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Loyal Blue Devil bemoans budget cuts by Tim Fenton

..teachers are the program..

Nobody wants to do any of this...

..lost a lot of people we did not want to lose

..try to protect what we can for our kids..

.We have done a lot already. ..already cut everything to the bare bones..

We do not have any programs which are not successful or necessary.

..committed to financial solvency...

..good news..kids are performing..

Our programs are excellent.

School Board member Gina Daleiden recently briefed your reporter on the heartbreaking budget realities facing the Davis Joint Unified School District in 2010. She said Superintendent James Hammond has presented to the board a budget reflecting a staggering \$5.7 million in mandatory cuts. By law, the District cannot operate on a deficit; in recent years, budgets have been around \$69 to 70 million.

Daleiden said that cuts last year of \$3.5 million had been very painful and that by now, the board has already made all the obvious cuts. As she says about staff reductions, "We've lost people we did not want to lose." Nevertheless she says further staff cuts must be made, programs will have to be reduced or cut, and classroom sizes will have to increase. More pain will be inflicted through furlough days for remaining staff members, cutting summer school programs to a bare minimum and virtually eliminating adult education programs she said. District employees, including the teachers union local, have been considering granting \$1 million in salary concessions.

Daleiden said. She hopes they will OK the concessions in light the dramatic cuts now required.

Speaking for fellow members, Daleiden, who is now in her fifth year of board service and is the immediate past president, said that despite the pain, the board is very committed to fiscal solvency to protect the future of the system. Some school districts in Yolo County may "go negative" this year she fears. She added, "None of us ran for the board expecting to have to make such huge cuts or ask for concessions." Despite the unpleasant tasks at hand, she expects that she and the other board members whose terms complete this year will seek reelection in order to provide continuity as the board continues to deal with the budget crisis.

Any good news for our schools, we asked our interviewee. She said that DaVinci, Davis's technology oriented high school, has successfully completed it's first year as a charter school, successful enough that the board is considering DaVinci adding 7th and 8th grades in the future. She lauded Davis contractor Don Brown Construction for

generously waiving overhead charges and its profit in performing the widely praised high school stadium renovations. Daleiden had high praise for the community support the schools received citing the Davis Schools Foundation, the high school's Blue & White Foundation, the School Arts Foundation and a support group for music programs for their fund raising and other efforts.

The best good news though she said is that Davis's students are still performing well; we still have some of



the best schools in the state, and it still means a lot to graduate from our system. "I'm a Blue Devil and proud of it!" she proclaimed. And, Gina Daleiden, your friends at the Davis Democratic Club are proud of you.

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Calendar of Events & Activities

MARCH 1: Monday 6:00-8:00 Fundraiser for Dr. Ami Bari (courtesy announcement/ not a DDC sponsored event), **Candidate for Congress, 3rd CD**, enjoy wine & hors d'oeuvres at the Palm Court Hotel, Davis. Contact Ryan Loney (707-631-8958; ryan@beraforcongress.com)

Feb 27: Sat. 5-11 Hope for Haiti (A courtesy announcement/ not DDC event) Tri-tip BBQ fundraiser Odd Fellows Hall. Contact Renee 219-5126

June: 13: (tentative date) Sunday 11:00-2:00 Annual Champagne Brunch

July 4: Sunday 12:00-8:00pm Community Park, Davis. Celebrate Independence Day by distributing information, registering voters and enjoying the fireworks.

The Biannual Election of Club Officers was, as required by the Club By-laws, held on Feb.17. The following each ran unopposed for the indicated office and was duly elected for a two-year term: Arun Sen, President; Mike Syvanen, Vice President; Richard Yamagata, Recording Secretary; Betty Weir, Treasurer; Tim Fenton, Publicity Chair/Corresponding Secretary; and Carl Schmid, Membership Chair. In addition to these elected positions, Club Members, who wish to become more active, are eligible for appointment as Board Members and you are invited to contact Bob Bockwinkel (297-2210) to explore the opportunities that are available.

Please take this opportunity to join the Board in acknowledging of Barbara Slemmons, who has contributed many distinguished years of service as an active Board Member, Club Publicity Chair and enthusiastic campaign volunteer. Barbara is a superb colleague, who has provided thoughtful leadership to your Club.

DDC and YCDCC reach settlement agreement with the FEC by Carl Schmid

In an effort to better publicize its role and activities, The Yolo Country Democratic Central Committee (YCDCC), chaired by Bob Schellen, has been meeting in communities throughout the county. The DDC hosted YCDCC's recent meeting in Davis. During this meeting, the YCDCC Treasurer, Bill Julian, reported that both the YCDCC and DDC have reached settlement agreements with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) on complaints made by local Republicans concerning our

election activities in 2002-2006. Briefly, the complaint was that we failed to register and to report contributions and expenditures in these election cycles. As a practical matter, compliance with these regulations is highly complicated, the shortest list of "do's and don'ts" being a 160-page booklet, with the further complication that the state and federal regulations set different requirements. McCain-Feingold, the legislation enabling these regulations, is better suited for mega-corporations, which can afford the teams of lawyers and accountants necessary to sift through these complex rules, as contrasted to local volunteer groups, such as your Club. Sadly, the Robert's Supreme Court in its recent decision overturned 100 years of legal precedence, thereby, letting corporations give unlimited amounts of money while still imposing these mind-numbing requirements on the Davis Democratic Club! Among other terms in this settlement, both DDC and YCDCC have agreed to send representatives to FEC training sessions to avoid future problems. Both the Club and YCDCC appreciate the great amount of time and effort that Bill expended to bring this issue to a satisfactory settlement. We benefited from his extraordinary expertise and patience in this matter.

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Valentines from your local elected leaders by Carl Schmid



The Annual Valentine Party was attended by fifty Club Members, who after enjoying a great potlatch buffet, were treated to informative presentations by Assemblymembers Mariko Yamada and Alberto Torrico, who is a candidate for Attorney General, County Supervisors, Jim Provenza and Helen Thomson, City Council Members Sue Greenwald and Don Saylor, who is a candidate for County Supervisor, and Dr. Ami Bera, Candidate for Congress in our neighboring district. **Ami Bera** said there is a “palpable anger” as “people’s lives have gotten hard”. Running against Dan Lungren (R. Long Beach who relocated to our area in his ongoing quest for a *safe seat*), Dr. Bera contends that “real leadership is taking care of people first” as contrasted to Dan Lungren who “has been in govern-

ment for the last 30-years” while advancing his own political security. If you are interested in helping, Ami Bera will meet his Davis supporters on March 1 (Calendar, p.2). **Jim Provenza and Helen Thomson** each provided a County-prospective on our current affairs. Jim noted that our “County budget is bleeding” due to the cost of providing indigent care. Briefly, health care costs, which for any individual patient are virtually open ended, are spread across our County’s relatively small populations of taxpayers. Jim’s solution is that Federal health care reform must be passed to share this burden fairly. Helen also recognized the “incredibly painful” budgetary problems confronting the County and explained how the County is seeking ways that “we can do that differently” to achieve programs with an “absolutely positive outcome.” (Your County Supervisors are braver than this reporter.) **Don Saylor** developed a Valentine-theme of compassion by providing a very personal, poignant recollection of his own mother’s brave life struggles eventually leading her to volunteer as an anti-tobacco advocate. He asks, “How are we shaped by life experiences? How does this apply to a community? How does this apply to a State?” His answer is that “I am proud to be a Democrat, the party of compassion, fairness and opportunity.” **Sue** focused on an “issue that deserves broader discussion” stating that is “tremendously important that we annex West Village.” Comparing her first year in the legislature to “dog-years,” **Mariko** reported that she sent seven bills to the Governor, who signed five, indeed a great beginning for her first year. Her colleague Alberto Torrico stated that in addition to her public advocacy, Mariko repeatedly stands up within the privacy of the Democratic Caucus asking, “Who are we here to serve?” The Newsletter is pleased to report Mariko’s announcement that she will seek reelection.



Letter of Support and Encouragement to Congressman Mike Thompson

The DDC Board unanimously endorsed (Feb. 2 Meeting) and resolved to send the following letter to Congressman Thompson:

Dear Congressman Thompson

Thank you for your recent leadership on health care legislation. We trust you won't give up now. Please pass the Senate bill, which is far better than nothing, and pass whatever improvements you can muster through reconciliation. We hope these improvements will include the House method of funding (tax on very high incomes) or at least a higher floor before the so-called "Cadillac plan" health care is taxed. We also hope these will include the public option that you worked hard for. However, it is far better that 31 million more people get health insurance than that we keep our emergency rooms crowded with people who can't afford to see a doctor in his or her office. It is far better that insurance companies be forbidden from denying coverage to people or canceling their coverage than to see people lose their homes and their lives because they live in the only wealthy country that won't insure them. It is far better that people choose insurance plans off a national exchange with group bargaining power to bring down prices rather than having underemployed people spend increasingly more of their income on pricey individual plans. Therefore, even if the House can achieve none of its objectives using reconciliation, we still hope you will vote for the Senate plan.

Democratic Newsletter

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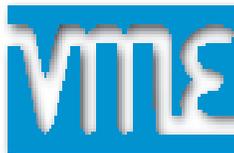
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Campaign Activities Fundraising Voter Registration

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Circle your Level of Membership: Individual \$15; Household \$25; Passport \$50; Sponsor \$100; Patron \$200; Benefactor \$200+; Student membership \$10.



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