



Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30

Democratic Club of West Orange County

Green Valley Community Center

17250 Los Jardines West, Fountain Valley

**Spin--Your Brain on Politics-- How Political Strategists
Manipulate and Frame the Political Message**

Judith Lewis, Political Scientist & Futurist Researcher



Our government system is based on the notion that rational citizens vote based on informed choices at the ballot box. However, current research in disciplines including political science, cognitive and brain research, psychology, behavioral economics, and linguistics reach a different conclusion.

Even those of us who are politically savvy are not nearly as rational as we would like to believe. The construct of our brain limits our accurate perceptions of reality. Political spinmeisters on the left and right are well aware of these shortcomings and use these

irrationalities to influence our opinions and decisions.

Come learn how and why you and others are being spun—as well as some suggestions on how to get “unspun.”

Our speaker, Judith Lewis, political scientist and futurist researcher, is a long time League of Women Voters member and Past President of the Orange Coast League. She has a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and an MPA in Public Administration from USC. She has published articles in professional journals and newspapers and gives speeches on an eclectic range of topics regarding public policy and political reform, including law enforcement; crime, drug and gang prevention; futures research; correctional institutional management; welfare reform and mental health. She has spoken before such varied audiences as the World Future Society, AARP, and President George H.W. Bush, and has appeared on PBS television. ###

Treasurer's Report: Club Combined Account Balance: \$6,648.59

If California Tax Dollars Didn't Go To Funding War... Steph Campbell

Last year Californians contributed \$37.9 billion to the war. But what if it had been spent on expanding health care, improving education, or increasing our energy independence? The National Priorities Project (NPP) suggests ways in which we could have spent our money more wisely.

We could have provided 15.6 million people with health care, or 7 million Pell Grants for college students. And

just as important we could have funded 4.5 million Head Start placements for children or 500,000 new elementary school teachers. And how about adding 535,058 music and arts teachers or adding over 100,000 affordable housing units.

If you're interested in changing our national priorities, the National Priorities Project offers citizens tools and resources to promote policies which promote social and economic justice. Visit them at their web site: www.nationalpriorities.org/

Talking Points—Rich Gillock

A few years ago, Sheriff Carona tried to turn the officers of the Orange County Sheriff's Department into immigration agents. He would have used a Memorandum of Understanding with the Justice Department to train officers as immigration agents under Section 1357(g) of the Immigration Code.

Title 8 of the U.S. Code specifically prohibits local law enforcement of the civil immigration code, unless trained under 1357(g). There are two basic reasons for this.

First, our immigration code is very complicated. For example if you come here on a student visa and take a part time job at Starbucks, you are probably in violation, but if you write a book that generates royalties, you are OK. While if you are doing graduate research or teaching, then it may be OK for you to get a salary and still keep your student visa. And this complexity is just about kids going to college. It is a full time job just to get the immigration code right.

Second, the job of the police is to prevent crime and track down criminals. Immigration violations are not crimes unless they involve human trafficking or slavery. Being an undocumented immigrant is not a crime, it is a violation. But it is a violation that carries the potential penalty of deportation and losing everything you and your family has here.

So when your local cop is also an immigration agent, how does a community interact with that cop when someone in your immediate family may not be in status? And when a community is afraid of the police, criminals will pray upon them. In self defense, the immigrants will organize their own protection. We have seen it over and over again in our history. Every immigrant class has at one time formed vigilante gangs in self defense. This is not the substitute for law enforcement that we want to see.

Currently it takes 4–7 years to get an I-90 “Green Card.” You can get a Bachelors Degree or even a PhD in that amount of time. All these people want is a job.

One very famous immigrant, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, was at one time “out of status” with the INS (now ICE). He could have been deported but paid a fine instead. It pays to have the right skin color and a little fame.

Every year we deport children who are United States citizens because they were born here, but their parents are

out of status. We have kids who were brought across the border when they were 2 years old, are star students in high school, but who can't document their citizenship to gain entry into college. Many couldn't make it living in Central America because they don't even speak Spanish that well. What future do they have? Yet what assets they could be!

We have an economy that cannot sustain itself with native born workers. Look at the ratio of baby boomers retiring and the 20 to 65 work force. There are not enough American natives to keep the economy running. We need to hire immigrants to supplement our workforce. Yes we have a temporary unemployment problem, but in the long run we need at least a 5:1 worker to retiree ratio to keep things running. We can't put another 18 year old into the workforce in less than 18 years unless we import that person.

We need an immigration policy that makes it easier for workers to come here, and to return home to visit family. We need a path to citizenship for the millions who have been here making our economy work for decades.

But nothing is going to happen because the Democratic “leadership” doesn't want to touch immigration issues this year, just like the Republicans wouldn't touch it when they ruled.

So Arizona went “rogue” and enacted their own “foreign policy,” even though the number of immigrants in Arizona has dropped about 20% during the recession. Arizona SB1070 bill allows police officers to demand proof of citizenship from anyone they suspect of being in the country illegally. “Papers please!” That will be the voice of law and order in Arizona. It legalizes racial profiling, and it is in clear violation of Title 8 of the US Code.

It basically requires everyone in Arizona to be able to produce proof of citizenship at any time. I refuse to be subject to this fascist abuse, nor condone anyone else's abuse.

I love Arizona for its weather, its desert wildlife, the Grand Canyon, Sedona, its geology, and its meteor impacts. And I will never go back until this law is struck down or repealed.

If you have a connection to Arizona, let them know that you won't spend a dime there. If you belong to an organization that might consider having an event in Arizona, then let them know that if they cross into Fascist Land, that they lose your support. It's that important.

The Case For A Real Liberal On The Court—American Prospect Magazine

The pending resignation of Justice John Paul Stevens gives Barack Obama the chance to make his second appointment to the Supreme Court. It also represents what is likely to be his best chance to provide a foothold for a strong liberal presence on the Court to represent the reactionary foursome of Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, John Roberts, and Samuel Alito.

Here are three crucial reasons why Obama should nominate a sophisticated and tough-minded progressive along the lines of Stanford law professor Pamela Karlan, Legal Adviser of the Department of State Harold Koh, or Judge Diane Wood of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals:

A Void that Needs Filling

Justice Stevens has recently remarked that, "with the possible exception of Ruth Ginsburg," every judicial appointment since Stevens himself has moved the Court to the right. (Stevens himself replaced the acerbic left-libertarian William O. Douglas, one of the most liberal members in the Court's history.) Granted, that Ginsburg is an exception is more than possible: She has certainly had a more liberal record than Byron White, a dissenter in *Miranda* and *Roe v. Wade* and author of the Court's infamous (and now overruled) opinion in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which concerned the criminalization of sodomy. Otherwise, though, Stevens is correct.

And while the Court's dramatic shift to the right in some measure represents electoral trends favoring the Republican Party, the random nature of the appointments process and America's anachronistic electoral system have exaggerated this shift. Conservative Republicans now dominate the Court although the Democratic Party has won the popular vote in five of the last nine presidential elections. And as reflected by the fact that a moderate Republican like Stevens became the leader of the Court's liberal wing, the nation's highest tribunal completely lacks a liberal in the mold of Douglas, Thurgood Marshall, or William Brennan. Presumptive front-runner Elena Kagan, while an attractive candidate in some respects, has a record on civil liberties and executive power that strongly suggests she would not be a liberal in this mold either. This would be bad for the development of progressive constitutional values.

The Conditions Will Never Be More Favorable for Obama

Given the prevailing economic conditions, the question is not whether the Democrats will lose Senate seats in the 2010 midterms, but how many. If Obama is going to put a strong liberal on the Court, the window of opportunity will probably close in November. Particularly with Ruth Bader Ginsburg's retirement almost certain to come during Obama's first term, any moderates that Obama would be interested in nominating should be saved for later, when the margin in the Senate is narrower.

What's the Downside?

It might be objected at this point that a nominee like Karlan or Koh might compel a Republican filibuster. The proper answer to this is, so what? First of all, in the (probably unlikely) possibility that a filibuster of a nominee holds, the result would be the eventual confirmation of a more moderate nominee. If Obama preemptively nominates a moderate nominee, the result would be ... exactly the same. In the worst-case scenario, progressives are no worse off.

This might be a problem if this would increase Republican obstruction in other areas, but with the centerpiece of Obama's first-term domestic agenda already passed, the prospect of further major legislation near zero, and Republican obstructionism in the Senate virtually maxed out, there's no reason to believe that a Republican filibuster would incur any net political cost. If anything, it would provide ammunition for a narrative painting the Republicans as the "Party of No" while providing a venue for defending liberal constitutional values. And finally, the filibustering of a Supreme Court nominee for the first time since 1968 (and second total) would escalate the cycle that is likely to lead to the elimination or substantial modification of the filibuster rule -- something that would be a massive victory for democracy.

To paraphrase Joey La Motta, if Obama puts forward a strong progressive nominee and we win, we win. If we lose, we still win. Obama's choice should be clear: Nominate a strong progressive voice to the Court.

http://prospect.org/cs/articles?article=the_case_for_a_real_liberal_on_the_court

June Dynamic Democrat Submissions due on: June-2-2010

The California Democratic Convention—Steph Campbell

This article is based in large part on a piece from Paul Hogarth in the California Progress Report; his full article can be found at <http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/site>

Paul Hogarth reports, correctly in my view as someone who has attended a fair number of these events, that it's all about putting on a united face for Democrats, to which I would add, where none exists. Hogarth goes on to reminisce the devastating fight between Westly and Angelides. He reports that the delegates heaved a sigh of relief when Brown gave an energetic and animated speech on the Convention floor as well as his challenge to debate Steve Poizner and Meg Whitman before the June 8th primary.

The question of whom the party should endorse for the 36th Congressional District came up again—should it be entrenched and successful Dem Jane Harman or the weak Marci Winograd supported by progressives for her anti-war stance.

Here's what Hogarth wrote: "There was fireworks yesterday morning before the Convention adjourned, as progressive delegates challenged the Party's recommendation of Jane Harman – a Blue Dog Congress member from Los Angeles who voted for the Iraq War. Harman once called

herself the "best Republican in the Democratic Party," and is facing a primary challenge by activist Marcy Winograd. The Winograd campaign successfully gathered signatures from 300 delegates to appeal the Regional Caucus endorsement – forcing a floor fight on Sunday."

Hogarth goes on to say that Chairman John Burton and much of the Party leadership didn't seem to appreciate this challenge. He even complained that it wasn't fair that delegates from Siskiyou County (and elsewhere in the state) could overrule the will of delegates from Harman's district. I agree with Chairman Burton! But as the Party rules allow for it, the convention got to vote. Unsurprisingly Harman's endorsement was ratified by a vote of 599-417. If Progressives want to challenge Harman they need to find a better candidate. That's proven by the fact that for the second time in a row she couldn't muster the votes. As Hogarth says "She's more of a Dennis Kucinich than a Howard Dean, and Harman has not been obnoxious to the extent of other conservative Democrats like Blanche Lincoln."

It's time for Winograd to get some candidate skills before she challenges a power house like Harman – and if Winograd were to win you could kiss that Democratic district good bye. ###

Democratic Party of Orange County News—Stephanie Pacheco

At the April meeting of the Democratic Party of Orange County's Central Committee reported an increased Democratic voter registration (and decreased Republican voter registration). The new Executive Director, Gerrie Schipske introduced herself, talked about her goals for the

group.

The Truman Awards Banquet planning committee is starting up; and one new issue was that it was hoped there would be an environmental award this year.

Celebrate the Environment & the Achievements of Senator Barbara Boxer

Endorsed by Sierra Club & California Democratic Party

Via Live Conference Call—Sunday, May 23 Noon to 2 PM

18264 Santa Belinda Circle

Fountain Valley, CA 92708

\$25 minimum

Light salads and desserts provided if you are hungry

And a Green (environmental) house and garden tour as time permits, too!

Payable to: Friends of Barbara Boxer

Host: Stephanie & Ed Pacheco

Info & RSVP : stephaniepa@socal.rr.com

Paid for by Stephanie Pacheco and Authorized by Boxer for Senate Campaign

Message from the President—Jo Anne Jennings

The election season is rapidly approaching and Democrats are predicted to lose seats. From my perspective, there are four main causes for Democratic party concerns - money, message, media and a lack of progressive legislation.

First, the recent Supreme Court decision granting first amendment rights to corporations means undue influence in the election of candidates. As Jim Hightower in the March issue of the Lowdown stated so well, "Business lobbyists can bluntly say to a lawmaker, governor, mayor or other official, 'You support what we want and we'll spend a million bucks to support you. If you don't, we'll put our millions against you. Your choice.'" He goes on, "Don't forget the Court also freed labor unions to take their members' dues money and spend it on their own independent campaigns." Problem: "Wall Street's biggest bank, Goldman Sachs, paid three times more in bonuses to its top bankers this year than the \$6 billion in total assets held by America's unions - **indeed, combined union asset represent only one-tenth of one percent of the assets held by our country's four largest banks.** In case anyone doubt who has the most money, note that just the 100 largest corporations have annual revenues of \$13 trillion." Money may be our biggest problem.

Failure to counter Ronald Reagan's mantra, "Government is not the solution, government is the problem" has mislead many in what has galvanized the tea party movement. Rachel Maddow reported that when a reporter asked a tea party member at a rally if she would agree her social security and Medicare benefits should be reduced because they were BIG government programs, she replied that was something she had never thought about. A survey by the New York Times and CBS found that 75% members of the tea party did not want their social security or Medicare changed. Another surprising result was 52% told the poll-

sters they think their own "income taxes this year are fair." Fairness in taxation is the issue. Democratic leaders need to get out the right message and act on it.

Ed Rendell, Pennsylvania Governor and former National Democratic Chairman looked to the media. He pointed out to Rachel Maddow that large rallies have occurred across the country. People have marched on state capitols demanding higher taxes to pay for education, health and public services. He said the majority of people get it. Yet the only rallies that seem to grab media attention are tea party ones. He reminded Rachel that this was just as common on MSNBC as on Fox. The media needs to balance the news.

Elections in 2009 saw many voters stay at home. Voters who turned out for Barack Obama showed their disappointment with the lack of good legislation. The health reform bill dropped the public option, there was no financial reform, no movement on gay and lesbian rights or immigration reform and as a result we now have a Virginia Governor who failed to note the role of slavery in the Civil War. Voters are discouraged by this lack of good progressive legislation.

It's hard to get excited about this election year. The belief that the individual can make a difference is challenging, but individuals working together can be powerful. It's absolutely essential that we get out the vote; it's the only way to counter corporate influence of officials. Electing Barbara Boxer is a must. Though I'm not excited about Jerry Brown as governor I have to believe he's a better option than Meg Whitman. We have Democrats running for the state assembly and for nonpartisan positions who one day may be able to effectively take on Dana Rohrabacher. So talk to your neighbors, work for a candidate and help us get out the vote!

The Great American Write-In—Pictures Courtesy of Haig Parechian



Each year Women For: Orange County puts on an event which is dedicated to bringing progressives together to write letters to elected officials at all levels. Non-

partisan groups from around the county are invited to promote their issues and recommend letters and postcards that can be sent to everyone from Barack Obama to local



school board officials. Several of our club members are active with Women For and work this event including Joan Stewart and Jean Parechian.

Steph Campbell and Eleanor Klein were both there promoting issues and writing letters.

Upcoming Calendar of Interesting Events for Dems!

May 22 7:00 am	AIDS Walk Orange County is an annual 5 km walk developed to raise awareness of and much-needed funds for HIV and AIDS prevention and care in Orange County, California. The funds raised by AIDS Walk Orange County are distributed among several Orange County recipient agencies that serve the Orange County HIV/AIDS community. For information: ocaidswalk.org
May 24 7:00 pm	Orange County Central Committee. All Democrats are welcome. Carpenter's Hall, 1816 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange.
May 26 6:30 pm	Democratic Club of West Orange County—Meeting—See Page 1 for details
June 9 7:00 pm	Next meeting of the 67th Area Wide Democratic Alliance ; International Association of Machinists Hall, 5402 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach. For more details see http://www.67thad.com .
June 12	1st Annual Orange County Progressive Summit at Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Parish Church, 3233 Pacific View Drive, Corona Del Mar. The organization's mission is to form a coalition of like-minded groups in Orange County favoring or advocating a progressive stance in politics or society. "Our purpose will be to share information about our individual organizations, learn from each other, and build a stronger progressive movement."
June 12	Annual Flag Day Event at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge 1952, at 1551 Trask Ave. Garden Grove. This year's Consuelo Nieto Patriotic Award will be presented to Mr. Phu Nguyen. He is the personification of the "American Dream" and he is a model patriot in our community. Contact the 67th AD for details.
June 19 2:00 pm	Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Orange County Equality Coalition will co-sponsor Hans Johnson, president of Progressive Victory . Hans will discuss " <i>Gall in the Family: The Growing Rift Within the Religious Right Over LGBT Equality</i> ". Meeting will be held at Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine For more info visit the web site at au-oc.org or call 714-299-4551 for information.
June 19 7:00 pm	"Silent No More," a Silent Auction benefiting OC Pride 2010. Sponsored by OC Pride and Orange County Equality Coalition. The event will include hosted food and drinks, as well as lots of fun entertainment, and auction items that you won't want to miss! Come party with the Pride organizers and be a part of changing history in Orange County! 26616 Meadow Crest, Laguna Hills 92653. Email your RSVP to Info@prideoc.com .
June 21 7:00 pm	Next meeting of the 68th Assembly District Committee . Contact them via their web site for additional information at http://www.68thad.com/contact.asp . Carrows, 16931 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach

Next E-Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 1st at 7:00 pm
Pauline Younkin's Home
10960 El Domino, Fountain Valley
Call Jo Anne at 714-846-5201 if you plan to attend

Reader Privacy Challenged in North Carolina



On Monday, Amazon.com sued the State of North Carolina after the state issued a summons that would, according to Amazon, require it to identify what books, CDs and DVDs its customers in North Carolina had purchased. The North Carolina Department of Revenue had requested this information to ensure that Amazon is in full compliance with the state's sales and use tax laws

We were alarmed at this news, because what people choose to read is deeply personal, and reader privacy is strongly protected by the First Amendment.

After the ACLU of North Carolina sent the state Department of Revenue a letter warning that it would be unconstitutional for the state to gain overbroad access to customer records, the state responded to Amazon's lawsuit, denying that it wanted to know the specific titles and subject matters of books. We are relieved that the state appears to recognize the inappropriate, intrusive and constitutionally suspect nature of such a demand.

While the facts of this particular case remain murky, it is crystal clear that the government is interested in what you're reading. This is not the first time Amazon.com has received and fought such requests. In 2006, Amazon received a subpoena (PDF) for the book purchase records of 24,000 people — a subpoena a court described as seriously troubling because, if it became widely known that

the government sought book purchase records, "the chilling effect would frost keyboards across America."

Our right to read what we choose, free from government intrusion, is too valuable to give up when the government doesn't have a warrant based on probable cause. Reading in private allows people to explore ideas, even those that may be unpopular, and this kind of freedom is both intrinsically valuable and essential to our democracy, which after all is premised on the idea that untrammelled debate and intellectual exploration leads to good government.



That is why the ACLU is calling on Congress to pass legislation that would make it clear that the government needs a warrant with notice for all sensitive electronic information, including book records. We hope you will join our efforts.

From: <http://www.aclu.org/blog/free-speech-technology-and-liberty/north-carolina-wants-know-what-you-bought-amazon>



Thank You Patrons!

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For all those Tea Baggers....

This is dedicated to all you self proclaimed conscientious patriots, We want to get this straight. You didn't get mad when the Supreme Court stopped a legal recount and appointed a President. You didn't get mad when Cheney allowed Energy company officials to dictate Energy policy. You didn't get mad when a covert CIA operative got outed. You didn't get mad when the Patriot Act got passed. You didn't get mad when we invaded a country that posed no threat to us. You didn't get mad when we spent over 600 billion (and counting) on said illegal war, and most experts say the cost will top over 2 Trillion dollars. You didn't get mad when over 12 billion dollars just disappeared in Iraq. You didn't get mad when you saw the Abu Grahیب photos. You didn't get mad when you found out we were torturing people. You didn't get mad when the government was illegally wiretapping Americans. You didn't get mad when we didn't catch Bin Laden. You didn't get mad when you saw the horrible conditions at Walter Reed. You didn't get mad when we let a major US city drown. You didn't get mad when the deficit hit the trillion dollar mark.

You didn't get mad when the GOP looked the other way while Wall Street ripped off Main Street, and then Bush asked for 700 Billion to bail out Wall Street

You finally got mad when a majority of elected Congressmen decided that people in America deserved the right to see a doctor if they are sick. Yes, illegal wars, lies, corruption, torture, stealing your tax dollars to make the rich richer, are all ok with you but helping other Americans... well screw that. That about right? You know it is.

**Membership Application
Democratic Club of West Orange County**

Your name, address, occupation and employer is required by Federal & California Law for all cash donations \$25 or greater. \$100 or greater donations must be by check only.

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Date	Donation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$40
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Name		<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior-Student	\$20

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