

The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Everett Schmidt, Editor

Sun City Texas

SECOND "CANDIDATES' FORUM" SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

A second "Candidates' Forum," this time featuring the three candidates for the District 10 State Board of Education position, will be held during the club's dinner meeting scheduled for **Saturday, February 20** in the Ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City. The three candidates are: Marsha Farney of Georgetown, Rebecca Osborne of Austin, and Brian Russell of Austin. Cynthia Dunbar of Richmond, the incumbent, is not seeking re-election.

The usual format for club-sponsored forums will prevail. Each candidate will make a statement about his or her qualifications, respond to questions submitted on index cards by members of the audience, and then conclude with a brief statement. Moderator is Dr. Abbe Boring, Superintendent of the Georgetown ISD.

The State Board of Education consists of 15 members. Eight of the positions are contested. The Democrats will field a candidate for the general election in the fall.

As is indicated in a report below, the Board must deal with myriad issues. Among those eliciting the most controversies are curricula and textbook approval matters. More specifically, the Board must deal with worldviews expressed in potential textbooks when attempts are made there to indoctrinate children to certain ideologies. Some of these ideologies, including those promoted by the current president and congress, run counter to traditional American values and should, in that sense, be considered dangerous. It is in that light that the attention of the reader is called to former President Reagan's warning: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." (Reagan's entire quote is found at the end of this newsletter)

The Social Hour, Dinner and Program. The social hour will begin at 6:00 PM. The dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by the "Candidate's Forum." The dinner will be catered by **Cafe on the Green** which will serve Chicken Cordon Bleu, potatoes, steamed veggies and condiments. The caterer will provide linen cloths for the tables, linen napkins and flatware.

Cost. Cost is \$16 per person. Payment should be mailed to the club treasurer, Bernie Miller, at 265 Trail of the Flowers, Georgetown, TX 78633, or left in a special box located on his front porch by no later than Friday, February 12. For information about reservations, contact Bernie at 868-9125 or bimiller1@verison.net

WATER MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR TO ADDRESS CLUB IN MARCH

The Supervisor of the LCRA River Operations Center, David Walker, will address the club during its March 18 dinner meeting. With the significantly increasing population in the central Texas area, the management of water resources is becoming more and more of concern. Our speaker, being responsible for managing the operations of the Highland Lakes and the Colorado River, has expertise in water management and will address the club about that timely topic.

Details of the meeting will be provided in the March newsletter.

OTHER CLUB NEWS

Club president Julian Bucher reports that **the meeting scheduled for April 1 has been canceled** and that no other date in April was available. The cancellation comes about because the April 1 meeting would have come only 2 weeks after the March meeting and is the day before Good Friday.

Dues (\$10 per person) may be paid at club meetings or mailed to the club treasurer, Bernie Miller, whose mailing address is reported above. Contact him if you need verification that you did or did not pay dues for 2010. Members who have not renewed by April 1 will have their names removed from the membership roster.

Membership chairman Brenda Leisey reports that 2010 club membership currently stands at 283.

G. A. R. W. TO SPONSOR "CANDIDATES' FORUM"

The Georgetown Area Republican Women will sponsor a "Candidates' Forum" featuring the four candidates for the House District 20 position, and the two candidates for the Senate District 5 position during their luncheon meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 10 at the Berry Creek Country Club. A social hour will be held from 11:00 – 11:30 AM with the luncheon and program beginning at 11:30 PM.

Cost is \$15 per person. Send checks made payable to GARW-PAC to Linda McDaniel, 4500 Williams Dr., Ste. 212-PMB 267, Georgetown, TX 78633. Make reservations by calling 869-5685. The deadline for payment or reservations is noon, February 5.

THE COMING PRECINCT, COUNTY AND STATE CONVENTIONS

Following is information regarding the coming precinct, county and state conventions.

The Precinct Conventions. The precinct conventions will be held on Tuesday, March 2 (Election Day) beginning at 7:30 PM at the same locations where balloting was held: The Worship Place (Precinct 396), and the Social Center (Precincts 381,394 and 399).

There are two purposes of precinct conventions: (1) to elect delegates and alternates to the county convention, and (2) to propose and vote on resolutions (planks to the party platform) to be submitted to the county convention for consideration.

Normally, a precinct chairman calls the meeting to order; however, if a given precinct has no precinct chairman, someone in attendance must conduct the meeting. To learn in advance how to conduct meetings, refer to a "Sample Script for Precinct Conventions" available at the State Party web site, www.TexasGOP.org (click "GOP Principles," then scroll down)

One does not have to attend a precinct meeting to be a delegate to the county convention; however, to be eligible as delegate, one must have voted as a Republican in the primary *and* must have been elected at the precinct convention.

Participants in the precinct convention may submit resolutions for consideration by those in attendance. The resolutions must be submitted in writing and are debatable and amendable.

Resolutions are considered as additions, deletions and/or modifications to the 2008 State Republican Party Platform. It is therefore important that individuals considering the submission of one or more resolutions obtain *in advance* a copy of that document for the purpose of scrutinizing it to see if the subjects of their proposals have already been addressed. A copy of the platform can be obtained from the state party web site cited above. (Click "GOP Principles, then scroll down)

The County Convention. The county convention will be held on Saturday, March 20, beginning at 9:00 AM, in the Taylor ISD auditorium/cafeteria. The primary purposes are (1) to select delegates and alternates to the state convention, and (2) to adopt resolutions to be recommended to the state convention.

The State Convention. The state convention will be held June 11-12, 2010, at the Dallas Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. (National conventions are held only during years of presidential elections)

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Foreword. The State Board of Education has myriad responsibilities, among the more significant of which are the management of the Permanent School Fund, the establishment of curricula and graduation requirements, and the establishment of standards of performance on student assessment instruments.

But the responsibility which has received the most attention in the press and by the general public is the one concerning the selection of textbooks which Texas children use free of charge at public expense. The discharge of that responsibility has been the cause of intense controversies not unlike current and previous controversies in Washington, D. C., the state capitol and in the courts. The primary cause of many or most of those controversies is the same: it is one based on a clash of worldviews

Because the selection of textbooks is so directly related to the worldview developed in children, it is the primary focus of this report.

Historical Context. As of 1984, the State Board had 27 members, one from each congressional district. During a special session of that year, one called pursuant to a study by Dallas billionaire Ross Perot, the

membership dropped to 15 (the present number), with members being appointed by the Governor. There was, however, agreement that the appointment process should give way to an elective process 4 years hence.

Some legislators, led by Lt. Gov. Hobby, questioned the establishment of a board determined by votes when voters know little, if anything, about board members or potential board members. So, to reconcile the approaches, a non-binding referendum was placed on the 1987 ballot asking voters to resolve the matter—which they did by voting 52.4% for the election option.

In 1995, after so-called “religious conservatives” became increasingly active, the Legislature (which was controlled by Democrats) became increasingly disgruntled, and, in regard to the textbook issue, “quietly reduced the Board’s powers...” But what may have appeared to the Legislature then as “bickering” among Board members may actually have been the early stirrings of the clash of worldviews now so pervasive,

(Source: Columnist Dave McNeely)

Constitutional Provisions. The Texas Constitution (Art. 7, Sec. 8) directs the Legislature to provide for a State Board of Education. With respect to textbook selection, the Constitution, in another section (Art. 7, Sec.3) provides that “It shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to set aside a sufficient amount of available funds to provide free textbooks for the use of children attending the public free schools of the State.”

While that statement may appear clear and direct, there is another statement in the Constitution which provides that the Board “shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by law [the legislature], a statement which has come to confuse the language of the Constitution because it raises the question about whether the legislature can diminish the authority of the Board in regard to those duties specifically enumerated in the state constitution. Attorney Generals have, through the years, have found themselves overruling each other about that matter.

The Approval Process. The book adoption process begins with panels of citizens recommending to the Board the “essential elements” which should be included in given courses. After the elements are approved, writers can write their books to conform to the elements and then submit their books to the Board for approval. The following provision from the Education Code provides some guidelines regarding course content:

TEC 28.002(h): The State Board of Education and each school district shall foster the continuation of the tradition of teaching United States and Texas History and the free enterprise system in regular subject matter and in reading courses and in the *adoption of textbooks*. A primary purpose of the public school curriculum is to prepare thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism and can function productively in a free enterprise society with appreciation for the basic democratic values of our state and national heritage.” (emphasis added)

Some High Profile Issues. Following is a sampling of disputes involving textbook content in Texas and other states. It is presented in order that the reader can begin to have some “feel” for the nature of textbook disputes, and why the the term “worldview” is used.

RELIGION. Columnist James Kilpatrick reported several years ago on a court case involving a textbook dispute in Alabama. He reported that expert witnesses had made a meticulous and undisputed analysis of the history textbooks, and had found that “the history texts virtually ignored any mention of religion in American life.” A university professor assisting in the analysis termed such omission “censorship.”

While this court case took place several years ago, the issues contained therein are reflective of present-day disputes when authors with a bias against religion attempt to eliminate or minimize the importance of religion in the development of our country. Advocates of an appropriate recognition of the role of religion are often referred to as members of the “religious right” or by another term meant to be pejorative in nature.

HISTORY. Several years ago, in an effort to draft national history standards for textbooks, a federal commission was formed for that purpose. Its final product was so “politically correct” and otherwise deficient, that the Senate, in an unusual display of unanimity, officially denounced the proposed standards by a vote of 99 to 1!

While this incident occurred several years ago, the “politically correct” concern is present in today’s process of selecting textbooks where there are two schools of thought regarding historical figures which should be included in history books: (1) have a mixture of various ethnic groups represented, regardless of whether the contributions of the individuals are significant or not, thus to emphasize our “diversity, “ our differences, and (2) (2) cite historical figures on the basis of the significance of the contributions they made to the state, thus to emphasize our unity resulting from the “melting pot” effect.

SCIENCE/EVOLUTION. State Board science standards formerly called for the teaching of “strengths

and weaknesses” of scientific theories; however, after Board members were at loggerheads a few months ago as to whether that standard should be continued, it voted to require that schools teach science in a way that “examines all sides of evidence.” The *Wall Street Journal* states that the State Board “approved a science curriculum [standard] that opens the door for teachers and textbooks to raise doubts about evolution.”

The controversy about evolution is in regard to evolution between species (generally termed macroevolution) and not evolution within a species (generally termed microevolution).

Although the Board's action was in regard to science courses, there were objections to it on ground that it may adversely impact the theory of global warming. The liberal Texas Freedom Network claimed there are no *legitimate* dissenting views on global warming. [Note their agenda] (Their view, now an embarrassment, was expressed in April, well before the fraud concerning global warming data was exposed) (Source: Eagle Forum)

The Federal Government and Education. The injection of the federal government into education, once considered to be exclusively a state matter, represents a threat to the autonomy of the state, in general, and a threat to the authority of the State Board, in particular.

In reflecting on the involvement of the federal government in education, one should first note there is no constitutional mandate for such involvement. If Nancy Pelosi can be asked, “Where specifically does the Constitution grant Congress the authority to enact an individual [health care] mandate?,” why should not a responsible federal official be asked the same question in regard to education?

Then there is the question of motives. Motives of Congress may ostensibly appear to be the promotion of the best interests of children. But there is evidence to suggest that their motives also include those of promoting their raw political power! This is evidenced by Congress passing an Act, signed by the president, killing a popular and successful Washington, D. C. scholarship program which enabled the children of primarily poor black families opportunity to escape one of the nation's most pitiful and dangerous school districts, the one in the nation's capital.

Black columnist Juan Williams, in a video, illustrates that that Act was to satisfy the National Education Association, the nation's largest union, whose platform is one rife with leftist ideology.

OBAMA'S ODD ASSORTMENT OF ODD ADVISORS

President Obama has appointed an odd assortment of odd individuals to serve in various administrative and advisory capacities—often without the usual congressional approval. These appointments suggest (or confirm) he may have a radical agenda in mind as evidenced by the backgrounds of some of these individuals:

Annita Dunn, White House Communications Director (said Mao-Tse-tung, famous Chinese murderer of millions, was a favorite political advisor); Van Jones, former Green Jobs Czar (admitted being a communist); Cass Sustein, Regulatory Czar (wrote that body parts of the dead and those of individuals in certain hopeless conditions can be removed without asking permission; argues that marriage discriminates against single people); Chai Feldblum, Equal Employment Opportunity nominee (signed manifesto endorsing polygamous households); and John Holden, Science Czar (wrote that compulsory “green abortions” are an acceptable way to control population). (Source: Phyllis Schlafley)

According to the Family Research Council, Ms. Amanda Simpson, formerly Mr. Mitchell Simpson, is Advisor in the Commerce Department (reportedly the first transgender presidential appointment, possibly presaging passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA)

And other appointments should be noted.

Special attention should be given to two appointments in the office of the Secretary of Education. One is Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, who interfered last September with state prerogatives by sending to all principals instructions urging them to use the “historical moment” of Obama's September 8 speech by having students and teachers watch that speech and make use of the “Menu of classroom activities.” According to Schlafley, he tried to start a gay high school in Chicago where he was top administrator for a period of time.

Another appointment which has caused considerable concern is Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Safe and Drug Free Schools, Department of Education. One writer, aware of some the background which follows, observes: “His idea of safe schools is not your idea of safe schools.” Note, then reflect on a person having this background being in the Department of Education and having responsibilities for the welfare of children: (1) he was founder and longtime executive director of GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, which promotes the homosexual life-style and which has thousands of chapters in the nation's high schools; (2) he is a former member of the homosexual activist group, ACT UP, famous for disrupting church

services and throwing condoms at worshipers, and (3) claimed in a 2000 speech that he provided encouragement for a teenager who was in a homosexual relationship with an adult male. (Source: The New American)

Columnist David Limbaugh, upon noting Obama appoint radical and after radical, contends "Anyone paying attention knows it's irrefutably true that this has been a *deliberate pattern*, that, statistically, Obama couldn't appoint this many radicals in two political lifetimes." He then asks, "Is he rubbing these people in our faces or just surrounding himself with like-minded soul-mates—or both?" Limbaugh guesses the answer is "both" because "Obama's general attitude toward governance has been utterly dictatorial"—and, as is becoming more and more obvious, "narcissistic."

THE FEDERAL TRIAL OVER CALIFORNIA'S PROPOSITION 8

There is general acknowledgment that the trial regarding Proposition 8 in a federal court in California can have ramifications for the institution of marriage throughout the nation. There is also acknowledgment that regardless of the outcome of the case at the trial level, the issues in the case will eventually advance to the Supreme Court. But there is some bewilderment as to how a federal court can possibly have jurisdiction over a vote of the people of California to establish a state constitutional provision prohibiting same-sex marriage as was the case with Proposition 8, solely a state matter.

Although the issue appears to be solely a state issue, the answer lies in the interpretation of the *federal* constitution. Lawyers for two homosexual couples argue that any prohibition of marriage of homosexual couples violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, and that a prohibition constitutes an unjust discrimination based on sexual orientation, sex and even "defined" gender roles.

Ted Olson, a conservative lawyer who surprisingly argues for the homosexuals, builds his case largely around popular conservative themes such as "*individual freedom*" and "*individual liberty*." However, columnist Terrence Jeffrey, in supporting Proposition 8, suggests the sole emphasis being placed on the individual, alone, may not entirely be justified because there may be other people and an entire nation to consider, and because there is a power even higher than the vaunted U. S. Constitution to consider. States Jeffrey:

Either marriage is something with an absolute nature ordained by God and thus unchangeable; or it is an artificial thing, created by human beings on their own authority, and thus changeable according to the whims of whatever members of the human race happen to gain the political power needed to define it for the rest of the species.

If the first conclusion is correct, the rules of marriage are as inflexible as the rules of mathematics. Just as 1 plus 1 always equals 2, so must marriage always equal the union of one man and one woman. If the second conclusion is correct, there are no limits at all on what "marriage" could mean.

Jeffrey injects another argument into the mix: Natural Law, wherein one has an intrinsic, built-in knowledge of what is right and what is wrong. Natural Law was a controlling influence on the founders and framers, and found expression in the Declaration of Independence through such terms as the "Laws of Nature" and "Nature's God." English jurist William Blackstone, one of the most influential writers frequently referred to by the framers, wrote:

As man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his Maker's will. This will of his Maker is called the law of nature...This law of nature, being coeval [coexistent] with mankind and dictated by God Himself is, of course, superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times; no human laws are of any validity if contrary to this...Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered [permitted] to contradict these.

Natural Law is not merely a relic of the past; as many readers can recall, it has been used in more recent times. In the absence of any applicable written law, it was the charge "crimes against humanity," a charge based on Natural Law, which was used to convict and execute Nazi leaders after World War II.

Applied to the dispute in California, Jeffrey would claim there is a "natural right of a child to be loved by a mother and father." Given the injection of the natural rights of the child, the Natural Law argument may be useful in countering the self-centered, "individual liberty" approach used today in support of homosexual marriage.

And then there is a consideration of the nation and of western civilization itself. The experience of those

countries in Europe which have permitted same sex marriage may be instructive. In 2004, *World* reported that in Scandinavia, marriage has all but disappeared, that the majority of children are born out of wedlock, and that to support the resulting welfare state, taxes are so high that both parents have to work. Homosexuals have won a right to marry, but don't use it.

THE FRAUDULENT PROMOTION OF THE THEORIES OF GLOBAL WARMING AND EVOLUTION

Foreword. There have been and are striking parallels involving the fraudulent efforts to promote the theory of global warming and the theory of evolution. By now, the entire world has been made aware that much of the evidence supporting the theory of global warming has been based on downright fraud. Probably less evident to the general public are the instances of downright fraud used to support the theory of evolution.

The purpose of this report is to reveal some of the parallels concerning these frauds and not to advocate or oppose either theory. Some of those parallels follow:

The amount of fraud used to promote both theories has been massive.

With respect to global warming, the amount of fraud used has been massive in that it involved scientists from several countries to manipulate data. Further, the flawed data presented by Al Gore (and others) are now generally known to be inaccurate (possibly deliberately so). In other words, the fraud has been perpetuated on a world-wide scale.

With respect to the theory of evolution, the fraud has also been massive, extending to several countries, but over an extended period of time:

- In 1912, the *New York Times*, upon learning of the discovery of what has been termed the "Piltdown Man," proclaimed in a headline: "**Darwin Theory Is Proved True.**" But the discovery, it was later learned, was actually nothing more than a skull to which "a jawbone of an orangutan had been connected...Upon closer examination, it was found that the orangutan's teeth had been purposely filed down and its jaws chemically treated to make it appear fossilized and human-like."
- In 1892, Ernst Haeckel, German physician and zoologist, drew in some of his drawings representations of human embryos and embryos of the salamander and the pig side to indicate the common ancestry of man and animals, thus to provide verification for the theory of evolution. (These drawings were widely used in high school and college science books, and are probably familiar to most club members) But his drawings were considered not only misleading but also fraudulent. Indeed, at Jena, where he taught, Haeckel was charged with fraud by five professors and convicted by a university court. This is documented in a 1915 book, *Haeckel's Frauds and Forgeries*.
- Other incidents of documented fraud include "peppered moths," "Darwin's finches," "four-winged fruit flies," and others.

Ideology has been a factor motivating fraud.

With respect to global warming, it is, by now, generally acknowledged (except by the left) that efforts to curb alleged global warming are based on an ideology having as its core the distribution of wealth—primarily from America.

With respect to evolution, the ideology is varied and more complex:

- Author Benjamin Wiker reports that "Hoeckel united his Darwinism to the notion of a magic, pre-Christian, Germanic pagan past. He believed the science of Darwinism combined with the virality of German paganism could root out the contagion of Christianity, and produce a new and masterful Germany."
- It is commonly known that the theory of evolution was a needed ingredient for the cause of communism and fascism.
- Atheist Richard Dawkins said, "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist."
- Sir Julian Huxley, known as the greatest evolution advocate on earth, said, "[I suppose the reason] we all jumped at the [*Origin of the Species*] was because the idea of God interfered with our sexual mores."

Despite evidence of fraud, the theories continue to be promoted.

With respect to global warming, it should be noted that shortly before the recent Copenhagen conference, evidence of fraudulently manipulated data concerning global warming had been exposed.

Nevertheless, delegates to that conference, possibly being driven by ideology, continued to promote that theory.

With respect to the theory of evolution, it should be noted that Haeckel's drawings continued to be used for over 100 years after being exposed as being fraudulent. Similarly, the "Piltdown Man," the "peppered moths" and other "discoveries" continued to be promoted, even after being exposed as fraudulent.

Despite widespread skepticism, both theories continue to be promoted as representing a "consensus."

Despite widespread skepticism, there have been claims that both theories are based on settled "fact," need no further verification, and should no longer be questioned.

NOTES ON THE PASSING SCENE

(Some random observations on this crazy world in which we live)

IRCOT Files Law Suit. According to an item in the Peter Morrison Report, the Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas, IRCOT, has filed suit to end the practice of illegal aliens, under current Texas law, qualifying for in-state tuition at state colleges and universities, thereby paying far less than legal immigrants and American citizens from other states.

Club members may recall that in March of 2009, the president of IRCOT, Rebecca Forest, spoke at a club meeting.

Karl Rove and Wife Divorce. After nearly 24 years of marriage and one with one son, former George W. Bush aide Karl Rove and his wife, Darby, have divorced. Karl lives in Austin.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We [don't] pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States when men were free.

Ronald Reagan