



THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

June - July

2016

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The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644

YosemiteDems.net



The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and the Mariposa Democratic Club, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

June 2016

Jun. 4: Oakhurst Club Meeting
8:30AM Denny's

Jun 11: Mariposa Club Meeting
9:00AM Miner's Inn

July 2016

Jul. 2: NO Oakhurst Meeting
NO Oakhurst Meeting in July

Jul 9: Mariposa Club Meeting
9:00AM Miner's Inn

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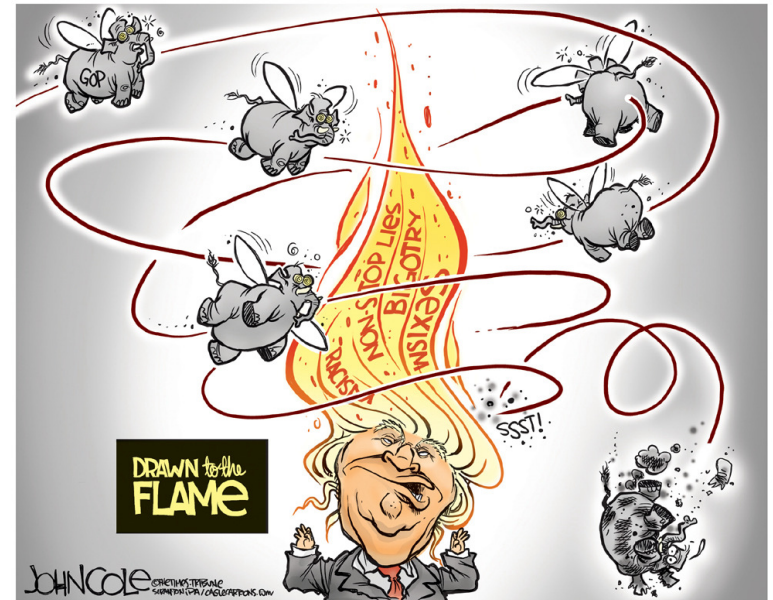
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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web pages at:

YosemiteDems.net or MariposaDemocraticClub.org



Requiescat Daniel Berrigan

By Peter Cavanaugh

How sad.

Father Daniel Berrigan has passed away at 94.

Berrigan died on April 30th at Murray-Weigel Hall, a Jesuit health care community in New York City, after a long illness. He would have been 95 on May 9th.

Father Berrigan was very influential on my old Flint friend, film director Michael Moore, and it's not that much of a stretch to suggest that Berrigan's influence on me strongly impacted my decision to unleash Mike before an unsuspecting public with "Radio Free Flint" on WTAC and WWCK-FM in the early '80s.

I was blessed having this brilliant Jesuit rebel as instructor in philosophy and theology during my years at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, an institution that I have referenced several times in recent years—usually in positive commentary on Francis, our current Jesuit Pope.

Le Moyne was named in honor of an early French Jesuit explorer and missionary to North America named Simon Le Moyne who concluded his priestly career at the wrong end of a tomahawk.

There were many studying theology and philosophy under Berrigan who would have preferred the sudden termination experienced by our school's namesake to the methodical, merciless pressures brought to bear by a true Irish scholar who would suffer no fools, especially those entrusted to his care.

"This place smells like a rabbit hutch" Berrigan would casually observe, floating into the large lecture hall moments before that clattering ring of the starting bell.

Requiescat Daniel Berrigan (continued)

Clang.

Round One!

Berrigan would peer across seventy-five faces anxiously assembled, breathless in anticipation of "the selection."

"How's our disc-jockey today?"

Seventy-four sets of lungs found heavenly union in heaved sighs of unrestrained relief.

"Our disc-jockey is fine, Father."

"Would the disc-jockey like to lead today's lesson on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans?"

"The disc-jockey would be pleased to do so, Father."

Berrigan gave me the only "F" I ever received at Le Moyne for submitting a five-page report on a book I'd never read, even though Father Carmody rewarded that same report with an A+ the prior year in freshman theology. *"This makes me pot-boiling mad!"* Father Berrigan wrote with giant red marker flourishes. *"See me after class!"*

I was wise enough to immediately confess my foolish transgression and was assigned a penance requiring me to submit a 1,000-word book report every week until the end of the semester which was a month away. After that bumpy start, Father Berrigan and I got along fine.

In my senior year, I would give him rides to the Jesuit rectory after theology instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I last saw him in

Requiescat Daniel Berrigan (continued)

1998 while I was running a radio group in Youngstown. He had come to the area on a speaking engagement, remembered who I was and asked if I'd *"actually read any books lately."*

Father Berrigan was quite enamored with French Jesuit philosopher, mystic and paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and regularly corresponded with Thomas Merton, Trappist priest and author of "Seven Storey Mountain." Merton is generally regarded as the most important American Catholic author of the 20th Century.

Berrigan made headlines when he went to North Vietnam in 1968 to bring home the first three U.S. prisoners of war. Historians would note that the Vietnam War didn't officially end until April 30, 1975.

Later in 1968, Berrigan and his brother Philip, who was also a priest and decorated World War Two hero, attracted national attention as "The Berrigan Brothers." They and seven other Catholic protesters, known as the Catonsville Nine, used homemade napalm to burn draft records they had taken from a Maryland selective service office.

Sentenced to several years in prison, Daniel Berrigan spent four months living underground before the FBI finally captured him.

Until he was well into his 80s, Berrigan was taken into custody time after time for challenging the status quo, particularly in seeking social justice and repeatedly engaging in dramatic action against the terrifying prospect of nuclear war. In 1980, he was arrested for taking part in raiding a General Electric missile plant in Pennsylvania where he and brother Philip rained hammer blows on atomic warheads and in 2006, for blocking the entrance to the Intrepid Naval Museum in Manhattan.

Requiescat Daniel Berrigan (continued)

On the day of his 80th birthday in 2001, when asked how long he would continue his bold rejection of mindless militarism with acts of civil disobedience, he told reporters, *"The day after I'm embalmed. That's when I'll give it up."*

In his final years, Berrigan's primary efforts were directed at helping AIDS patients in the New York area. In 2012, he appeared in Lower Manhattan's Zuccotti Park to support the Occupy Wall Street protesters.

He was a most uncommon man—engagingly social, intellectually dazzling and profoundly spiritual.

Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J. was the toughest—and finest teacher I ever had.

I deserved that "F."



Hillary versus Bernie

By Lucille Apcar

What began as a relatively calm and dignified contest between two candidates seems to be deteriorating into a dismaying shouting match with increasingly disparaging remarks mainly on the part of one, namely Bernie Sanders.

I take issue with Sanders' claims that Clinton is a pawn of Wall Street. He bases that assumption solely upon the substantial fees paid to Mrs. Clinton as honorarium for speeches before certain financial institutions. Taking from his opponent's own words, the sums in question were offered to her and she accepted them in good faith. They were not demanded as payment in advance. If the same were offered to Mr. Sanders, would he have declined? I doubt it.

While I consider Mrs. Clinton to be more qualified in these troubling times to assume the office of President, and capable of navigating the seemingly endless obstructionism by the opposition party, I have serious doubts that Mr. Sanders can and will perform with the same equanimity—certainly not from what I have observed thus far.

Then we have another qualification to consider. Mr. Sanders will enter the first term of his office at 75 years of age. Can we chance the strong possibility that he will be unable to complete a second term, not even taking into account the first? Let us remember a former president who started a second term at age 72 showing strong signs of deterioration. I for one am unwilling to risk it. Too much is at stake.

Under Mr. Obama's guidance, several million jobless are now employed. Several million now have health insurance, relieving the problem of indigents overwhelming our emergency resources. Yes, there is still the problem of inequality, soon to be relieved by

Hillary versus Bernie (continued)

higher minimum wage requirements. The list of his accomplishments is a lengthy one, and Mrs. Clinton is basing most of her candidacy on continuing to fight for all of these rights. I feel I should take her at her word.

And as my neighbor recently reminded me: “Hey, she's a woman.”

A woman president following a presidency achieved by a man of color! What better way to show the world the magnificent qualities of these United States of America. It is the Democratic Party that will “Make America Great Again”—some other guy notwithstanding.



Dr. Bob for Congress and the Counter-Narrative

By Ben Leet

Doctor Robert Derlet, M.D., is the Democratic Party candidate to replace the Republican Tom McClintock. I sense that many people do not appreciate the important differences between the two. I specialize in macro-economics, a difficult topic. Fortunately, in a way, we are steering towards a recession just as the national election in November rises on the horizon. Now, predicting six months into the future has its risks, and I may be wrong, but it would be fortunate if the topic were burning through the harvest fields as we approach the election season.

The narrative states: “There is no problem. If there is a problem it’s government, and there’s nothing government can do to fix the economy. Freedom works. Government is our biggest problem.”

The counter-narrative says: “We’d better get busy solving our problems, and government has the duty to alleviate the distress and injustice our economic system invariably creates.” OK? I don’t want to belabor this description.

I met Bob Derlet in Mariposa when he spoke at the monthly Democratic meeting. Previously I had sent him an e-mail with economic suggestions. He recognized me, and thanked me, and I handed him another packet of articles to read. He later sent me an e-mail requesting more. Naturally I liked that. Derlet has spent his life working as an emergency room physician, and teaching at U.C. Davis Medical Center. Understanding micro- or macro-economics was the last thing he had time for. Now it is the most important issue for our society, in my humble opinion, and the presidential contest reflects this.

Here’s a summation about our economy that will help you, the reader, understand why it’s so important: we have about 19

Dr. Bob for Congress and the Counter-Narrative (continued)

million workers out of work, about 1 in 8 adult workers. Almost 1 in 3 U.S. workers wants a full-time living wage job that pays more than \$25,000 a year. Actually 45% of our workers (or 71 million) earn less than \$25,000 a year (a Social Security Administration figure), but of that 45% about 12% are employed part-time willingly. That leaves 53 million adults, 1 in 3, who want a good-paying full-time position. The average income for that 45% of the workers is about \$11,000 a year.

Our powerful economy produces \$41,000 per capita each year (a BEA.gov figure), and that equals about \$82,000 for every worker, even the unemployed and part-time employed. Look at the inequality there—almost half of U.S. workers on average earn about an eighth of the overall average! And the CBO says that about \$100,000 is the average annual household income, while the median is \$53,000. The issues we face are inequality, low pay, and not enough jobs. This sounds like the Great Depression.

The solution in the 1930s was public jobs—public employment. Between 1933 and 1937, the unemployment rate dropped from 25% to 9.6%. Between 1940 and 1945, employment increased by 40%, fairly incredible, and the output (GDP) increased by 75% in 5 years, also incredible. Unemployment was below 2% for 2 years. This was the result of government intervening. Unfortunately the output was meant to explode and destroy (bombs and munitions), not last and serve.

It's only by denying these facts that conservatives can boast and criticize the Keynesian proposal to create public jobs. Denial of reality is a specialty of these right-wing nuts. The federal government could easily print the money to fund Sanders' or Clinton’s infrastructure and employment proposals, because the inflation rate last year was the 3rd lowest since 1933 and inflation

Dr. Bob for Congress and the Counter-Narrative (continued)

is far away. Or we could easily tax wealth, the national debt is \$18 trillion, the national private household net worth is \$86.8 trillion, a Federal Reserve figure. We have a great potential for shared prosperity—the average household net worth is over \$700,000, and annual income is about \$100,000—but only by democratically shaping the economy will we achieve this shared prosperity. We shouldn't be facing a recession. Transforming this country requires a counter-narrative.

Vote for Derlet, Dr. Bob, as I prefer to call him.

Ben's blog site is:

Economics Without Greed, <http://benL8.blogspot.com>



Oakhurst Democratic Club Activities

By Scott Hill

Our meetings continue to be spirited and interesting under Peter Cavanaugh's leadership!

On April the 2nd Rhonda Salisbury, Chief Executive Officer of the Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau in Oakhurst gave us a great presentation about a subject that is important to our community. Her talk presented a lot of surprising information about visitors and tourism in the mountain area, along with outlines of plans for the future of the Visitors Bureau.

At our May meeting Dr. Darin Soukup, Director of the Oakhurst Community College Center, spoke about how the June 7th bond issue will help us continue to serve our community's higher education needs. He outlined how the money would be used and how the area would benefit from the training and education provided.

We urge you to vote Yes on Proposition C.

On June 4th at our regular meeting place at Denny's in Oakhurst, our speaker will be Troy Pope, Editor-in-Chief of the Collegian, Fresno State's student-run newspaper. Troy's subject will be "A Millennial's Perspective on Election 2016." We might see some unusual "community participation" at this meeting, as Troy sparked a bit of controversy around Fresno and the country a few months ago.

NOTICE that we will NOT have a meeting on July 2nd. Have a safe and fun holiday!

**Want to
SAVE A TREE?**

Well OK! Maybe a Branch??



“Two Old Ones”

Photo by Ferdinand Reus from Arnhem, Holland
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Call Anne Brock (209-742-1010) for the Mariposa club, or Scott Hill at (559-658-2342) for the Oakhurst club.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) \$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Jul. 1 - Jun. 30)

___ New Member or ___ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail form and check payable to:

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