



Conversations About Race

By MCDCC Chair, KC Hanson

Because of this presidential campaign, I've had a number of conversations about race - not just in the sphere of political activism, but in the blue collar land where I "earn my keep". Some conversations arise because of trust that's been developed over the years; some happen because of a moment's spontaneity. I'd like to highlight a few.

"Tim" is a gentle fellow of about 57, who works 6 days a week and is solidly in the "working class white" demographic. He has an easy manner with folks; he comes across as genuine, and he really is. I've seen him work with all kinds of people, and if he's ever said anything behind their backs, its been to express concern for a particular life situation or issue they face.

Tim and were having our usual political conversation in which we fumed about the latest Bush escapade and Tim looked at me and said, "You know, KC, I'm not sure I can go there yet," meaning he wasn't sure that he could vote for a African-American man for president. He said it to me almost apologetically, and we talked for a bit, mostly, and gently, about his attitudes.

He was ready to take himself on, and he was ready for me to encourage him to do so. We talked our cultural biases; we talked about prejudice; we talked about Barack Obama. We really got somewhere, and while Tim is uncomfortable in both having the demons of racism AND confronting them, he is having the discussion.

With "Jose" I'm sure I can't have this level of conversation, so it's fortunate that I had a chat with his wife "Jan". They are a mixed race couple; Jose owns his own business, and

works his butt off. They have a son who served in Iraq, and Jan professes quietly their boy is just not the same. Jan told me that Jose, who rejects politics, has adamantly announced he WILL NOT vote for a black guy.

Using a bar stool and blog one-liner told her that he ought to vote for Barack's Kansas half. Jan, who supports Obama, laughed and said, "Don't worry, he'll vote how I tell him to, anyway."

While I was surprised when Jan reported Jose's attitude to me, I was equally surprised by "Mike," a gruff burly fellow who I'd mistakenly assumed was rather devoid of political perspectives. Out of the blue one day Mike announced that the country was "s---d" if that "a----" McCain was elected. He further elaborated that he didn't give a rat's "a--" about the color of Obama's skin. There was no question in his mind that Obama is the only logical choice.

I guess the upshot here is that we need to have the conversations, in our own way, with our own imperfections, in our own crowds. We will sometimes be disappointed and sometimes surprised.

We may have to stretch beyond our comfort zone and have a tough conversation. Sadly, there will be times when we recognize that the conversation that should happen is an impossibility. Yet there will be times when we are happily surprised by a spot-on attitude from an unusual source. This isn't just about electing one amazing candidate; it's about having that long overdue dialogue about prejudice that goes beyond the platitudes of political correctness. Yes, race IS a factor in this election, but we can and should handle it, now, and into the future.

In This Issue

- Page 1 **Conversations About Race**
- Page 2 **News - Views**
- Page 3 **Commentary - Sue Hagmeier**
- Page 4 **The Only Way To Win**
- Page 5 **Election Recommendations**
- Page 6 **Calendar**
- Page 7 **MCDCC Leadership List**
- Page 8 **General Meeting Notice**



The Multnomah Democrat Published monthly by the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee

232 NE 9th Ave
Portland, Oregon 97232
Phone: 503-248-0826
E-mail: multdems@multdems.org
Web site: www.multdems.org
Deadline for stories: 20th of each month

Letters to the editor are encouraged! Please send letters, press releases, timely notices and editorial submissions via email to news@multdems.org

- Chair KC Hanson
- Vice-Chair Susan Silodor
- Recording Secretary Travis Miller
- Communications Secretary Sue Hagmeier
- Treasurer Laura Calvo
- Historian Todd Barnhart
- State Com. Delegation Chair Deb Whitcomb

- Dist 33 Leader Lurelle Robbins
- Dist 27,31,35 Leader Dave Jackson
- Dist 36 Leader Pete Munroe
- Dist 38,41 Leader Mark Schwebke
- Dist 42 Leader Zak Johnson
- Dist 43 Leader Shirley Minor
- Dist 44 Leader Pam Arden
- Dist 45 Leader Jay Jackson
- Dist 46 Leader Bing Wong
- Dist 47 Leader Sam Kahl
- Dist 48 Leader VACANT
- Dist 49 Leader Mel Harmon
- Dist 50 Leader (Interim) John Vandermosten
- Dist 52 Leader Julie Christensen

- Fundraising Todd Barnhart
- Campaign/Gov. Liaison P. Shane Jackson
- Community Action Comm Lurelle Roberts-Lynn Dorman
- Platform/Res./Legis. Chair Gordon Hillesland
- Rules Chair Sue Hagmeier
- Newsletter Editor Mark Schwebke
- Web Site Editor Todd Barnhart

GOTV and the Great Lit Drop

We've called, canvassed, offered house parties, attended functions, and have more of all the same to go, but the final key to success this November is GOTV - Get Out the Vote. Without assuring that voters actually cast their ballots, all the prior talking means little.

With the ballots headed out to voters on the weekend of Oct 16 and 17, the Multnomah Dems will be conducting a coinciding "Lit drop" on Sat and Sun Oct 18 and 19. The literature will be a simple slate card, listing Democratic candidates and our positions on the state ballot measures.

Our theme is "Don't Stop at the Top" since the occurrence of under votes could break a particular race.

Don't Stop at the Top

The under votes, those ovals left unfilled after a voter has marked his/her presidential choice, prove to be a critical liability for down ticket races.

In the May primary, over 96,000 Oregonians cast a vote in the Presidential primary but didn't select anyone to be the Democratic nominee for Senate - and that was a hot race.

In 2006, Rob Brading could have unseated Karen Minnis had Democrats who voted in the Governor's race voted in the District 49 House seat race. In this year's general election, failing to complete the ballot could not only allow Democrats to lose races they shouldn't, but could allow a slew of bad initiatives to become law. Each one of the Citizen Initiatives (Ballot Measures 58-65) is opposed by the Multnomah County Dems.

(Not surprisingly, 7 of the initiatives were forwarded to the voters through the work of Bill Sizemore and Kevin Mannix with the financial support of Loren Parks). In brief, these initiatives are narrow-minded, costly, regressive, and intended to motivate the right wing base.

Stage One GOTV

The quick-read slate piece is the first stage in getting voters to not only pay attention to their ballots, but to encourage them to fill them out completely - and then get 'em in.

The effort required will take a bevy of volunteers, but here's the good part: you're just dropping the pieces off at the door and moving on! Easy!

Do we have to make more phone calls and participate in more canvassing. Of course we do, but getting the word out on the ballot as the ballot also gets to mailboxes is an ideal method to encourage early and proper voting.

So come be a part of this simple, but effective effort by emailing KC at... chair@multdems.org (inc. GOTV in the subject line)

October Central Committee Meeting Rescheduled to Oct. 16

To avoid conflict with the Oct. 9 debate between Jeff Merkley and Gordon Smith, the Multnomah Dems Central Committee meeting has been reset for the following week, Thurs., Oct. 16, at the Hollywood Senior Center (7pm, 6pm social hour).

The meeting will feature a presentation from Earl Blumenauer's office on the up-to-date info on the hot Congressional races. This is a great power-point presentation that shows you the names and faces of the contests in play, and will give you some idea about what the U.S. House will look like in 2009.

The Oct. meeting will be also be a work session in making final preparations for the great Multnomah Lit. drop of 2008. (see related article). The massive Lit drop. will occur over the weekend of Oct 18 and 19 - in conjunction with the ballot drop. This is a fine chance to put in a little volunteer effort and NOT be on the phones! (Although your phone time is still greatly needed at any other time!) And, yes, we could use you during the weekend, as well!

Merkley Debate, New Gresham Office

The first Senatorial debate on Oct 9 is provides a perfect opportunity for a House Party. The race is a virtual dead heat with the latest polling showing Jef Merkley edging ahead of Smith. Keeping the pressure on through our support of Jeff will be critical to his victory in November

Go to www.jeffmerkley.com or call the Portland Campaign Office 503-274-4439 and they can set you up.

The new Merkley Gresham office is open at a wonderful location on 1304 E Powell Blvd, just east of Cleveland. (south side of Powell - look for the big Merkley sign)

Contact the East County office at 503-328-8477 or email Farley Griner at farley@forwardoregon.org. Volunteers are needed and times are VERY flexible.

Senator Monnes-Anderson in Tightening Race

When helping out in Gresham, we can't forget our Gresham Senator from Dist 25, Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson. Political newcomer and John Lim protege David Kim has the backing of significant donors and the race for the senate seat has become a horse race.

Keeping this seat in Democratic control is important for our legislative success, particularly with Laurie, who is a strong advocate for health care and education, so please give her a hand: www.lauriemonnesanderson.com or call 503-665-5975.

Where Am I, And Why Are The Lights So Bright Here?

I've read that in a casino, money is referred to as "product." That concept, that money is a product, the product, permeates our economy, and is at the core of the current "troubles." That's right, the American economy is being managed like a casino. The house is the only player that always wins, and we're not the house.

Any calculation of what we owe, what we pay and how our income and wealth has changed necessarily lowballs our obligations, overstating the financial health of most Americans. Even someone with no mortgage and no credit debt of their own pays debt service all the time, to over-leveraged utilities and other companies.

More ominously, as real income stagnated or fell, the housing market seemed to shore up homeowners' wealth. Middle class workers were given credit instead of pay.

What happened? What characterizes the transformation of our economy is that it is designed now to concentrate wealth and then remove it from meaningful circulation, not to produce goods and services, and not to support the well-being of those who do.

Deregulation first of natural resource extraction, then of media ownership, then of utilities, and finally of banking and insurance and all things financial gave these groups license to sell nothing for something.

First, we define a corporation's fiduciary responsibility as being owed only to the shareholders. Then, the Ken Lays of the world combine greed with duty to do whatever it takes to maximize their take.

This isn't a new concept. It's colonialism with computers. It's what colonizers did every time they conquered and occupied a land and people. It's an extraction economy, but the resource being extracted is the wealth of the middle class instead of natural resources.

In the Northwest in the '70s and '80s timber companies colonized us when they figured out that they could make more money by shutting down our mills while continuing to clearcut our forests, and then by shipping the raw logs elsewhere to be finished and sold.

Then, realizing that the way to make big money was to sell nothing for something, Enron colonized us, because they could extract more money by selling less electricity. And they exploited tax and rate regulation loopholes to ship even more "product" to Texas. We are colonized by Walmart, coming to

our cities and towns to extract "product" and ship it back to Bentonville. And the oil companies know they have us over a barrel. They make more money selling less oil. They want more leases not to drill for more oil but to list them as assets, to both inflate their stock prices and to generate more "product" by borrowing against those assets.

Bankers figured out how to sell essentially fictional funds, making the whole financial system into a pyramid scheme.

Insurance companies figured out that they were in the business of making money, not providing protection. If they could collect premiums, play around in the games the banking industry invented, and deny claims, they could generate lots of "product."

Media? Media "consolidation" was funded by borrowing. That led to cost cutting as every outlet had to pay debt service. This led to the death, or at least morbidity, of local news.

And then there's government money. They see those big pots of "product" in public funds and they want to get some. Let's privatize schools, the military, prisons, roads and anything else we can think of. Then, when we get inferior service for the cost, we can blame the invisible hand of the market.

The Wisdom of the Market was preached like a religion. Seriously, like a religion. No evi-

dence, but you have to believe.

The tax system increasingly rewarded ("incentivized?") investment more than work. As corporations and investors paid a smaller share of taxes, ordinary workers picked up the slack or saw the benefits that taxes buy deteriorate or, usually, both.

Along the way usury, once a sin, became a virtue as credit became central to the economy. Stockbrokers made the economy "vibrant" while teachers and school custodians "fed at the public trough." No, the monetary rewards of exploiting this economy were not enough. Gordon Gecko had to claim to be a saint, too, morally better than us shmos who don't have what it takes to play in his league.

And now we're looking at "bailouts." The common good wasn't being looted fast enough by a war built for profiteers. It wasn't being looted fast enough by usury. Not fast enough by looting our health.

It wasn't enough to privatize funds the government already had. No, now the plan is to shore up this Ponzi scheme with invented/borrowed money.

Privatize and concentrate wealth and gain, and socialize obligation and loss. What the hell does that have to do with democracy?



THE ONLY WAY TO WIN

GET UP, GET OUT, GET GOING

There's only one way to win the upcoming election...GET UP, GET OUT, GET GOING. Work for a candidate, a campaign, an initiative effort, or write a letter. But work. It's been a really long campaign season, too long, perhaps, and yet we're now only a few weeks away from the finish line. This isn't the time to give in to fatigue or burnout, but to push ourselves that last mile to ensure success on November 4.

Think of what's at stake. On the national front as well as here at home in Oregon, we're facing issues that will impact the economic welfare of all of us as well as the very survival of the democratic principles our country was built on.

We have volunteer opportunities for anyone who's ready to pitch in: phone banking from the office, SEIU, campaign headquarters in Portland and east county and from your own home, too. Canvassing. Writing letters to the Editor. And we've got a lit drop coming up which is really easy and fast...and you don't even have to talk to anyone on the doorstep! We need you now. For the upcoming election and to

keep the party strong and influential after Nov. 4, when the state legislature comes back into session stronger than ever with a significant Democratic majority, Barack Obama takes the oath of office and the new Congress is sworn in.

Volunteering can be hard work, but the rewards are great. You can take credit for getting your candidates elected and your issues addressed; you become part of something greater than yourself; you meet a lot of interesting people and learn more than you imagined (or might have wanted to know) about political process and group dynamics...and you get fed. Of course, for some of us it also demands a step outside our normal comfort zone. But YOU CAN DO IT, we can all do it and we must all participate if we're to keep our democratic ideals alive.

It's time to take back our government and make it work for us, rather than the other way around. This election is critical. So ask yourselves, if not now, when? And who among us can afford to sit back and not take action?



MCDCC Ballot Measure Recommendations

Measure 54

Yes

Allows 18 year olds to vote in school board elections.

Measure 56

Yes

Eliminates “double” majority. Allows voters to decide spending issues in major elections.

Measure 57

Yes

A tough, smart measure to reduce property and drug crime.

Measure 58

No

Bill Sizemore dictating how to teach students who are learning English.

Measure 59

No

Bill Sizemore's tax relief for rich people. Would Cut up to \$2.4 billion from State budget, gutting education and public safety.

Measure 60

No

Bill Sizemore's dictating how to evaluate and pay teachers, eliminates cost-of-living raises.

Measure 61

No

Expensive and ineffective. Requires State debt to build and operate more prisons. Fails to address causes of crime.

Measure 62

No

Diverts lottery funds away from schools and economic development to fund new crime programs.

Measure 63

No

Bill Sizemore's proposal to allow unsafe construction.

Measure 64

No

Bill Sizemore seeking to silence the voices of working Oregonians and nonprofit organizations.

Measure 65

No

Measure 65 would disable Party voters from choosing the Party's nominee. Candidate fields in primaries could be severely limited rather than expanded. Flawed initiative would have unintended consequences. T

MCDCC County and City Endorsements

Multnomah County Commission:

District 3, Co-endorsements: Mike Delman, Judy Shiprack
District 4, Carla Piluso

Portland City Council, Position 1:

Co-endorsements: Amanda Fritz, Charles Lewis

Gresham City Council:

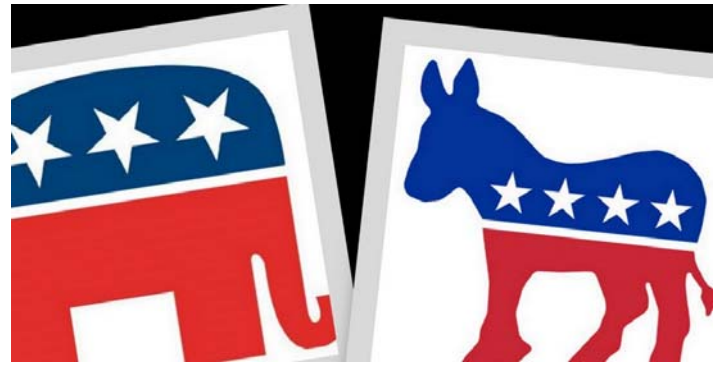
Position 1: Jenni Simonis
Position 3: Shirley Craddick

Local measures:

26-95 PCC Levy
26-98 Gresham Police Services Levy

Mult Dems Monthly Calendar

See www.multdems.org for ongoing updates



Tight Races:

US Senator Ron Wyden's Forum on Senior Issues

Oct 8, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

US Senator Ron Wyden is holding a forum on Senior issues with State Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and Gresham Firefighter Greg Matthews, HD50 candidate. Come and share your opinions on what matters most to East County Seniors. To reserve your place, please contact Andy Darkins at 503.665.5861. Gresham Manor Retirement Resort, 2895 SE Powell Valley Rd. Gresham, OR

Willamette Women Dems Host Gen. Tony McPeak

Oct 9 2008, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Willamette Women Dems' Speakers' Forum hosts General Tony McPeak, national speaker for the Barack Obama campaign. The event is open to the public, tkts \$12 for members, \$14 public, reservations made to Patricia Rovainen, 503.656.4445. Light refreshments served. For further info, email n.murray.01@hotmail.com, or call her at 503.635.6456. Oswego Lake Country Club, 20 Iron Mountain Blvd. Lake Oswego, OR

Voter Registration Deadline- General Election

Oct 14 2008

Voter Registration Deadline for the General Election; check with your local county elections office.

MCDCC Monthly Meeting

Oct 16, - 6:00pm social, 7:00pm business meeting
Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th, Portland

Ballots Mailed

Oct 18 - Due back by election day Nov 4th
Ballots Mailed for the General Election

The Great DPO / MCDCC Lit Drop Of 2008

Oct 18, Time and Locations - TBA

"State of Change" Candidates' Tour in Portland

Oct 18 2008, 5:00pm - 6:00pm Location TBD

The "State of Change Tour" comes to Portland, territory of Multnomah CO Dems, with candidates: Brad Avakian, Kate Brown, John Kroger, and Ben Westlund. Please turn out to meet and support our state-wide candidates, who are coming to meet you!

General Election Day

Nov 4

Election Information

How do I register to vote?

How can I check if I am registered?

I think my ballot is lost.

What if I screwed up my ballot?

Contact the Multnomah County Elections Office.

They'll have all the answers, and they'll be glad to help you fix any problem.

US Senate: Jeff Merkley,

Portland: 503-274-4439, Gresham: 503-328-8477
www.jeffmerkley.com

US Congress , 5th District: Kurt Schrader,

503-723-6174 www.kurtschrader.com

Senate District 25, Sen. Laurie Monnes-Anderson,

503-665-5975 www.lauriemonnesanderson.com

House District 38, Chris Garrett,

503-210-2474, chrisforegon.com

House District 49, Nick Kahl,

503-481-7264, www.nickkahl.com

House District 50, Greg Matthews,

503-665-5179 www.electgregmatthews.com

House District 51, Brent Barton,

503-656-0792, www.votebrentbarton.com

House District 52, Suzanne VanOrman,

541-386-1034 www.votevanorman.com

Not as Tight, but need our help, too:

Sec. of State, Kate Brown

503-222-3366,
www.katebrownfororegon.com

House District 35, Larry Galizio,

503-236-8929, www.larrygalizio.com

Help These Candidates !!

All of these races are winnable. It's going to take all of us helping these great Democrats out. We might not have the money, but we've got the people to get this done!!

MCDCC Leadership List

OFFICERS

Chair	KC Hanson	503-312-1970	chair@multdems.org
Vice Chair	Susan Silodor	503-310-5253	vicechair@multdems.org
Recording Secretary	Travis Miller	503-248-0826	recording@multdems.org
Communications Secretary	Sue Hagmeier	503-236-4005	communications@multdems.org
Treasurer	Laura Calvo	503-248-0826	treasurer@multdems.org
Historian	Todd Barnhart	503-248-0826	historian@multdems.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fundraising	Todd Barnhart	503-248-0826	budgetchair@multdems.org
Campaign & Gov. Liaison	P. Shane Jackson	503-248-0826	campaignchair@multdems.org
Community Action Comm.	Lurelle Robbins and Lynn Dorman	503-248-0826	info@multdems.org
Platform, Resolutions, Legis. Rules	Gordon Hillesland Sue Hagmeier	503-248-0826 503-248-0826	platformchair@multdems.org ruleschair@multdems.org

STATE DELEGATION

Delegation Chair	Deb Whitcomb	503-248-0826	statechair@multdems.org
------------------	--------------	--------------	-------------------------

DISTRICT LEADERS

Dist 33	Lurelle Robbins	503-248-0826	33leader@multdems.org
Dist 27,31,35	Dave Jackson	503-246-6827	27leader@multdems.org
Dist 36	Pete Munroe	503-248-0826	36leader@multdems.org
Dist 38,41	Mark Schwebke	503-963-8214	38leader@multdems.org
Dist 42	Zak Johnson	503-248-0826	42leader@multdems.org
Dist 43	Shirley Minor	503-248-0826	43leader@multdems.org
Dist 44	Pam Arden	503-289-9475	44leader@multdems.org
Dist 45	Jay Jackson	503-253-1611	45leader@multdems.org
Dist 46	Bing Wong	503-771-3215	46leader@multdems.org
Dist 47	Sam Kahl	503-248-0826	47leader@multdems.org
Dist 48	VACANT		48leader@multdems.org
Dist 49	Mel Harmon	503-975-1139	49leader@multdems.org
Dist 50	John Vandermosten	503-248-0826	50leader@multdems.org
Dist 52	Julie Christensen	503-695-2474	52leader@multdems.org



www.multdems.org



inside
the party



news
& action



in the
blogs

Visit the always improving party website at www.multdems.org today for updates on coming events and party information. Sign in or create an account for access to all the site has to offer!

Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee
232 NE 9th Avenue
Portland OR 97232
“Dedicated To Making People’s Lives Better“
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO. 2526

MCDCC General Meeting

Thursday, October 16th
Multdems welcome

Multnomah County Dems meet monthly
on second Thursdays.

6pm: Social Hour, Light meal available.
7pm: Business meeting

The meeting will feature a presentation from
Earl Blumenauer’s office on the up-to-date
info on the hot congressional races. We will
also discuss final preparations for the great
Multnomah Lit drop of 2008

1820 NE 40th Ave., Portland 97212,
just north of Sandy Blvd.



State of Change TOUR FOR 2008

“State of Change” Candidates’ Tour Coming To Portland & Gresham

The “State of Change Tour” comes to
Portland, territory of Multnomah CO
Dems, with candidates: Brad Avakian,
Kate Brown, John Kroger, and Ben
Westlund.

**Please turn out to meet and support
our state-wide candidates, who are
coming to meet you!**



*Portland Oct 18 2008
5:00pm - 6:00pm, Location: TBA*

*Gresham Oct 21 2008
6:00pm - 9:00pm, Location: TBA*