

DAVIS DEMOCRATIC NEWS

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THREE ITEMS YOU NEED
TO KNOW *RIGHT NOW*:

1

KERRY FUNDS

Current campaign finance law prohibits the Kerry Campaign from using donations after the Democratic Convention (July 26-29). Other organizations can use your donations toward defeating Bush after that cutoff. If you intend to contribute to "John Kerry for President" directly, act now. Go to www.johnkerry.com or contact Yolo Democratic Campaign Headquarters for information.

2

YOLO HQ

"Headquarters? But it won't open for months." Not *this* year! With contributions from the Davis Democratic Club, Yolo HQ will open on June 1 at 507 L Street in Davis. Phone bank operations will start almost immediately. (See the Beat Bush calendar inside). The Office Opening Party will follow on June 11.

3

CHAMPAGNE!

The Annual Champagne Brunch is coming on June 6. Details can be found in the Beat Bush calendar inside. Sweet strawberries, sweet victory!

Yolo and Solano "Mega-Dairies"?

by Pam Nieberg, co-chair, Sierra Club Yolo Group

Mega-dairies are appearing in Solano and Yolo Counties, and pose environmental hazards unseen in normal dairy farms. As a result, the Sierra Club and other activists want either a ban on large contained animal facilities (CAFs) or adoption of strong environmental standards and regulations. While pondering these actions, Yolo and Solano Counties should place moratoria on large CAF construction. Solano County cities have already requested such moratoria. The American Public Health Association recently published a report recommending precautionary moratoriums on new CAFs for public health and economic reasons (posted at www.apha.org/legislative).

These animal factories pollute our air and water, threaten public health and welfare, and drive responsible family farmers out of business. A 6000 cow dairy can produce 262 million pounds of manure each year. This waste is washed into huge settling ponds and lagoons.

The liquefied feces and urine from these waste storage facilities may reach our surface and ground waters. The waste contains ammonia, pathogens, antibiotics, and hor-

mones that can enter our drinking water. The waste also produces ammonia and hydrogen sulfide that pollute our air.

Large dairies are being forced out of other areas of the state due to encroaching residential development and increasingly stiffer regulations. As a result, they wish to establish themselves in Solano and Yolo Counties. Many of these mega-dairy operators have been guilty of violations

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YOLO BEAT BUSH 2004 CALENDAR AND CONTACTS

May 21: House Party for John Kerry for President

7 pm to 9 pm. Location: Barbara Siemmons' house, 735 Oeste Drive (off 8th Street). "Backstreet Blues" jazz ensemble, a Kerry biographical short film, hors d'oeuvres, and more. Suggested donation: \$25.

May 26: Phone Bank and Volunteer Phone Training

5:30 pm to 9 pm – Drop in any time. Location: Lakeshore Apartment Clubhouse, 1175 Lake Boulevard, in the back. Contact: Julie Lacy, Beat Bush Volunteer Coordinator, 753-1075 or 400-4562. Training takes 30 minutes. When phone banking starts, you can call from the phone bank or take lists home with you.

June 2: Steering Committee for Yolo Beat Bush 2004

7:30 pm to 9 pm. Location: Yolo HQ,

509 L Street. Contact: Kevin Wolf, 758-4211. Meeting open to all willing to take a leadership role with committees or other assignments.

June 3: Phone Banking Starts

5:30 pm to 9 pm – Drop in any time. Location: Yolo HQ, 509 L Street. Contact: Julie Lacy, Beat Bush Volunteer Coordinator, 753-1075 or 400-4562. Training provided. You can call from the phone bank or take lists home with you. We have 5000 potential volunteers to call over the summer. This is fun and rewarding.

June 5: Precinct Walking and Training

10 am meet-up. Location: Yolo HQ, 509 L Street. Contact: Kevin Wolf, 758-4211. You will go out in teams to the high priority precincts. Advanced training for Precinct Captains available. Precinct walking is very rewarding.

June 6: Davis Democratic Club Annual Champagne Brunch

Food at 11:30 am, speakers/events at 12:30 pm. Location: Gregg and Marla Cook's, 3222 Shelter Cove. Contact for reservations: Betty Weir, . Pop some corks now to ensure we pop more corks in November! (Thanks to Valley Wine Co. for their help.)

June 11: Yolo Campaign Headquarters Office Opening Party

5:30 pm to 8 pm. Location: Yolo HQ, 507 L Street. Contact: Tony Gruska, 759-0428. Call Tony if you'd like to help with food, drinks, or decorations.

June 13: Yolo Beat Bush 2004 General Meeting

2 pm to 3 pm. Location: Yolo HQ, 507 L Street. This will be the place and time, every second Sunday of each month. Be there!

Dairies *from page 1*

of state and federal regulations in design, construction, and operation.

Solano County

The first CAF dairy, the 6000-cow Heritage Dairy, was rubber stamped into Solano County in 2002 with no environmental review or public outreach, as it was "an agricultural use on agricultural land." However, EPA classifies dairies of over 700 cows as industries, and they must be regulated as such.

In November of 2003, a pump on a settling pond at Heritage Dairy failed, resulting in a spill of 1.3 million gallons of liquid animal waste. The spill flowed into agricultural drains that empty into the Sacramento River watershed. In violation of state laws, there were no back-up pumps or alarms, no secondary containment, and no system to prevent lagoon overflow or leakage from

entering our waterways. The Heritage Dairy was fined \$90,000 by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the spill.

While Solano County officials continue to work on ordinances to regulate large CAFS, other mega-dairies are lining up to enter Solano County. The Henry Jongsma Dairy just reactivated its application to build a 3200-cow dairy at Bulkley and Midway Roads near Dixon. By law, the county has to process the application. Other applications are pending.

Yolo County

The Cache Creek mega-dairy was allowed into Yolo County under rules that didn't require a conditional use permit (CUP) or environmental review (EIR). County officials have since recognized the impacts of such facilities and now require a CUP and EIR for new CAFs and CAF expansions.

The Cache Creek dairy owner

wants to almost double the size of the dairy, and claims a vested right to expand based on agreements at time of the original permitting. This would exempt him from obtaining a CUP or perform and EIR on the expansion.

County staff determined the dairy did not have a vested right and recommended that the Planning Commission reject the claim, which it did. The dairy owner appealed this decision to the Board of Supervisors. Four days before the issues was to be heard before the Board, staff suddenly reversed itself and concluded that the dairy owner did have a vested right to expand after all and recommended that the supervisors uphold the appeal. They did. The Sierra Club believes this was incorrect, and urges the Board to require a full environmental review.

For more info on the mega-dairies: Pam (pnieberg@dcn.davis.ca.us, 756-6856). Online info at:

www.sierraclub.org/factoryfarms/
or www.ers.usda.gov/publications/

The March to Save Women's Lives

Women's Rights Supporters Make Their Voices Heard in the Nation's Capital

by Tina Lax

Washington, D.C.- On April 25, 2004 women's rights supporters made history in the streets. An estimated 1,150,000 people from all over the United States and 60 nations around the world converged on the nation's capital, constituting the largest women's rights march in U.S. history.

The message, intended for government policy makers, was loud and clear; the government must not interfere with a woman's right to choose by denying vital access to reproductive health care procedures. Strategically planned during an election year, march coordinators intended to show through overwhelming national support that reproductive rights is a critical election issue that candidates cannot afford to ignore.

Presidential Candidate John Kerry addressed the importance of this issue at "Women for Kerry" rally

on Friday before the March, vowing that "we will not turn back the clock in this country."

The march was organized through a coalition of seven organizations including Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the American Civil Liberties Union, Black Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, the National Latina institute for Reproductive Health, and the National Organization for Women.

Leading women spoke out, including Madeleine Albright, Hilary Clinton, Maxine Waters, Nancy Pelosi, Delores Huerte, Whoopi Goldberg among others. Sarah Weddington, the lawyer who won *Roe v. Wade* on 1973, received a standing ovation. Expressing the need to have fair judges in the Supreme Court, Weddington led the

crowd in the vow, "we will save Roe, we will protect our right to privacy."

Other essential issues impacting women's rights were addressed including elections and voting, the Global Gag Rule, women's health and family planning and the recent assault on privacy and civil liberties.

"Today was proof of a realignment – reproductive rights are human rights, and threats to them will result in potent and widespread reaction," said Glora Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Susan Sarandon addressed the crowd saying, "solidarity is one of the highest forms of love." Surveying the diverse crowd of women, men, lgbt, racial minorities, youth, elderly, abled and disabled marching in solidarity, it was clear that the March for Women's Lives was a deep expression of love and value for women's rights.

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JOIN UP, DEMOCRATS!

2004 DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

for registered Democrats who want to join or renew membership

- New Member (welcome)
- Renewal (welcome back)

*Send completed form and check to:
Davis Demo. Club, PO Box 73014
Davis CA 95617*

- \$5 Student Member
- \$15 Individual Member
- \$25 Household Membership
- \$50 Passport Member
- \$100 Donor Member
- \$200 Sponsoring Member

Name: _____

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Phone, Email: _____

Nothing is more valuable than your time. Volunteer!

- Phone Bank
- Voter Registration Tables
- HQ Staffing
- Precinct Walking
- Fund Raising
- Computer Work



His shirt says, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

Jean-Marc Leininger may look like he's just watching, but he's actually participating in the May 16 meeting of **Yolo Beat Bush 2004**. That means Jean-Marc is among the record numbers already volunteering here in Yolo County. Also among the volunteers are new Davis Democratic Club Executive Board Members Julie Lacy (top of photo) and Rhonda Gruska (left of photo).

Don't be a spectator this year.

There are so many opportunities for you to volunteer, too. As is always true in campaigns, we need those who can walk precincts, help with phone banks, and staff outreach tables at public events. If that's not your style, all levels of computer skills are needed from simple data entry on up. We're making it easier than ever for you to express your convictions with more than just your vote. Get on the playing field. You *can* help.

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