

31st District Democrat's Newsletter

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MEETING NOTICE

Please note date and place change

The 31st L.D. Democrats will meet

Wednesday, May 16th

Buckley Library

123 So. River Ave, Buckley

Coffee hour 6-7 PM

<http://31stDistrictDemocrats.org>

MAY MEETING PROGRAM

(By Yvonne Ward Programs Chair)

Tired of having Enron, Haliburton, Big Oil, and Drug Companies run our government? Come and hear *Washington Public Campaigns*, which organizes and supports clean elections by eliminating corporate control over politicians through election finance reform.

<http://washclean.org>

MORE CRONISM BIG BUSINESS GETS BIG BREAKS FROM CORRUPT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Postal regulators have accepted a proposal from Time Warner that would ruin small and independent publishers in America. Go here to read more about it and to Send A Message to stop it :

<http://action.freepress.net/campaign/postal/>

Ben Franklin must be spinning in his grave. Poor Richard's Almanac would have died on the vine. It is highly doubtful that Ben could have afforded to send out his pamphlet of maxims under the proposed rate schedule. The sweetheart deal written by Time Warner will favor big corporate publishers and punish or put out of business small publishers including The Nation and Mother Jones. The proposed rate hike is just one more example of this corrupt administration's love for big business and hatred for the truth.

Tired of Paper or Plastic?

Editorial by MJ McGalliard Newsletter Chair

We may finally be allowed to practice democracy in Washington State. Instead of a late primary election irrelevant to candidates already chosen by other states, anointed by the press and offered to us as a choice of paper or plastic, we may have some options.

Primary elections have never worked all that well here and they've been a long time lingering on their deathbed. The 'open primary' died when Democrats and Republicans sued for the right to pick their own candidates and won -- forcing voters to pick a party. That brought out the wing-nuts. As an elections observer, I heard tales by election officials of voters making the trip to the polls just to tear up their absentee ballots in front of them. Why? Because, the 'open primary' made it possible to cross over and try to sabotage the other side, something of a blood sport among politicians.

Now, it seems the primaries are gone altogether. Dwight Pelz, State Democratic Party Chair said, "A primary

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(Paper or Plastic continued)

is a test of the ability to raise money for television advertising. Caucuses are (a) test of your ability to organize a grass-roots campaign.” (Seattle P-I, 4/26/07) Since the Democrats rejected the primary, the Republicans probably will too for fear that Democrats “...will make mischief by voting in the Republican primary,” said Luke Esser, Republican Party Chair. (Seattle P-I, 4/26/07)

Moving to the caucus system is the best news in a long time for members of both parties. If we are ever to see presidential candidates campaign in this state and not just be annoyed by an avalanche of advertising, a caucus is necessary-- besides like taking the stairs instead of the elevator, caucuses are better for our American hearts.

Democrat or Republican, we need a deeper connection, a more direct relationship with others who share our values. Caucusing takes the power away from the radio and TV spokes-creatures, and puts it back in our hands.

Learning about a candidate from sound bites or that ream of print ads that choke your mailbox every day, pales in

(Paper or Plastic continued)

comparison to listening to an informed argument made by a neighbor. And, that's who you see at a caucus- your neighbors.

A caucus is a block party of support for candidates and ideas structured around debate and consensus. At a caucus, people try to convince others that theirs' is the better candidate, to support a resolution, or to elect them as delegates to the convention. People actually talk to their neighbors in a gathering the likes of which Americans never see unless there is a disaster. The difference between just voting in an election and attending a caucus is the difference between watching a preacher on TV and going to an old fashioned tent revival.

Caucusing is returning to those roots we are always talking about. We may not be building a barn, but we do rebuild our country every four years. If you would go to a football game to support your team, wouldn't you go to a caucus to support your country? Caucusing is meant to make us look each other in the eye and get on with this

(Paper or Plastic continued)

messy business of democracy, it is a way to stand up for what you believe in.

Have you ever said, “Both parties are the same, why should I care?” If that's how you feel, well, OK. But, I've learned that decisions are made by the people who show up. If I show up, mine is the voice that will be heard. Mine is the power to shape our nation. Mine is the power to pick the candidate. I think leadership in both the Republican and the Democratic parties is beginning to recognize the power and wisdom of ordinary people. Paper or Plastic? Maybe we should bring our own bag.

[Offices YOU Can Run For!](#)

The 31st Legislative District has a list of offices, from fire commission to school board to city council that will be filled by election this November. We want to help you run for those offices and help put more Democrats everywhere. Interested? Email the 31st L.D. at http://kpublic@weelyrd.net for the list of offices.