, with the House then passing both the original bill and the amendments (which presumably will make the final result more palatable to the House).

It looks like Majority Leader Reid does have the 50 votes he needs in the Senate for this approach. The challenge now is for House Speaker Pelosi to keep her troops together. The original bill passed by only 3 votes, and a few of those yea votes are no longer in the House (due to resignations or death). So she needs to find at least a few more votes from

among those Democrats who voted against the final House version. Initial indications are that at least 3 or 4 Democrats are wavering in their opposition, but we should be in for a few weeks of back-room negotiations, arm-twisting, and Presidential cajoling. It's times like these where Rahm Emanuel, as a former House whip, will really earn his keep.

It's also a time when Republicans are starting to get a bit of a reality check on their dreams of a 1994-like sweep in November. They thought the New York Senate race was set for a possible upset. But first Harold Ford announced he would not challenge the appointed incumbent, Kristen Gillibrand, in the Democratic primary, eliminating her last potential serious primary opponent. Then Mort Zuckerman, who might have been a potent general election opponent, if for no other reason than his personal wealth and name recognition, announced he would not be running. So now it looks like Gillibrand will coast to re-election, and be able to raise funds in New York for other endangered Senate candidates.

In Colorado, Michael Bennett is the appointed Democratic incumbent Senator, and has generally been seen as weak and vulnerable. But last week Bennett proposed a series of institutional reforms for the Senate: eliminating anonymous holds, banning private-sector earmarks, freezing pay and budgets for members of Congress until there have been four successive quarters of economic growth, permanently barring former lawmakers from lobbying, and reducing the vote needed to end filibusters from 60 down to 55. They may be controversial proposals in the Senate, but they're likely to enjoy broad support and acclaim from the public, and in fact they really do make a lot of sense. Further, from a political perspective, they give the Senate newcomer a tremendous reform platform to run on. So another seat that the Reps had seen as easy pickings is now not so much a sure thing.

The moral is that there's still a very long time from now to November, and political conditions and initiatives can change radically. Neither side should be counting their chickens quite yet.

Here in California, the Legislature just finished an initial round of budget cutting, hacking about \$5 billion off the budget. The Governor's current estimates show us short another \$20 billion. That estimate was done before January's receipts were tallied, which were over \$1 billion ahead of the estimates in the 2010 - 2011 budget. If that trend continues, perhaps up to half the deficit could be offset by additional revenue, but it's way too early to know with any certainty what the revenue picture will be like. The Governor submits a "May revise" in mid-May, updating the budget based particularly on the funds received in April, when we all file our annual tax returns. So the real hard work will start in late May and early June, as the latest revenue estimates drive the final decisions on budgets.



Unfortunately, though, pretty much any relief from budget cuts is going to have to come from higher revenue projections, rather than from new taxes or fees. The Republican caucuses are dead set against any compromise whatsoever, and it's unlikely that the Assembly will be able to win even the three Republican votes that we had for our last budget package if there are any tax increases at all.

There is an initiative measure being circulated by the State Democratic Party, among others, that would reduce from 2/3 down to a majority the vote needed to enact budgets. Further, if the Legislature failed to pass an annual budget by June 15th, it would prohibit ever paying legislators any salary or per diem

until they do pass a budget. Of course, the main flaw in this initiative is that it does not address revenue -- we'd still need a 2/3 vote to pass any legislation raising taxes (but only a majority vote to lower taxes). Also, if the Governor vetoed the budget passed by the Legislature, we could still be without a budget indefinitely, and the Legislature would still be paid. But it is, at least, a start at rationalizing our state finance system. The sponsors have until May 10th to gather 694,000 signatures, which is no small task; to offset invalid signatures and duplicates, they'll really need about 1,000,000. So look for paid petition gatherers at local supermarkets and e-mail appeals from the state Democratic Party.

One of the widespread effects on the budget cuts has been the growing number of school districts turning to parcel taxes to offset the draconian cuts they are facing. In our immediate area, Pasadena, San Marino, and South Pasadena are all facing significant teacher layoffs. San Marino and South Pasadena had already enacted parcel taxes and

had built that funding into their planning, so they've been particularly hard hit by the cuts.

In the Pasadena Unified School District, the Board is looking at \$20 million in cuts, resulting in nearly 200 teacher and librarian layoffs. The Board, in response, has placed Measure CC on the ballot -- a 5-year tax of \$120 (only ten dollars a month) on every taxable parcel in the district, with an exemption for needy seniors and an independent oversight committee to ensure that parcel tax money is spent only on teacher salaries. The tax would raise about \$7 million a year, enough substantially to mitigate the teacher and librarian layoffs.

The election for the parcel tax will be a mail-only ballot, with ballots arriving around April

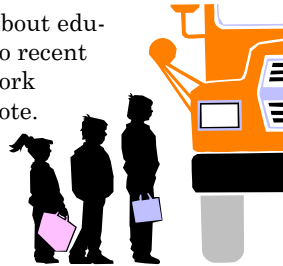
6 and due back May 4. Get those ballots in as soon as possible! Don't hesitate, and urge your neighbors to vote as well. The parcel tax needs a 2/3 majority, which is a tough hurdle. Our area has surpassed that bar repeatedly, with a 75% majority for Measure TT, and nearly 80% majorities for library taxes in Pasadena and Altadena, and for the PCC bond measure as well. Nonetheless, it's a tough hurdle to cross. If you'd like to help, or contribute to the campaign, go to the Measure CC website -- www.yesoncc.org.

While we're talking about education, there were two recent articles in the New York Times of particular note.

One (from Wednesday, March 3) highlighted how Diane Ravitch, long the intellectual leader of

the reform movement and outspoken advocate for standardized testing, charter schools, and free markets, has made a complete about-turn in her thinking. She now believes that those strategies are undermining public education. She now argues that the testing requirements in reading and math institutionalized by the federal No Child Left Behind Act are squeezing subjects like history and art out of the classroom. Formerly an Assistant Secretary in the first President Bush's Education Department, she has moved from an ardent advocate of charter schools to believing that charter schools are no better on average than regular schools and, worse yet, are bleeding resources from the public schools. "Accountability ... was not raising standards but dumbing down schools." Another expert quoted in the article argued that "accountability has turned to test-cramming and bean-counting, often limited to basic reading and math skills."

These thoughts found a receptive audience at a recent convention of school superintendents.



Many shared her concerns about de-emphasizing arts, history, literature, geography, foreign languages, civics, and the sciences in the quest for higher standardized scores.

In the Times Sunday Magazine, one of the main articles was a look at how to teach teachers to teach -- are there simple techniques, unrelated to the specifics of subject matter, that enable teachers better to control their classrooms and help their students learn. The subject of the article argued that, in fact, there are a modest number of simple approaches or techniques that all teachers can use to capture students' attention, to engage them more fully in the process of learning, and to communicate whatever subject matter is at hand.

Both these articles address the on-going debate in our country over how to improve and fund our educational system. Can we hold teachers accountable for the educational success of their students, regardless of how well prepared those students are when they arrive? Does standardized testing provide truly useful data? Should standardized tests be the focus or driver of our educational curriculum? Are we short-changing students? If we reduce our emphasis on standardized tests and basic reading and math, do we have other tools to assess the progress of our children and the success, or adequacy, of our teachers?

With the federal No Child Left Behind law up for renewal this year, and as budget cuts push our school districts to the limit, it seems our society needs to re-engage in these discussions, even as we agree that we need to improve our overall educational standards for all our children.

-- Jon Fuhrman

The Phoenix Editorial Policy: Signed articles and letters appearing in the Phoenix represent the opinions of the individual writers and not of ACT. Their appearance does not imply endorsement by ACT or agreement with the opinions expressed. The accuracy of facts is not guaranteed. We welcome articles of interest and encourage members to write.

**From
44th District
Assemblymember
Anthony
Portantino**



Quick notes

Time is moving quickly during this second year of the current two-year session. This past week we began chipping away at the state's \$20 billion budget deficit with a series of provisions that will save about \$4-\$5 billion and help with our cash flow throughout the balance of this fiscal year. We celebrated the new Assembly Speaker John Perez who immediately began making changes in how we conduct business. Speaker Perez proposes significant change in the way the budget is negotiated by fostering greater transparency to the process. He has also announced a new spirit of bi-partisanship through a commitment to having at least two standing committees chaired by Republicans. I am especially pleased that he highlighted the importance of higher education in his first official floor speech. As the Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Higher Education, this was welcome news.

This year, I've introduced several bills of which I am quite proud. One, believe it or not, was suggested to me on Facebook by local PTA President Kathy Hernandez. Kathy notified me about a New Jersey law that gives limited immunity to underage drinkers who call 911 to help a friend in need. According to a Cornell University Study, 68% of teenagers are more likely to call 911 when a friend is in need of emergency medical treatment if they know that he or she will not be prosecuted for their own drinking that night. In addition to New Jersey, Texas and Colorado have similar laws in place. The important point to remember

with AB 1999 is that it allows for young people to receive much needed medical treatment in often time sensitive situations – it does not aim to encourage underage drinking which, as the father of an 18 year old, is the last thing I would want to do. However, as that father, I do want my girls and every other teen, who might someday be in need, to receive emergency medical treatment as quickly as possible if it is needed.

Last week, I was privileged to have been asked by the California Legislative Black Caucus to participate in its annual Black History Month Celebration. This year the celebration was titled, "History, Heritage & Legends." I had the honor of introducing Dr. Anthony Iton at the Dinner Reception and escorting Olympic Gold Medalist Rafer Johnson on the floor of the Assembly during the official program. It was quite an exciting experience and a tremendous honor.

I had a great time reading to Ms. Guzman's first grade class at Madison Elementary School in Pasadena during Read Across America Day. As I polled the class on what each student wanted to be when he or she grew up I was amazed at how quickly each first grader new exactly what he or she wanted to do. From teacher, to police officer and yes, several wanted to be President of the United States. It was a great experience. One young boy wanted to be King. My kind of kid.

Ellen and the girls continue to do well. Bella is a second grader and Sofia is more than half-way through her freshman year at UCSB. OMG!

-- 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/>

**From
Congressman
Adam B. Schiff...**



WASHINGTON UPDATE

● **Schiff Hosts Panel Discussion
on the Future of Haiti**

In late February, Congressman Schiff hosted a panel discussion at the Altadena Library to discuss the ongoing crisis in Haiti and the need for continuing assistance. Panelists included Andrew Mollenbeck from KNX 1070 News Radio, who spent a week in Haiti embedded with the US military providing relief, Dr. Jean Bouchebel, Resource Director of World Vision, an organization that has been providing relief efforts in Haiti for over 30 years, Dr. Henri Ford, Chief-of-Surgery at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles who has made two trips to Haiti since the devastating earthquake, performing emergency surgeries and helping to establish hospitals, and Dr. Andrea Capachietti, a humanitarian relief worker, who will be traveling to Haiti this month as part of a team of mental health specialists to assist children in need.

The panelists provided first-hand accounts of the situation in Haiti and discussed the need for continued attention and aid. Congressman Schiff and the panel answered questions from the audience about how best to assist the residents of Haiti and get relief supplies to those most in need. Congressman Schiff is committed to keeping a focus on Haiti and not letting the plight of our neighbors fade from Congressional attention.

● **President Signs Into Law Schiff Legislation to "Fingerprint" Nuclear Material**

President Obama signed into law Rep. Schiff's Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act (H.R. 730). The legislation will strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop techniques for "fingerprinting" nuclear material, and will also encourage the President to negotiate international agreements to govern international nuclear forensics activities.

In the event of nuclear material being intercepted at a border crossing or in a sting operation, there may be few clues to assist investigators in determining where the bomb or material originated. The radioactive material itself may be the only lead. Each sample of nuclear material has an elemental fingerprint that can help determine its source. However, current efforts to trace materials are often incomplete because the technology is still in development and information on foreign reactors and stockpiles is not available.

The Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act will authorize the National Technical Nuclear Forensics Center at DHS to coordinate the government's nuclear forensics efforts and encourage technicians and scientists to enter the field. It will also call upon the President to lead international efforts to share nuclear forensics data.

● **Schiff Visits our Troops in Afghanistan, and Confers With Intelligence Officials in Yemen and Pakistan**

Representative Schiff recently visited our troops in Afghanistan, where he had an extended meeting with General McChrystal. Schiff travelled to Kandahar province, Kabul and Bagram -- getting a firsthand update on the offensive in Marjah, as well as efforts to train Afghan police and government officials.

During the visit, Schiff had several meals with troops from California, and flew in a C-130 piloted by California Air National Guardsmen.

Prior to arriving in Afghanistan, Schiff visited Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, where he met with intelligence officials to discuss ongoing efforts to fight Al Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula. The Christmas day bomber Umar Abdulmutallab, was trained and equipped for his suicide mission in Yemen, which has an increasing Al Qaeda presence.

Schiff also visited Pakistan, meeting with President Zardari and other government officials to discuss common efforts in the battle against extremism. On the return trip, the Congressman visited injured servicemembers who were being treated at the American military base in Ramstein, Germany.

"I could not have been more impressed by the courage demonstrated by our troops and intelligence agency employees who are continually in harm's way. The wounded warriors I met at the hospital in Landstuhl could not have been more inspiring -- their top concern was for their colleagues who were still on the battlefield."

Congressman Adam Schiff represents the 29th Congressional District of California, including Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, East Pasadena, East San Gabriel, Glendale, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City. He can be reached at (626) 304-2727 or by Email at: www.house.gov/schiff.



Guest View: Haiti's past creates today's mistrust

By Hannah Naiditch, excerpted from the Star News



A catastrophic 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti more than a month ago. Individuals and organizations have helped any way they possibly could. President Barack Obama promised the Haitian people that the world is with them and that they will not be forsaken.

This may be a good time to reminisce about the tragic history of Haiti.

Columbus landed in Haiti in 1492, and at various times both Spain and France laid claim to it. In 1791, the Haitian slaves rebelled, and after a 13-year war, Napoleon was forced to abandon the island. In 1804, Haiti won its independence. The colonial powers were horrified that the revolution had succeeded. The U.S. decided to use an embargo that lasted until 1862. In 1915, U.S. Marines occupied Haiti and stayed for 19 years to restore order and to prevent revolution. They left behind a well-equipped army that created havoc ever since. During that time, 15,000 Haitian resistance fighters were killed.

The murderous regimes of "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son, "Baby Doc," began in 1957. It was our government's support and military aid that made their survival possible.

President Kennedy cut off U.S. aid in 1963 because human rights violations became too horrific to ignore.

In 1986, Baby Doc was finally forced to flee, escaping to France on a U.S. military jet and taking millions of dollars with him.

Tyrants followed tyrants, and the massacres continued until Dec. 16, 1990, when a priest,

Jean Bertrand Aristide, won Haiti's first democratic election by garnering 67 percent of the vote in a field of 11 candidates.

On that day, the exuberant Haitians celebrated in the streets and welcomed him like a messiah.

But the victory would not last.

Nine months later, Aristide was overthrown by a military coup led by Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, and he was forced into exile. It was the military, created, trained and supported by the U.S., that drove out Aristide.

Aristide was a dedicated fighter on the side of the poor, a liberation theologian, a socialist, the kind of guy we have targeted and pursued all over the world. Aristide was blamed for the failure to lift his people out of poverty but really it was our government that blocked all bank loans.

Jeffrey Sachs, former advisor to governments around the world, laments about "the apparent incapacity of the U.S. government to speak honestly about such matters as toppling governments." He claims that the U.S. has repeatedly sponsored coups and uprisings in Haiti: "America orchestrated removal of Aristide out of Haiti ... where were the media when Haiti's leader was railroaded and roust-ed?" he asked.

Haiti is a country of two different worlds. There are the shantytowns with open sewers and millions of the poorest people on Earth, while on the hills above the slums are the fenced mansions and opulent hotels of the wealthy, including the luxurious hilltop home of the Vatican ambassador. Only the national palace, until recently the home of Aristide, stands in the middle of the slums.

Haiti is predominantly Catholic, and deeply religious. Haiti is also an oligarchy where a few families control the Haitian economy.

Mulattoes, who are descendants of the French

and their slaves, make up about 10 percent of the population, but they own most of the wealth. The masses are black and 75 percent are illiterate. Malnutrition and disease are the leading cause of death. The average life expectancy is 47 years.

Since the catastrophic earthquake, Haitian President Rene Preval has kept a low profile and shown little signs of leadership. Meanwhile, U.S. officials indicated that our military deployment may include up to 10,000 troops.

Still, the history of past U.S. involvement is hard for the Haitians to set aside. Today, U.S. troops struggle to gain their trust and to convince the Haitian people that we are there to help, not to invade.

ACT member Hannah Naiditch is the author of "Memoirs of a Hitler Refugee: Activism and Issues Define My Life."

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Teabaggers Trying to Rewrite the Constitution

Excerpted from Walter Brasch, t r u t h o u t

Sarah Palin stood before an audience of 600 at the first Tea Party convention and in her twinkly homespun rhetoric, she declared we don't need a professor of law but a commander-in-chief. As expected, she received roaring applause. And, as expected, she was wrong.

After Dick Cheney and George W. Bush, aided by a compliant Congress and a nation largely afraid to stand up for its rights, had abused the Constitution for almost eight years, what the United States needs is a leader who understands constitutional law and who is unafraid of making sure all Americans understand that the fabric that became America should not be torn apart for political convenience.

- The First Amendment (freedom of religion, press, speech, and assembly, and the right to petition the government for a redress of

grievances).

- The Fourth Amendment (freedom from unreasonable searches).
- The Fifth Amendment (right of due process and to protect against self-incrimination).
- The Sixth Amendment (due process, the right to counsel, a speedy trial, and the right to a fair and public trial by an impartial jury).
- The Eighth Amendment (reasonable bail and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment), and,
- The Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection guarantee for both citizens and non-citizens).

Bush-Cheney administration actions also violated provisions of Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to petition the courts to issue a writ of habeas corpus to require the government to produce a prisoner or suspect in order to determine the legality of the detention. Only Congress may order a suspension of habeas corpus, and then only in "Cases of Rebellion or Invasion." Congress did not suspend this right; nothing during or subsequent to the 9/11 attack indicated either a rebellion or invasion under terms of the Constitution.

It wasn't just liberals who argued about Constitutional violations. Many leading conservatives argued that the Bush-Cheney administration overreached in its lame attempt to "keep America safe." Among those conservatives who objected were Bob Barr, Grover Norquist, Alan Caruba and William F. Buckley, the founder of modern conservative thought. Also objecting to the wide-reaching policies of the Bush-Cheney administration were federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States, which leans to the right.

In *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld* (2004), Justice Sandra

Day O'Connor, who had been nominated for the Supreme Court by Ronald Reagan, was forceful in her majority opinion, which attacked Bush-Cheney administration policies.

According to O'Connor:

It is during our most challenging and uncertain moments that our Nation's commitment to due process is most severely tested; and it is in those times that we must preserve our commitment at home to the principles for which we fight abroad.... (The imperative necessity for safeguarding these rights to procedural due process under the gravest of emergencies has existed throughout our constitutional history, for it is then, under the pressing exigencies of crisis, that there is the greatest temptation to dispense with guarantees which, it is feared, will inhibit government action.) ... (It would indeed be ironic if, in the name of national defense, we would sanction the subversion of one of those liberties, which makes the defense of the nation worthwhile.)

A large population of misinformed citizens - including leading politicians, pundits and blowhards - claim even if everything else were true about protecting rights during times of war, the Constitution protects only American citizens and not foreigners. The Supreme Court has several times ruled otherwise. In 1886, the Supreme Court, in its *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* decision, reaffirmed the principle that the Constitution protects all persons, even foreigners, in US jurisdiction. More than a century later, in *Boumediene v. Bush* (2008), the Supreme Court ruled that the right of habeas corpus applies to all persons, even terrorists confined in Guantanamo Bay. Not one of the nine justices, or even the Bush-Cheney administration itself, disagreed with that principle. The only dissent was that such prisoners were on foreign soil and outside the jurisdiction of the Constitution; the Supreme

Court ruled that the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base was on US, not Cuban, soil.

And now in an interesting twist of logic come the Teabaggers, who continue to claim that not only doesn't the Constitution apply to foreigners, but that they want to impeach President Obama because he violated Constitutional rights. Alas, they can't provide specific instances that will hold up in any federal court. But, like much of what the Tea Party zealots say, it makes good rhetoric, and the mainstream media, often without challenge, publish and air their views to a mass audience.

But Sarah Palin and the party that loves her demands that this nation get rid of its professor of constitutional law and replace him with a man who is a true blue, 100 percent all-American commander-in-chief. You know, the kind who sends American forces into Iraq to chase mythical weapons that don't exist, and then claims at least his invasion got rid of a dictator. The kind who costs more than 4,000 American deaths and more than 30,000 injuries, many of them permanent. The kind who doesn't give the troops the armament and protection they need while in battle, and then the rehabilitation they need when they can no longer fight.

In case Sarah Palin didn't read the Constitution, President Barack Obama is the nation's commander-in-chief. The biggest difference is that this commander-in-chief is just as aggressive in protecting the principles of the Constitution as he is in protecting the safety of the American people.



Calendar

March 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. (FMPDG meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays.)

April 1
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT & ADC General Membership meeting at Jeanette Mann's, 2195 E. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasa. Research Committee reports on State Ballot Measures. All members are welcome and urged to attend. Coffee at 7 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

April 2
Friday Friday Morning Discussion Group. (Details same as 03/19.)

Phoenix Deadline

The deadline for the April *Phoenix* will be Sunday, April 4. Please send items to Chuck at Hains27@SBCGlobal.net. *The Phoenix* will be prepared for mailing on Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at Chuck's house, 1391 La Solana, Alta. (Volunteer mailers can call Ellen Coles at 626-798-2402 to verify date and time.)

Political Quotes

"We're not campaigning anymore. The election is over."

-- President Obama, to John McCain during [the] health-care-reform summit. McCain responded, "I'm reminded of that every day."

From Newsweek March 8

2010 ACT & ADC Membership – Time to Renew

ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club membership is by the calendar year – so membership dues are due now. Please use this *Phoenix* coupon to send in your 2010 dues or respond to the membership letter that will be in your mailbox in the next few weeks.

Also please note that we have voted to place \$10 from each membership into our Political Account so we will be better able to help fund future candidates and campaigns that ACT and ADC endorse.



I'd like to join both groups for one low price! (Checks payable to ACT/ADC)

- \$40 Single
- \$25 Each additional member per household
- \$15 Student or limited income
- \$70 Single Sustaining
- \$90 Double Sustaining
- \$150 Patron
- \$275 Benefactor

I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

- \$35 Single
- \$20 Each additional member per household
- \$15 Student or limited income
- \$60 Single Sustaining
- \$85 Double Sustaining
- \$125 Patron
- \$275 Benefactor

I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

- \$35 Single
- \$20 Each additional member per household
- \$15 Student or limited income
- \$60 Single Sustaining
- \$85 Double Sustaining
- \$125 Patron
- \$275 Benefactor

Extra Contribution

- \$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
- \$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

Name Home Phone

Address Office Phone

City ZIP

Email address

Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074