

# Northwest Democrats News



April, 2007  
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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; nwdemocrats@gmail.com

## Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> Program: District 6 City Council Candidates & NW Democrats Bylaws

Don't forget to attend our April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting when the candidates for City Council District 6, Councilwoman Delicia Herrera and Pete Galaviz, will be there to answer questions.

Ray Baray, the head of the Bylaws Committee, will present the bylaws for us, as members of Northwest Democrats, to vote on.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Luby's, 6200 Bandera Rd.

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### Special Projects

by Gene Marck

#### Eckert Rd Clean-Up: After the April Meeting

The next clean up will take place after the April meeting. We look forward to seeing the regulars plus some new faces. It is good exercise and contributes to the beauty of our community!

We are recycling the cans and bottles collected to help save the Earth.

Questions? Call Gene Marck, Special Projects Chair. Office: 614-7400; Cell 273-9201

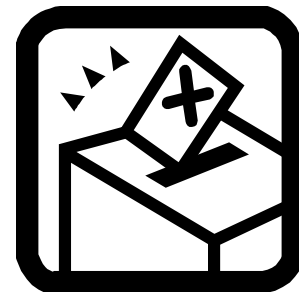
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### EARLY VOTING: APR. 30<sup>TH</sup> – MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

You've heard from the candidates and about the bond proposals, now it's time to decide.

For more information visit:

[www.bexar.org/elections](http://www.bexar.org/elections)



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## **A Few 'Joyce' Words**

by *Joyce Dorrlycott*

We often look at our teen-age grandchildren and think they take nothing seriously and are not paying attention to what is happening in the world around them. But, Easter weekend, I had the opportunity to have a long and interesting conversation with my 17 year old grandson.

We discussed the upcoming presidential election and who we each thought might win the Democratic nomination. We talked about the changes which have come about in our country since 9/11 and Iraq. And, we visited concerning our personal beliefs about what our country should be like.

The depth of his understanding and concern surprised me. He has a strong grasp of world events and what is happening to America's standing in the world. However, he expressed real doubt that there was anything one person could do to change anything.

And, so, he opened the door to grandmother's belief that each of us has the ability to affect world events. We talked about drops of water on a stone and the ways in which each of us can make a difference everyday. I told him about helping the homeless, planting trees in school yards, and all the other activities that Northwest Democrats has engaged in.

By the time, we said "goodnight", he asked if he could become a part of Northwest Democrats when they move up here in a few months. I assured him that we would be glad to have him become a part of our organization. He is only one but, perhaps if we each talk to just one young person we know at the time, we may find there are others out there that we are overlooking.

We are lucky to have several people in our organization who are working to bring younger people into our organization. So, next time you see a young person at our meeting whom you haven't seen there before, make it a point to welcome them.

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## **Constitutional Amendment Overdue**

by *Adelaide Winston*

Each time there is an election, folks are urged to get out there because "every vote counts." Well, not exactly: Remember when Vice President Gore won the popular vote but the Electoral College went the other way? Civics 101.

When the Constitution was drafted in 1787, the U.S. population was scattered over a huge territory, and communication was rudimentary, to say the least. Allan Nevins and Henry Steele Commager point out (*Pocket History of the United States*) that no one candidate would be familiar to distant populations, so some method of a common choice had to be devised. Article II, Clause 2, provides that each state "shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof shall direct "as many electors as it has members of Congress." Clause 3 explains how a vote is to determine the final choice of candidates for president and vice president. It took another decade for an amendment to provide separate votes for the two highest offices. The rest of the process is set out in detail, and we are still living with the consequences.

Vice President Gore and President Bush, you will recall, concentrated their campaigns in the so-called "swing states" because the size of their Congressional delegations meant they held the largest number of Electoral College votes. So the result demonstrates dramatically how we are still shackled by an eighteenth century system that nullifies countless thousands of votes for the opposition candidate.

A few states have introduced proportional voting, but until that system becomes universal or the Constitution is amended, countless thousands of voters in every presidential election will continue to be disenfranchised.

## Calm Down With the Threats, There's a New Congress in Town

by Jacob Middleton

Those words were uttered by none other than our new Speaker, Nancy Pelosi. But apparently, Bush doesn't want to listen.

Like a kid throwing a tantrum, he still doesn't understand that the Republicans can no longer rubber stamp his agenda. I'm glad to finally see Congressional Democratic leadership with some backbone.

If you remember, in early January, Bush invited the new Congressional leadership to the White House. This was when we were hearing about Bush possibly sending more troops to Iraq. The Democrats naturally assumed that Bush invited them to the White House to talk and work out some sort of compromise on the issue. Unfortunately, as Pelosi stated, the meeting, "...was notification, not consultation."

And just recently, Bush invited the Democratic leadership to the White House again.

This time the topic was going to be the Iraq spending bill which included the troop withdrawal deadline. This time the Democratic response was, "No Thanks."

It's nice to see it doesn't take Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid more than one time to learn their lesson in dealing with this president. Fool me once, shame you; fool me twice shame on me. That's actually how the saying goes Mr. President. But you know what, Bush actually had it right when he said, "Fool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again." You're right Mr. President, these Democrats aren't going to be fooled again.

Mr. President, you're going to have to do something you've never done before: compromise. Like Icarus the wax on your wings is melting, or has melted; so do something.

As usual, we can find so much wisdom from the greatest philosopher and political writer: Dr. Seuss. Bush is going to end up like Yertle the Turtle if he

doesn't start listening and working with the new Congress.

Like Yertle, this president does not listen; from Yertle: *"Your Majesty, please...I don't like to complain,/But down here below, we are feeling great pain./I know, up on top you are seeing great sights,/But down at the bottom we, too, should have rights./We turtles can't stand it. Our shells will all crack!/Besides, we need food. We are starving!"* groaned Mack.

But Yertle wouldn't listen and it all came crashing down: *That plain little turtle below in the stack,/That plain little turtle whose name was just Mack,/Decided he'd taken enough. And he had./And that plain little lad got a little bit mad/And that plain little Mack did a plain little thing./He burped!/And his burp shook the throne of the king!*

Mr. President, you're going to end up like Yertle: *And today the great Yertle, that Marvelous he,/Is King of the Mud. That is all he can see./And the turtles, of course...all the turtles are free/As turtles and, maybe, all creatures should be.*

And remember mud spelled backwards is dum.

### In Anticipation & Check This Out

**Saturday, Apr. 21, 2007—Northwest Democrats Meeting.**

**Be sure to check out the Northwest Democrats Official Blog.**

**<http://northwestdemocrats.blogspot.com>**

**And also check out our website.**

**[www.northwestdemocrats.org](http://www.northwestdemocrats.org)**

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