

Trio named to run the Joint

The 2010 Arlington Democratic campaign will be led by a trio of party stalwarts: County Board Member **Walter Tejada**; Precinct Ops Chair **Kip Malinosky**; and Jefferson Precinct Captain **Stacey Whyte**, who are already off and running.

The Joint Campaign is placed under a trio of managers early every year. Unlike most communities, Arlington has a minimum of two elective offices on the ballot every single year—a minimum of one County Board and one School Board seat.

The Joint Campaign chairs normally include one elected official—this year, Walter Tejada. The other two are party activists who want to take on an extra load for the year.

The Joint Campaign does not replace the campaign organizations of individual candidates, but rather supplements them. It handles things that can be done more cheaply and more efficiently if done



MALINOSKY



TEJADA



WHYTE

jointly. For example, the annual door-to-door delivery of the *Democratic Messenger*, with literature from all Democratic candidates, is a Joint Campaign and Precinct Operations effort. Outreach efforts at Metro stops and farmers markets, which promote all Democratic candidates, are similarly managed by the Joint Campaign.

Like the other Joint Campaign managers, Stacey Whyte is a transplanted Virginian. Born in New York City one day after Christmas but just in *continued on page eight*

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This is a little risqué—page five

Censored

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Don't leave home without a bazooka—page 10



Moran becomes a cardinal

Congressman **Jim Moran** became a cardinal in March. He is now the chairman of one of the 13 subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee.

Those 13 posts are considered some of the most influential in the 435-seat House and the 13 chairs are known collectively as “the cardinals.” But don’t try to kiss his ring!

Moran will now chair the Interior Subcommittee. That allows him to fully protect all the Indian tribes and national forests within the Beltway.

But the chairmanship also puts him in the thick of the climate change debate and the offshore oil and gas drilling issue.

Those are all major parts of his subcommittee’s jurisdiction.

Moran will also handle funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities also come within his ambit as well as the Smithsonian and Kennedy Center. In sum, he will now oversee funding for the environment, the arts and Indian affairs.

Moran ascended to the chairmanship as a result of the passing in February of Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, who chaired the Defense Subcommittee. Rep. Norm Dicks of Washington then took over the Defense chairmanship, vacating the Interior chair and leaving that to Moran.

Some Western land and ranching interests were scratching their chins over an Easterner chairing the

continued on page six



MORAN

Report from Chairman Mike Lieberman

A moment to remember

Sixteen short months ago, Barack Obama stood in Grant Park and reminded us that elections are not the change we seek; they are only the chance for us to make that change. With this week's historic vote on health care reform, our President made good on that promise.

Health care reform is about providing for those who cannot provide for themselves. It is about lowering costs to make health care more affordable for everyday Americans. It is about modernizing our health care infrastructure to ensure it can respond to ever-increasing demands.

It is normal these days to be cynical about politics. Indeed, you cannot help but scratch your head at the name-calling and personal attacks that all-too-often characterize our political discourse.

But as my wife and I sat watching the health care vote on C-SPAN, I was reminded that through all the noise and all the bickering, real good can happen through politics. I firmly believe that this health care package

will not only bring needed reform to the health care system; it will provide new momentum and renewed energy among Democrats to take on the many other areas in need of change in our country – environmental protections, financial reform, and a balanced budget, just to name a few.

Democrats in Arlington should feel proud that we had a role in electing President Barack Obama. The health care bill stands as a telling reminder about why we work so hard at election time. But it should also serve as a

reminder that activism does not end at the ballot box. It is our duty as Democrats to work year round, to ensure that our voices are heard by our elected officials, and to ensure that our neighbors know how important it is to get involved.

I will always remember the passage of this year's health care bill as a moment that renewed my faith in the political process. It was a moment that made me believe that the President was right when he said three simple words – Yes We Can.

This ain't no virtual chat room

Come and chat about Democratic things at the next Arlington Democratic breakfast, Saturday, April 3.

The point is simply to have an opportunity to talk about Democratic things—policies, programs, campaigning—or even Republican things—Palin, Cheney, Limbaugh.

It's a Chat Room, but with real human

beings in it.

The location is the Bear Rock Café in Shirlington. We start at 8:30 a.m. and go until about 10 a.m. You buy your own breakfast and we cluster together where we can talk. The April guest will be County Board Member **Chris Zimmerman**.

Questions or comments should be fired at CharleyConrad@gmail.com or call him at (703) 835-6614.

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ACDC approves resolutions on gays & Cuccinelli

The March ACDC meeting approved two resolutions, one backing efforts to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays and lesbians, and the other condemning Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's plan to spend taxpayer dollars to fight the decision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cite six greenhouse gases as a public health danger.

The first resolution opposed calls for still more studies of the 17-year-old policy and urged that repeal legislation be approved this year.

The second resolution called for a withdrawal of the petitions filed by Cuccinelli seeking to have the Court of Appeals review the EPA decision and overrule it.

The full text of both resolutions can be found on the ACDC website at www.arlingtondemocrats.org.

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Next Monthly Meeting

All Dems Invited

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

NRECA Building, 4301 Wilson Blvd
 Corner of North Taylor and Wilson, just east of Glebe & Wilson
 Free parking under building, enter from Taylor Street

This month is our popular annual report from Richmond, with the General Assembly members from Arlington giving you all the inside skinny on the just ended session. Their reports will be followed by Q&A.

Bumper Sticker of the Month

I want Limbaugh
to fail!

DPVA gets new exec. director

Dave Mills has been named executive director of the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA).

Mills has most recently been the finance director of the state party and has worked on several Virginia campaigns, including the gubernatorial races of Tim Kaine in 2005 and Creigh Deeds in 2009. In last year's primary campaign, Mills raised funds for Brian Moran's bid for the gubernatorial nomination.

Mills is married to Delegate Jennifer L. McClellan of Richmond.

Richard Cranwell, the chairman of the state party organization, said, "Dave has years of experience in Virginia politics and in multiple facets of campaign work. He is the right choice to lead the DPVA into a new era of grassroots party-building and cutting-edge media."

Which party favors big gov't

The GOP is always telling us how it favors smaller government with lower budgets and fewer "bureaucrats."

Really?

For the facts, go to the Office of Personnel Management on the Internet and look at the tabulation for federal civilian employment at the end of each fiscal year. That tells a very different story.

Here are the numbers showing the facts on which presidents have been expanding and which contracting the federal government over the last three decades:

1980	2,161,000	
1992	2,225,000	
	Reagan & Bush I	+ 3%
1992	2,225,000	
2000	1,778,000	
	Clinton	- 20%
2000	1,778,000	
2008	1,960,000	
	Bush II	+10%

These are the numbers for total federal civilian employment. They exclude the military and the U.S. Postal Service, which is no longer run by the president but by a board.

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Democratic Values in Action

Don't forget your toothbrush

In addition to the usual food collection, Democratic Values in Action is now looking for toothbrushes for the county homeless shelter.

Specifically, the shelter is seeking travel-size tooth brushes and toothpaste tubes. These can be found in most drug stores for about a dollar a set.

Bring them to the ACDC monthly meeting, where they will be collected and turned over to the shelter.

For the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), we continue to collect cereal, canned goods and dry food products each month at the ACDC meeting.

Richard Nixon almost recruited Rousselot

Did you know Richard Nixon interviewed former Party Chair **Peter Rousselot** for a job?

But Peter didn't go that way! The facts were learned at a recent party and a bit of roast when Peter concluded his service as Arlington County Democratic Committee Chair in January.

Friends from Arlington and beyond came together Saturday, February 27, to celebrate Peter's leadership over the past four years.

New ACDC Chairman **Mike Lieberman** served as master of ceremonies for the event, at which Congressman **Jim Moran** highlighted Peter's long career in government and politics, dating all the way back to the 1960s.

Mike led the salute to Peter for his record of accomplishment as party chairman, having achieved unprecedented electoral and party building success since 2006. And the Arlington YDs recognized Peter for his strong support for the Arlington Young Dems.

Lesser known (but now fully shared) were Peter's role in the handling of Senator Robert Kennedy's memorial service, Peter's close encounter with future President Richard Nixon (who once interviewed Peter for a law firm job—the former VP was then a high roller with a large New York City firm) and Peter's later leadership of one of America's premier law firms. The crowd was also treated to **Maureen Markham's** full accounting of Peter's late night and frequent e-mails while chairman.

In his remarks, Peter demonstrated his usual good sense by recognizing the contributions of his wife, Mary, in allowing him to give up most of their free evenings over most of the past decade in support of political and civic activities.

Peter is hardly retiring, however, as he is now taking on the chairmanship of the Arlington Moran for Congress Campaign as well as working on strategic planning for the Virginia Democratic Party. So maybe this wasn't a retirement party at all, but more of a "thank you, Peter party."

Donkey Ears

Listening to the doings of Arlington's Dems

as overheard by Dan Steen and Madi Green



Arlington Dem Expats: The time has come for Arlington County to annex Goodwin House, the retirement home at Baileys X-Roads. Annexation now! It's packed with Arlington Dems, a veritable den of expatriate Democratic volunteers with decades of experience. Yet it lies just inside Fairfax County across the street from one of the original boundary stones for the District of Columbia. (A small slice of the grounds is in Arlington already, so annexation just means reaching out a little.) The most recent Arlington Dem expats are **Jerry and Lucy Denney**, she who managed ACDC Headquarters since shortly after the flood. (Noah's, not Four-Mile Run's.) They were welcomed by established residents **Peg Lorenz**, volunteer extraordinaire, and **Peggy Fisher**, widow of the late Congressman **Joe Fisher**. They joined other stalwart Arlington Dem expats: **Dean and Connie Allard**, **Caroline Hufford Anderson**, **Bill Bozman**, **Lewis Gulick**, **Gay Hamerman**, **Stan and R.B. Neustadt**, **Bill Ratchford**, **Sue and Clem Swisher**, **Ruth Van Cleve**, **Martha and Miles Wedeman**, **Elizabeth Weihe**, **Bill and Martha Wildhack** and **Ann Yarborough**. Arlington Dems scheduled to participate in this spring's exodus to Goodwin House are **Fred Berghofer** (former ACDC chair) and his wife, Doris; **Mary Purdy**, long-time ACDC HQ volunteer; and **Ruth Singer** (former Woodlawn precinct captain) and her husband Derek. Petition your County Board to annex Goodwin House now! If we don't, we may never get another envelope stuffed again! Not to mention all those votes.

A summer vacation: While you were shoveling snow, **Voncille Trotter Hines**, Hume precinct captain, was having a fun-filled and educational 10-day trip to South Africa, where it was mid-summer. She visited Johannesburg, Pretoria, Sun City, Durban and Cape Town. Voncille and her traveling companions delivered clothing and other items to the Orlando Children's Home (orphanage) in Soweto, and presented school supplies to the Christianenberg Primary School, the first established for African children, and which is supported by the Washington, D.C., based Dr. Bettye Bouey-Yates Educational Foundation. Voncille also met the Queen Mother of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, visited Robben Island, the former prison where Nelson Mandela was held during apartheid, and much, much more.

On the mend: Membership Committee Vice Chair **Kate Mesches** is well on her way to recovery following an illness earlier this month. She thanks everyone for their well-wishes, and looks forward to seeing us at an upcoming ACDC meeting.

Our cultured elected officials! This winter, both County Board Chairman **Jay Fisette** and Congressman **Jim Moran** have been featured as hosts of the National Chamber Ensemble's concerts at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre. It's great having local politicians with a cultural bent!

Jim Mayer honored: The Virginia General Assembly passed a joint resolution, patroned by Delegate **Patrick Hope**, honoring the life of long time ACDC treasurer **Jim Mayer**, who died last July at age 72. Jim also assumed leadership roles in the Arlington United Way, Arlington Committee of 100, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, the Friends of the W&OD Trail, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.



SALLY BAIRD

Baird draws no caucus opposition— so no caucus

For the second year in a row, the annual School Board endorsement caucus has been canceled as only one candidate filed—in this case, incumbent **Sally Baird**.

Baird will now go into the November election with the Democratic endorsement. Whether she will have any Republican or Independent opponents on the November ballot will not be known until June 8, the state deadline for filing.

A caucus had been planned for May but was canceled when no one but Baird filed with ACDC by March 8.

This makes it two years in a row with no caucus (often called a firehouse primary) to stimulate Arlington Democrats. The century started with four such races—2000 through 2003—for County Board nominations. Then 2004 was a quiet year, followed by four years of contests for the School Board endorsement from 2005 through 2008, including a whopping six-person race in 2008.

Last year, no incumbent ran for School Board, but there was still no primary contest as **James Lander** drew no opponents.

Under state law, candidates for School Boards are officially non-partisan. But it is common practice around the state for both parties to “endorse” candidates for School Board on the November ballot.

AYDs auction off lots of cool dates for charity

It might have been a tad risqué, but it definitely wasn't risky, as the Arlington YDs auctioned off some of the county's most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes.

The event raised more than \$4,000 for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Guests were also urged to bring dry foods and canned goods, so that added more than 100 pounds of foodstuffs for AFAC.

The annual auction broke new ground by presenting auctionees from the LGBT community as well as your usual straight folks. It was held March 10 at the Clarendon Grill.

Partnering with Get Women Elected Now (GWEN), the auction offered a couple who went for the night's greatest price of \$900.

A lunch with former gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe drew the second largest winning bid of \$650. That was bought by Arlington YD **Chris Mehrabi**. Lunches with Rep. **Jim Moran** and Del. **Adam Ebbin** were also auctioned off.

The auction drew 300 guests, the largest attendance in the nine-year history of the AYD date auction.

The event also drew some comment and chuckles from Politico, which said “politicos can hang out and possibly form a love connection,” and from Wonkette, which snickered about “sexy tickle time.” GregsList headlined its story: “You can't buy love...Says who?”

The entry fee was just \$5 and bought a bid card and raffle ticket as well.



ATZ AMORE — Chris Tate (left) tries to dream up ways to drive up the auction price of a date with him while auctioneer Jennifer Amore keeps the crowd begging for more at the annual Arlington YD date auction.

The Cooch moves into high gear

With Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli putting his campaign pledge to change government into high gear, Democrats have been mobilizing to counter him.

The focus has been on Cuccinelli's new lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the just-enacted health care reform law.

The Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) is urging Virginia Democrats to sign an online petition telling Cuccinelli to "stop wasting our tax dollars on his political stunts," in the words of DPVA Chairman Richard Cranwell.

The petition is available at <http://www.vademocrats.org/page/s/petition>.

The office of state attorney general, said Cranwell, "is the people's law firm, not the piggy bank for his political agenda."

In the first 24 hours after the petition was launched, 8,342 people signed on.

A group of 13 state attorneys general have filed a lawsuit in Florida against the health care law. Cuccinelli declined to join and filed a separate suit, saying he based his case on the state law passed in March that bars the federal government from requiring any Virginian to buy health insurance.

Cuccinelli argued in his seven-page court filing that the new health care law is almost fascist in its scope. His suit says, "It has never been held that the Commerce Clause [of the U.S. Constitution] ... can be used to require citizens to buy goods or services. To depart from that history ... would create powers indistinguishable from a general police power in total derogation of our constitutional scheme of enumerated powers."

Cuccinelli's court filing can be found at http://www.oag.state.va.us/PRESS_RELEASES/Cuccinelli/HealthCareReformFAQs.html and click where indicated in the second paragraph.

Cuccinelli earlier filed another suit to stop the Obama Administration from ruling that carbon dioxide is a danger to public health and contributes to global warming. This makes two suits against the federal government in just two months that Cuccinelli has been in office.

Gov. Bob McDonnell has backed both suits. But on another issue, Cuccinelli went too far even for the governor. Early in March Cuccinelli wrote all the state's public universities telling them to remove references to gender discrimination from their campus non-discrimination policies. He said only the General Assembly could extend legal protection



CUCCINELLI
... going overboard

to the LGBT community.

This drew massive opposition on state campuses and substantial ridicule nationally. University administrators reportedly inundated the governor's office with objections, saying Cuccinelli's ruling would damage the state university system financially (by losing it contracts) and in terms of national respect. Within just days, McDonnell overruled his attorney general, issuing an "executive directive" to all state employees banning discrimi-



CRANWELL
... urging petition

nation based on sexual orientation. (The term "executive directive" does not exist in the Virginia code; governors normally issue "executive orders." What this new terminology means is unclear.)

And, on another issue, Cuccinelli went too far even for Cuccinelli. The attorney general said he does not believe that President Obama was born abroad, although recordings of two earlier events showed him airing the "birther" argument.

Jim Moran now one of the 13 cardinals in the House

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Interior Subcommittee, which is viewed in the West as protecting that region's crown jewels. The chairman has often been a Westerner, but not always. Before Dicks of Washington State, Republican Congressman Charles Taylor of North Carolina chaired the subcommittee.

Asked about an Easterner heading the panel, Moran mused a moment and said, "This land is your land, this land is my land, this

land is our land."

In a statement after his elevation, Moran said, "I appreciate the confidence my colleagues have placed in me to take on this role. It is a humbling responsibility. I can't imagine many things more important than playing a major role in protecting our environment and conserving our natural resources. The fact that the bill also includes funding for the arts and our Native Americans will provide me a special source of satisfaction because these are issues I care deeply about."

3 strikes in a row against GOP in Fairfax

Democrats in Fairfax County made it three victories in a row in special elections this year as Eileen Filler-Corn pulled off victory by an eyelash March 2.

The victory was no Democratic romp. Filler-Corn, 45, won election to the House of Delegates by the margin of 37 votes or 33/100ths of 1 percent with almost 11,500 votes cast.

The three Democratic victories in a row, however, show that the hand wringing of woe since last November's Republican victories statewide was grossly over-rated.

But two of the three Democratic wins were by hair-thin margins. So, what they really proved was just how important the foot-work of dedicated campaigning is.

The Republicans in Northern Virginia know that, too. After losing by a hair in a special election for a State Senate seat in February, they organized hard and skillfully to get out their base against Filler-Corn in March.

With both parties pressing the pedal to the metal, the result was an astounding turnout for a special election, which often see only a handful of dedicated partisans turn out. In November 2003, the turnout for the delegate race in this district was 14,000. In November 2007, it was 13,500. In this year's special election, it was 11,500! The campaigns by both parties were good. The Democratic campaign was a tad better.

In the ultimate irony for a special election, voters at some precincts had to wait an hour to vote.

A multitude of Democrats from Arlington braved the foul weather and piles of black-



FILLER-CORN
... newest delegate

ened snow to work for Filler-Corn.

In February, Fairfax County elected Dave Marsden to the State Senate by a margin of 327 votes, a 50.7 percent majority. Marsden actually lost the in-person vote; he won the seat because he took the absentee ballots 2-to-1, showing that the Democratic plan to work for absentee voters paid off.

The Republicans learned from that. In the Filler-Corn race (to fill Marsden's old delegate seat), she not only lost the absentee vote, she lost it badly. In fact, she won a smaller share of the absentee vote than she

won in all but a solitary precinct.

Governor Robert McDonnell was probably a key to the victory of Filler-Corn. She said she heard more from voters about McDonnell's calls for severe cuts in education funding than anything else.

The third special election was also held March 2 and was to fill a vacancy on the Fairfax County School Board from the Mason District, which lies adjacent to Arlington. There, Sandy Evans won with a more comfortable 56 percent of the vote. In the School Board vote, only 9 percent of the active voters in the district turned out; in Filler-Corn's race, 25 percent of active voters came out, reflecting the unusual emphasis and the major campaign effort undergirding the House of Delegates race.

Only 1 of 51 precincts uncovered

In what is probably an all-time record, Precinct Ops Chair **Kip Malinosky** and ACDC Secretary **Charley Conrad** have managed to recruit captains in all but one of Arlington's 51 precincts.

The sole precinct with no captain now is Shirlington in the far south of the county. If you are a Shirlington resident and would like to serve, please contact Malinosky at kipmalinosky@gmail.com.

Former Precinct Ops Chair **Warren Nelson** says that so far as he can determine this is the first time the county party has only had one precinct unstaffed.

Most precincts have slots for two captains. The largest precincts can be staffed with three captains each.

Recruiting is a continuous task with the turnover in Arlington residents such that all captaincies—currently a total of 116—have never been filled.


Captains serve two-year terms. The new term began at the start of January with just 53 percent of the positions filled. Malinosky has put a priority on recruiting and boosted the total to 72 percent by late February and to 82 percent by late March.

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Tejada, Malinosky, Whyte run the Joint

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time to give her dad a tax deduction, she moved southward for college at Towson University and then farther south to the Washington area to work after college.

Here she met and married her husband, Keith, 15 years ago. It looks like the couple is destined for Arlington for a long time. As a New Yorker, she jokes that she's not wild about moving any farther south, and as a good ole Georgia boy, Keith says Arlington is far enough north. Keith and Stacey are co-captains in Jefferson precinct.

Stacey says she has three goals in this year's campaign—first, to identify and make use of every possible volunteer; second, to make sure our candidates for Congress, County Board and School Board don't just win, but win "decisively;" and, third, to join Tejada in a major outreach to the Arlington Latino community. Stacey's birth father was

Latino and Stacey and Keith adopted a son, Ian, now four, from El Salvador in 2006. She has been a stay-at-home mom since then.

Kip Malinosky is one of ACDC's bundles of energy who became Precinct Operations chair in January. Precinct Ops and the Joint Campaign traditionally work hand-in-glove so Kip's presence on the Joint Campaign should make this even smoother.

Kip's background was detailed at length in last month's issue of *The Voice*. He is known as a master of phone banking and door-to-door canvassing. "I love the personal contact in politics," he says. "I didn't like it to begin with; you've got to get over the fear of rejection." And he did!

Kip, 29, has a bachelor's and master's from Earlham College, a small Quaker school in Indiana. He teaches at Glasgow Middle School near Bailey's Crossroads.

He says he has three goals for his role in the campaign that nicely overlap with Stacey's:

first, to win every precinct in Arlington by greater margins than last year; second, to expand the number of active volunteers; and, third, to ensure high visibility and outreach for all the candidates, a task viewed as challenging this year with no presidential, gubernatorial or senatorial candidates on the ballot.

Walter Tejada is well-known across Arlington, not to mention across the state as one of the few Latino electeds in the commonwealth. Walter was born in El Salvador and came to the United States as a 13-year-old. He was first elected to the County Board in a special election March 11, 2003.

Walter is noted for being relentless in his pursuit of greater civic participation by all citizens, an ambassador for what is known as The Arlington Way. His outreach into minority and ethnic communities is constant, and goes far beyond the many Latino communities. In 2007, the Ethiopian Community Development Council gave him an award for his work.

State taxes won't rise, but these fees go up

Drunk drivers will help balance the budget

The General Assembly has decided that drunk drivers should do their share to balance the state budget even if they can't balance themselves. It's all part of the GOP's opposition to tax increases and struggle to find a state fee it can hug.

The biggest argument in the state budget battle this year was over revenue increases. The state faced a \$4.2 billion deficit in its biennial budget and the GOP wanted to close that entirely by cutting state services.

Outgoing Gov. Tim Kaine proposed a state income tax hike to cover much of the gap, but with incoming Gov. Bob McDonnell wielding his veto power to oppose any tax whatsoever, that stood no chance.

McDonnell said he was open to fee increases if they reflected unrecovered costs of delivering the fee-based service and weren't just a gimmick to boost revenues. That link was lost in the end, as will you see in a moment.

The GOP-controlled House nonetheless approved a budget with no fee hikes at all. The Democratic-controlled Senate approved fee hikes totaling \$330 million, enough to cover 8 percent of the budget gap.

The Republicans balked in the confer-

The state GOP doesn't like any taxes; here are the fee hikes they finally agreed to accept in the budget

ence committee ironing out differences in the two budgets, but finally agreed to fee increases totaling just \$95.4 million over the two-year life of the budget. Here is the list, courtesy of *The Richmond Times Dispatch*, of all the approved fee hikes, which take effect July 1:

- The vehicle registration fee known as "\$4 for Life" increases from \$4.25 to \$6.25, raising \$25.2 million that will go to rescue squads and the Virginia State Police.
- The increase in court filing fees varies, depending on how much a lawsuit seeks in damages. The increase will raise \$19 million. The argument that the higher fee would discourage some suits appeared to be the clincher with the GOP.
- The fee to record a deed rises from \$10

to \$20, raising \$18.2 million, with the revenue going to water quality protection.

- The driver's license reinstatement fee after a suspension for driving under the influence rises from \$50 to \$100, raising \$18 million.
- Increases in environmental health services permit fees will raise \$7.56 million.
- Increases in water discharge permit fees, solid waste fees and hazardous waste fees will raise \$5 million.
- The food inspection fee on restaurants rises from \$40 to \$100, raising \$1.08 million.
- The annual fee for the Coal and Mineral Mine Safety Program rises from \$180 to \$350, raising \$857,240 over two years.
- A new apprenticeship registration fee of \$55 applies to the Virginia Registered Apprenticeship, a training system run through the Department of Labor and Industry. The fee will raise \$507,100.

On top of these fee increases, the General Assembly agreed to raise the markup on sales at state liquor stores by an additional 2 percentage points, which should raise about \$8 million over two years—assuming the drunk driving fee doubled above doesn't discourage drinking.

Keeping watch over the Tea Party:

Money replaces morals as hot button

By Kate Zernike
The New York Times
March 10, 2010

For decades, faith and family have been at the center of the conservative movement. But as the Tea Party infuses conservatism with new energy, its leaders deliberately avoid discussion of issues like gay marriage or abortion.

God, life and family get little if any mention in statements or manifestos. The motto of the Tea Party Patriots, a large coalition of groups, is “fiscal responsibility, limited government, and free markets.” The Independence Caucus questionnaire, which many Tea Party groups use to evaluate candidates, poses 80 questions, most on the proper role of government, tax policy and the federal budgeting process, and virtually none on social issues.

The Contract From America, which is being created Wiki-style by Internet contributors as a manifesto of what “the people” want government to do, also mentions little in the way of social issues, beyond a declaration that parents should be given choice in how to educate their children. By contrast, the document it aims to improve upon — the Contract With America, which Republicans used to market their successful campaign to win a majority in Congress in 1994 — was prefaced with the promise that the party would lead a Congress that “respects the values and shares the faith of the American family.”

Tea Party leaders argue that the country can ill afford the discussion about social issues when it is passing on enormous debts to future generations. But the focus is also strategic: leaders think they can attract independent voters if they stay away from divisive issues.

“We should be creating the biggest tent possible around the economic conservative issue,” said Ryan Hecker, the organizer behind the Contract From America. “I think social issues may matter to particular individuals, but at the end of the day, the movement should be agnostic about it. This is a movement that rose largely because of the Republican Party failing to deliver on being representative of

the economic conservative ideology. To include social issues would be beside the point.”

As the Tea Party pushes to change the Republican Party, the purity they demand of candidates may have more to do with economic conservatism than social conservatism. Some Tea Party groups, for instance, have



declined to endorse J. D. Hayworth, who has claimed the mantle of a fiscal conservative, in the Republican Senate primary in Arizona. But these groups find his record in Congress no more fiscally responsible than the man he seeks to oust, John McCain.

month, while celebrating the Tea Party for energizing their movement, spent much of their time talking about banning gay marriage and overturning *Roe v. Wade*. “God’s in charge,” Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota told a cheering crowd.

Tea Party leaders themselves have found it hard to keep the issues out. The inaugural Tea Party convention, organized by the social networking site Tea Party Nation, featured remarks by fervent opponents of gay marriage and abortion rights, including the Baptist pastor Rick Scarborough. And some leaders criticized Sarah Palin — normally a Tea Party favorite — for advocating “divine intervention” to help the country.

Jenny Beth Martin, the leader of the Tea Party Patriots, complained that she spent the days after the convention answering questions about social issues.

“When people ask about them, we say, ‘Go get involved in other organizations that already deal with social issues very well,’” she said. “We have to be diligent and stay on message.”

Many Tea Party members do embrace those issues. The subset of Tea Party organizations known as 9/12 groups, founded by Glenn Beck, asks members to embrace seven of nine principles, the second of which is “I believe in God and he is the center of my life.”

Some experts, like Lisa McGirr, a professor of history at Harvard and the author of “Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right,” say that the Tea Party uses a kind of code to talk about social values. For instance, when they emphasize a return to the strict meaning of the Constitution, they interpret that as a return to a Christian foundation.

“When they talk about returning to the values of the Founding Fathers,” she said, “they are talking about life as a social issue.”

Tea Party leaders champion states’ rights, holding dear the Tenth Amendment, which restricts the role of the federal government. The Independence Caucus questionnaire, for instance, asks candidates for their views on

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The New York Times

The Tea Party defines economic conservatism more strictly than most Republicans in Congress would — the Tea Party agrees about the need to do away with earmarks, but the Contract, for example, also includes a proposal to scrap the tax code and replace it with one no longer than 4,543 words (a number chosen to match the length of the Constitution, unamended.) It would limit the growth of federal spending to inflation plus the percentage of population growth and require a two-thirds majority for any tax increase.

Social issues still pack a wallop: a group of Democrats opposed to abortion rights could determine the fate of health care legislation in the House. And Republicans at the Conservative Political Action Conference last

Money replaces morals at the Tea Party

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Wickard v. Filburn, a Supreme Court decision that Tea Party groups say has been used to vastly expand federal powers. (Roe v. Wade does not come up.) So while some may oppose gay marriage or abortion, they want it left up to states to decide. Nor do they support any abridgement of the right to carry guns.

But when the Sam Adams Alliance, a Tea Party-friendly conservative organization in Chicago, surveyed 50 leaders of the movement about the most important direction for the movement, none selected social issues. Most said “budget” or “economy/jobs.”

While social conservative movements grew out of churches, the Tea Party has built its numbers online. Advocacy groups that have helped grow the movement, like Americans for Prosperity and Freedom Works, have also emphasized the importance of focusing on economic conservatism.

Raising social issues, the movement’s leaders say, risks fracturing the strength it has built. “Every social issue you bring in, you’re adding planks to your mission,” said Frank Anderson, a founder of the Independence Caucus, based in Utah. “And planks become splinters.”

They also recognize that support for gay marriage has increased, particularly among

the young, and so opposing it may alienate supporters.

At a candidate forum sponsored by the Kitchen Table Patriots in suburban Philadelphia in January, nine candidates, mostly first-time politicians seeking office after getting involved in the Tea Party, were asked whether they believed that Roe v. Wade should be repealed. Only one said yes.

“I think that it’s also going to get Democrats over, if you’re not so rigid,” said Anastasia Przybylski, the co-founder of the Patriots. “I have friends where that’s a big turnoff — they’re registered Democrats because of abortion but they’re totally freaking out about the debt.”

FROM THE VIRGINIA PRESS

Don’t leave home without a bazooka (and this isn’t just for laughs)

*The Richmond Times Dispatch
Editorial, February 22, 2010*

Let us state at the top that we believe the Second Amendment means what it says — i.e., that individuals possess the inalienable right to own firearms. We also believe capital punishment remains constitutional and that it is appropriate in certain circumstances.

Nevertheless . . .

The state confronts a perhaps unprecedented budget crunch, yet during the General Assembly’s opening days debate focused on several bills relating to guns and to a needless expansion of the death penalty.

The gun discussion had its comical (well, pathetic) side when Sen. Emmett Hanger (R-Augusta), in the words of a Times-Dispatch news story, argued that “current law prohibits law-abiding citizens from enjoying their favorite restaurants, such as Red Lobster, without the security of carrying their firearm.” Hanger spoke on behalf of his legislation to allow people to carry con-

cealed weapons into places serving beverage alcohol.

We had not realized the eating establishments in his constituency apparently are as dangerous as kabob houses in Karachi. We also, with apparent naiveté, share the sentiments of the Democratic legislator who conceded she had never been afraid to eat in a Red Lobster. [Editor’s Note: This is a reference to Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple of Arlington.] Every citizen should welcome this important lesson about lawlessness in our commonwealth. No one should leave home without a bazooka.



**Richmond
Times-Dispatch**

The latest proposed expansion of capital punishment relates to the so-called triggerman rule. Although backers make a coherent case for the idea, the supreme sanction seems to be on its way out. And we still fully expect future efforts to apply the death penalty to the second cousins, twice removed, of felons who murder while robbing stores whose proprietors fly the American flag in defiance of local homeowners’ association rules.