

WOLF BLITZER: jack cafferty is here with "the cafferty file."

JACK CAFFERTY: joe **BIDEN'S** recent gay marriage gaffe, is the latest example of the vice president stepping in it. we love it when he does that. some are beginning to wonder if **BIDEN** is the best running mate for obama in what's shaping up to be a close contest against mitt romney. republicans have made a strategy out of targeting **BIDEN**, they're following him along the campaign trail hoping he'll slip up. A source close to Romney told politico, **BIDEN** say ticking time bomb, who knows what he'll say. they describe the veep as the chink in the armor. **BIDEN'S** off-script remarks are legendary. remember when he called obama care a big f-ing deal on microphone? when he described then-candidate obama as clean and articulate in an interview, lovely. democrats insist romney is the best surrogate for the president. he connects with working class voters in a way that the sometimes aloof candidate just can't. also joe **BIDEN** is a great attack dog who goes after obama in a way they might not want to. Just yesterday **BIDEN** said romney's time in private equity didn't call him for the white house any more than being a plumber would. meanwhile, if you listen carefully, the calls for a vice president hillary clinton, they're out there. you can hear them. clinton's approval numbers are through the roof and some suggest that with romney possibly closing the gender gap and gaining among women, president obama should dump **BIDEN** for clinton the ticket. it probably won't happen, but stranger things have happened and it's politics. here's the question. joe **BIDEN**, asset or liability for president obama. go to cnn.com/caffertyfile and post a comment on my blog or go to the situation room's facebook page. i love **BIDEN**, but i can see where he makes the president's people nervous.

BLITZER: even the president was ahead of the skis on the whole issue of gay marriage and had to force the president to accelerate. i think the president was going to endorse gay marriage at some point, but he obviously accelerated the timeline. in the recent interview he gave the vice president, he made it clear he is definitely on the ticket. he's not going anywhere. you know what else is possible out there? at least i hear it from sources at the white house is and elsewhere. he is even thinking potentially in 2016, running for president again. that would not necessarily be out of the question, jeff.

CAFFERTY: you know what? he might even be electable and on the political landscape. the guy speaks in plain english and you ask him a question and he doesn't couch it in positions or political speak and to quote a phrase he's the guy i'd like to have a beer with.

BLITZER: i've known him for a long time and he's a great guy and he'll be around for a while.

DIGITAL MEDIA

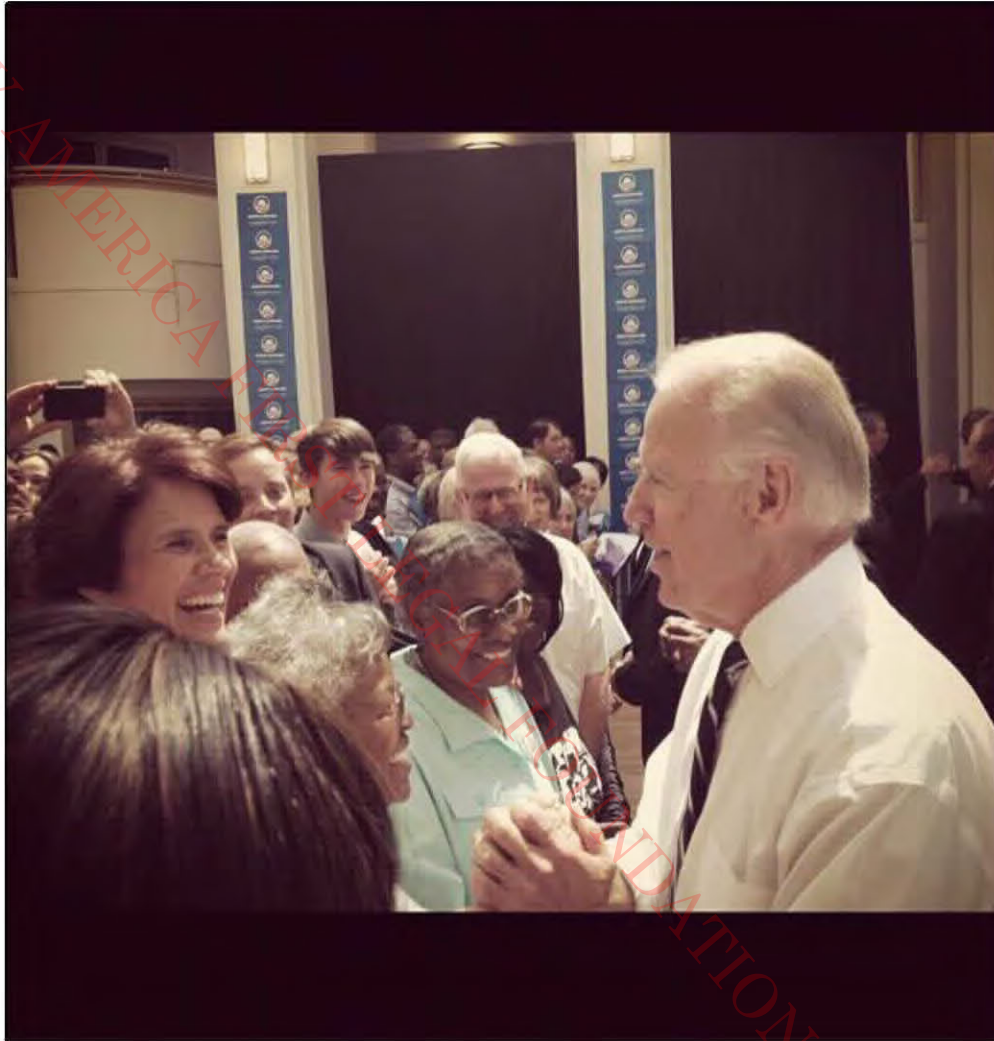
TWITTER – May 24, 2012

@OFA_NC: @joebiden rallied @ofa_nc in Charlotte today and was greeted with big crowd chanting "Fired up, Ready for Joe!"
<http://pic.twitter.com/DgTxmlyw>



FACEBOOK- May 24, 2012

Obama for America - North Carolina: Vice President **BIDEN** visited Charlotte to rally Obama for America - North Carolina volunteers, who greeted the VP with a chant of “Fired up, ready for Joe!”



Person, Fran

25 May 2012 19:15:36

To: hurricane5155@gmail.com, 261penn@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com, [P6/b(6)], ashley.biden@state.de.us, [P6/b(6)], jill.tracy2@gmail.com,[P6/b(6)], jbiden@lionhallgp.com, sbiden@lionhallgp.com,[P6/b(6)], [P

Cc:

Bcc:

The VP

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Mar 18 15:28:42 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

redaction of personal email addresses

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Hunter Biden

31 Aug 2010 18:16:35

To: Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)

Cc: Beau, Smith, Michele,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "bbiden@comcast.net" [personal email address], [personal email address], "Smith, Michele

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Feb 26 13:05:55 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

20 Jul 2012 12:40:26

To: [personal email address]

Cc: Hallie Biden [personal email address], "Valerie Biden Owens, Hunter Biden,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], Chung, Kathy, Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 11:38:15 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

CONTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Person, Fran

02 Nov 2010 15:18:01

To: [personal email address], "261penn@gmail.com", "hbiden@rosemontseneca.com", "eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com", [personal email address], [personal email address], "valerie.o@joesladewhite.com", [personal email address]

Smith, Michele

Cc:

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Feb 26 13:43:54 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

08 Oct 2012 04:20:06

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, hurricane5155,

[personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:51:03 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECOVERED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Missy Owens" [personal email address]

24 Oct 2012 18:51:59

To: Valerie Owens

Cc: Molly Magarik [personal email address], [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, Ashley Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], "Howard Krein [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Fri, Mar 08 14:27:06 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

CONTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Alexander Snyder-Mackler" [personal email address]

02 Nov 2010 19:52:34

To: Person, Fran, Person, Fran

Cc: 261penn@gmail.com, "hbiden@rosemontseneca.com", "eschwerin@rosemontseneca.com", [personal email address], [personal email address], "valerie.o@joesladewhite.com", [personal email address], [personal email address], Michele

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Feb 26 14:01:05 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

CONTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

13 Nov 2012 16:39:44

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], [personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Valerie Owens, jack owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Ted Kaufman [person Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 09:43:56 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

15 Jun 2012 17:27:36

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "valerie.o@joesladewhite.com", "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], [personal email address], "Ted Smith, Michele, Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Smith, Michele

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 11:09:32 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

23 Oct 2012 01:04:00

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], "Valerie Owens,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address]

Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:18:16 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Alexander Snyder-Mackler" [personal email address]

15 Sep 2010 00:06:32

To: Ted Kaufman [personal email address], "Mike Donilon [personal email address], "Valerie Biden Owens, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin, Missy Owens [personal email address], "Smith, Michele, Smith, Michele

Cc: Beau Biden

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Feb 26 13:13:59 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

23 Oct 2012 02:43:12

To: "Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

Cc: Hallie Biden [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], "Valerie Owens,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:18:52 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Smith, Michele

10 Jan 2011 15:49:26

To: bbiden@comcast.net, "Beau, Hunter Biden,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Hallie Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)

Cc: Anne Marie Person

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Feb 26 14:19:37 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

05 Nov 2012 23:42:44

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], [personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Valerie Owens, jack owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Ted Kaufman [person Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Fri, Mar 08 14:41:21 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

26 Aug 2012 16:18:03

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden,

hu_ricane5155@gmail.com", "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "T
Mike Donilon [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Michele Gioffre Smith [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy

Cc:

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:28:51 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Sun, 17 Oct 2010 08:41:29 -0400
From: "Hoffman, Alan L." <alan_l_hoffman@ovp.eop.gov>
To: hbiden@senecaga.com
Subject: Fw: Vice Presidential News Clips for Sunday, October 17, 2010
[VPNewsClips101017.doc](#)
[VPNewsClips101017.pdf](#)

Can't promise I will think of you everyday. As unimaginable as that might be.

----- Original Message -----

From: Bulletin News <VP-Editors@BulletinNews.com>

To: Alexander, Elizabeth; FOIA-6

Cc: Escudero, Adrian V.; Hoffman, Alan L.; Tomasini, AnnMarie; Bernal, Anthony R.; Blinken, Antony J.; Doorenbos, Bobbi J.; Woyak, Brian J.; McKeon, Brian P.; Russell, Catherine M.; O'Donnell, Courtney; Hogan, Cynthia C.; DL-OVP-National Security; Martens, Donald R.; Hire, Elisabeth; Oxhorn, Liz; Allen, Elizabeth M.; Ryan, Evan M.; Person, Fran; Ziskend, Herbie; Carney, James F.; Bernstein, Jared; Wolfsthal, Jon B.; Tejada, Jose; Prescott, Jeffrey; O'Connor, Kevin C; White, Kirsten B.; Suber, Kellen C.; membersOVPVPMILAIDE@whmo.mil <membersOVPVPMILAIDE@whmo.mil>; Smith, Michele; Page, Shelly; Orloff, Nancy; Isaac, Nicole M.; Selfridge, Peter A.; Klain, Ron; Swan, Ryan S.; Fletcher, Sarah; Rosenthal, Sarah L.; Mayer, Shawna S.; Henry, Sudafi; McSweeney, Terrell P.; McNulty, Thomas P.; Dirksen, Ward F.
Sent: Sun Oct 17 05:20:52 2010

Subject: Vice Presidential News Clips for Sunday, October 17, 2010

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF

DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010 -- 7:30 AM EDT

-----TODAY'S EDITION-----

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES:

- + Christine O'Donnell's Ads Buy National Attention To Delaware Senate Race (WILNJ)
- + Angry On The Right. Beleaguered On The Left. Disappointed In The Middle. (WILNJ)
- + Christina Investigated For Discipline Bias (WILNJ)
- + Renowned Delaware Money Manager David Baldt Faces Insider-Trading Charges From '08 (WILNJ)
- + Phillies Get No Magic From Halladay In Game 1 (WILNJ)

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIALS:

- + Voters Rightly Angered At The System's Failures (WILNJ)

BIDEN IN THE NEWS:

- + Biden: GOP On Deficits Is Like An Arsonist Becoming Fire Marshal (HILL)
- + Vice President Joe Biden Scheduled To Campaign For Harry Reid On Wednesday (RGJ)
- + Biden To Campaign Wednesday For Reid In Reno (AP)
- + Lincoln In Lonely Uphill Race In Arkansas (NYT)
- + Biz Solidly In Boxer's Corner (VARIETY)
- + Schauer, Walberg Disagree On NAFTA (JCP)
- + Heck, Herrera Sprint For The Hill (VACOL)
- + State Department Condemns East Jerusalem Building (JERP)
- + PM's Office: Construction Plans In East Jerusalem Are Nothing New (HAAR)
- + Bill Clinton Back Out Campaigning "For Everybody That Helped Hillary Run For President" Against Obama (TEL)
- + Hillary Clinton To Run For US President's Office In 2016? (PTI)
- + Jill Biden: Vice Prez Means No Privacy (NYPOST)

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES:

CHRISTINE O'DONNELL'S ADS BUY NATIONAL ATTENTION TO DELAWARE SENATE RACE (WILNJ)

By Ryan Cormier

Wilmington News Journal, October 17, 2010

During Wednesday's nationally televised debate with Chris Coons, Christine O'Donnell was on the receiving end of a blunt question from CNN newsman Wolf Blitzer: "What were you thinking?"

The question came toward the end of the 90-minute debate and the topic was O'Donnell's first TV campaign ad, during which she famously proclaims, "I'm not a witch."

"To put it to rest; to put it behind me," O'Donnell answered, referring to an old clip of her on Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect" saying she had "dabbled into witchcraft."

Before O'Donnell changed the subject, Blitzer continued, "But didn't you realize if you do that in a commercial it would just revive it and everybody would be talking about that?"

The answer, undoubtedly, is yes. Everybody is talking about that ad: her black dress, white pearls and straight talk.

"I'm nothing you've heard. I'm you. None of us are perfect. But none of us can be happy with what we see all around us."

O'Donnell's "I'm you" ad just might be the most memorable of the 2010 election cycle.

Since it aired on Oct. 4, political advertisements from the pair have heated up, with Coons targeting O'Donnell's "I'm you" slogan by launching the website christineisnotme.com, complete with "Not me" icons supporters can re-post on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

"Tell Christine O'Donnell: You are not me ... unless you think the retirement age for Social Security should be raised, want to further deregulate Wall Street, are against a woman's right to choose even in cases of rape or incest, think public schools should teach Creationism and think homosexuality is an 'identity disorder.' "

O'Donnell responded with her own website, coonsthetaxman.com, tied to a pair of theatrical ads labeling Coons as "The Tax Man" who's "taxing everything out here."

But no other Delaware political ad has ever received more attention than O'Donnell's "I'm not a witch" proclamation, said David Bass, assistant media archivist for the University of Oklahoma's collection of political advertisements, which includes more than 90,000 radio and television spots.

"Beginning the first spot of your general campaign saying, 'I'm not a witch,' is certainly unique," he said. "We don't have anything like that in the 90,000 spots we have."

The reaction was instant. David Letterman aired his own version of the ad on his CBS show, with O'Donnell transforming into a demonic beast surrounded by fire as she denied being a witch. He also dedicated his nightly Top Ten list to her: "Top Ten Bad Campaign Commercial Opening Lines."

A few days later, "Saturday Night Live" had a parody with Kristen Wiig re-creating the commercial, but adding the line, "Isn't that what the people of Delaware deserve? A candidate who promises first and foremost that she's not a witch? That's the kind of candidate that Delaware hasn't had since 1692."

It was that parody that was on O'Donnell's mind during the debate when she interrupted Coons at one point to say, "You're just jealous that you weren't on 'Saturday Night Live.' "

Coons responded, "I'm dying to see who's going to play me, Christine."

What does slogan mean?

Nestled between the laughs and jokes are some striking words of praise for the advertisement, which was created by Fred Davis and his Hollywood-based Strategic Perception Inc.

Roy Peter Clark, a senior scholar at The Poynter Institute, where he has taught writing since 1979, wrote an opinion column for CNN.com earlier this month defending the much-parodied ad.

"That sentence, 'I'm you,' may be the shortest and most soulful in the history of American electioneering, sounding more like philosopher Martin Buber's existential 'I and Thou' than Barack Obama's 'Yes we can,'" he wrote.

In this hyperpartisan election year, Clark said, he received plenty of complaints about his column praising the ad. But he's used to it. Earlier this summer, he also wrote a column for CNN defending

Sarah Palin's use of "refudiate" in a Twitter posting about the proposed mosque near ground zero in New York.

"You want skepticism in a democracy, which is what I try to apply even to people whose politics I dislike," Clark told The News Journal. "As opposed to cynicism, which just assumes from the start that everything that comes out of the opponent's mouth is a lie."

Clark was not alone in his praise of the ad. Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert -- no fan of O'Donnell -- also gave it kudos online.

But Harris Ross, associate professor of film and journalism at the University of Delaware, thinks they are both off. He said the ad reassures her supporters but fails to reach out to everyone else. And with the most recent poll by the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication showing Coons with a 21-point advantage over O'Donnell with just over two weeks until the election, she needs to focus on outreach, he said.

"The question that people have about Christine O'Donnell is not whether she's a witch. I think for most people that's neither here nor there -- it certainly is for me," Ross said. "But it's, 'Does she have the intellectual heft to do the job?' And the problem with the ad is it's remarkably empty. 'All she says is, 'I'll go to Washington and do what you would do.' Well, what does that mean? It means absolutely nothing."

With all the attention -- most of which came in the form of punch lines and parody -- O'Donnell is no longer unknown to Delaware voters and she has fashioned a national identity.

"There's the old adage, 'Any publicity is good publicity.' Everybody is talking about you and your campaign and they wouldn't be if it had been a different kind of commercial," Bass said.

More negative ads

Even as the pair sling charges back and forth in ads and during debates, neither wants to be seen as going negative. At a debate at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington on Thursday, they were asked about "The Delaware Way" of civil politicking. O'Donnell took the opportunity to say, "I would ask that the negative ads, the slanderous ads against me stop."

With no primary opponent, Coons ran mostly under the radar until September. O'Donnell's Tea Party Express-backed run against US Rep. Mike Castle, though, was one of the most nasty in recent Delaware history. At one point, O'Donnell called Castle "unmanly" and told him to get his "man pants" on. Two weeks after leaving her campaign, a former O'Donnell staffer produced a video spot suggesting Castle was "cheating on his wife with a man."

The negative advertising isn't likely to stop.

Since her "I'm not a witch" ad, O'Donnell has released three more television ads.

On Oct. 7, O'Donnell re-appeared with the same dark background as in the "I'm not a witch" ad, but this time the focus was on Coons, a graduate of Amherst and Yale whose stepfather, Robert Gore, is president of W.L. Gore, maker of Gore-Tex fabrics.

"I didn't go to Yale. I didn't inherit millions like my opponent. I'm you," she says, bathed in soft light. "I know how tough it is to make and keep a dollar."

The "tax man" ads have a different flavor.

One of the ads is in the form of a minute-long fictitious film trailer. Opening with the familiar green screen announcing it's a preview, a sinister voice booms: "In America, where jobs are being lost and wages cut. In Delaware, where the economy is suffering and families are losing their homes, there is one man who stood against the tide and raised taxes."

Before revealing the name of the faux film, "Tax Man," the voice warns: "Hide your will. Hide your lights. 'Cause he's taxing everything out here. Chris Coons is the tax man."

O'Donnell's "tax man" theme fits neatly with her mailings released in recent weeks that show a cartoonish image of Coons with a fistful of cash in one hand and a bag of money in the other with the headline, "Chris Coons: Big Spending. Big Taxing. Typical Politician."

Coons is largely avoiding the headline-grabbing volleys, whether it's about her past anti-masturbation activism or alliance with witchcraft.

"That's got to be one of the more memorable ways to introduce oneself," Coons told The New York Times about the witch ad, sidestepping the subject with what Times reporter Frank Bruni described as a "controlled and very, very brief" smile.

Serious issues and spoofs

Coons' trio of television ads have been less attention-getting, focusing on jobs, ending bailouts and cutting wasteful spending without any mention of O'Donnell. However, an ad in heavy rotation paid

for by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee attacks O'Donnell directly.

"Christine O'Donnell claims she'll control Washington spending, but look at her record," a female voice says. "She was sued for not paying her bills. Didn't pay her taxes. Has a federal complaint filed against her for spending campaign funds on herself.

"If Christine O'Donnell wants to be irresponsible with her money, that's her business. But she's running for Senate and being irresponsible with our money is our business."

Coons has had to fend off attacks about a college essay titled "Chris Coons, the Making of a Bearded Marxist," a title he says was a joke. While his past has not aroused the sort of comedic frenzy that O'Donnell's has, Coons has been pulled into the fray.

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" on ABC aired a full-length, satirical Coons television ad focusing on O'Donnell's work as founder of The Savior's Alliance for Lifting the Truth and her opposition to masturbation.

Daniel McElhatton, Coons' campaign spokesman, brushed off any jokes directed at his boss: "We're not paying attention to late-night spoofs."

When asked by the Times' Bruni about O'Donnell's stance on masturbation, Coons responded: "I have 11-year-old twin boys, and this campaign has allowed us to accelerate awkward conversations."

Each side has their own forum for political entertainment, Clark said: for the left, it's comedy shows like "The Daily Show" and "Saturday Night Live," and for the right, it's talk radio. Both are able to redefine candidates or their message, and the jokes and satirical spoofs of O'Donnell's witch ad is an example.

"Here's the problem with humor: by its very nature, it exaggerates behaviors in order to call attention to them and make light of them," Clark said. "And it's those exaggerations that become real for partisans."

Personal history exposed

Whether it's O'Donnell's witchcraft comments or Coons' "Bearded Marxist" paper, Clark doesn't believe either should be the focus of the election. He came to this conclusion by putting himself in their shoes, even though he's fairly sure he'll never run for public office.

"But if I do, I hope people won't go picking through the garbage of my personal history. I'm not exactly the same person I was when I was 23 because I know there's a lot of stuff there that would make me unelectable," said Clark, 62. "But I think it's fair to say that probably everybody -- if you could peer deeply enough into their personal lives, preferences, histories and behaviors -- have got stuff that would hurt their chances of getting elected in this climate."

There's no denying that personal history has attracted the national attention, whether it's Rachel Maddow hosting her MSNBC show live from The Deer Park Tavern in Newark, Blitzer co-moderating Wednesday's debate live on CNN or "The Daily Show" report from Delaware about the differences between upstate and downstate Delaware.

"The media is always looking for a hook, and this already had one -- she was the witch/masturbation candidate," Ross said.

For her part, O'Donnell seems to be taking the humorous barbs about her ad pretty well. The day after the "Saturday Night Live" skit, she logged onto her Twitter account to respond.

Instead of defending herself, she took the self-deprecating approach: "SNL skit was really funny ... and I have to admit, her hair looked better than mine."

ANGRY ON THE RIGHT. BELEAGUERED ON THE LEFT. DISAPPOINTED IN THE MIDDLE.
(WILNJ)

By Wade Malcolm

Wilmington News Journal, October 17, 2010

On a recent Thursday night, deep in Sussex County, more than 200 grumbling people squeezed into a small fire hall, united by their unhappiness.

They spent the evening listening to a handful of mostly obscure political newcomers, among them long-shot Independent Doug Campbell.

"I'm not an attorney," said the candidate for state attorney general. "I'm an Eagle Scout, an ex-Marine and a man with common sense."

Many in the audience cheered at the introduction and voiced more approval when Campbell advocated wider handgun ownership, lamented the US currency's departure from the gold

standard and railed against illegal immigration.

Then Preston Clark, liking what he had heard so far, raised his hand and asked a question.

"Have you got any college?" asked the 70-year-old from Ellendale.

"No," replied Campbell, who seal-coats driveways and parking lots for a living.

"Good," Clark said, drawing laughter. "Because they're the ones who got us in this mess."

In the year of the frustrated, anti-incumbent voter, groups such as the this one -- Delaware 9-12 Patriots -- most visibly personify voter anger in the First State, but the displeasure of disappointed moderates and beleaguered liberals also boils below the surface. For some on the right, the nation's high unemployment and the unpopular bailouts and back-room deals have created weariness of "elite" politicians and led to increasing affinity for neophyte candidates such as Campbell. Republican Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell attempted to capture those emotions in her famous "I'm you" commercial.

It's not that he dislikes people with an education or experience, Clark said. In fact, he encouraged his five children and eight grandchildren to get the best education they could. He just doesn't like the assumption that it makes someone better than him. Before they started attending 9-12 meetings, Clark said, he and other members of the group never spoke publicly about their views -- afraid people would talk down to them or make them look foolish.

"You feel better about [speaking] here because everybody feels the same way," he said.

Right behind Clark, the meeting organizers sold flags, T-shirts and bumper stickers offering stern summaries of the outrage in the room. "Don't tread on me." "I'll hold on to my guns and my faith ... you can keep your 'change.' "

And perhaps, more to the point: "Can you hear us now?"

Cycles of resentment

Political scientists often say elections are cyclical, said Jason Mycoff, associate professor of political science and international relations at the University of Delaware. One party or political philosophy is up and the other is down. Whatever side holds the power, the other often feels angry.

"In every election, there's a certain percentage of voters who are angry -- vehemently angry," he said. "This year, there may be some that are intensely angry and just making a lot of noise."

Much of the shouting has centered on President Barack Obama's policies, and O'Donnell has derided Coons as a potential "rubber stamp" for the administration. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden have tried in earnest to break the conservative momentum and resist the tide of voter fury. They have encouraged their beleaguered base with a series of rallies in liberal strongholds, including one in Philadelphia a week ago and another in Wilmington on Friday.

Business agent Joe Schorah of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 19 traveled with other union members from Delaware to Philadelphia to show loyalty to Obama. But he admits their patience won't last forever. Schorah said with the economy still slow he's had to work harder to get his members to show the same energy supporting Democrats that they did in 2008.

"Is there frustration out there? Absolutely there's frustration," said Schorah, whose union represents about 150 Delaware workers. "Things are starting to turn around, but negativity always rules out the good that is happening."

While the country languishes, many malign Obama as appearing too calm, contemplative or aloof. The president has tried to counteract this, experts have said. When the president arrived at the Philadelphia rally, a smiling Biden, sporting aviator sunglasses, stayed on stage, providing the straight-laced Obama with convenient comic relief.

"Joe looks cool in those glasses, too, doesn't he?" Obama kidded, before giving a fiery speech accusing Republicans of trying to derail the country's progress.

While the left might lack the rage felt on the right, some liberals have lost excitement for the Democratic agenda. The Guantanamo Bay detention camp stayed open. The war in Afghanistan escalated. The military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gay service members remains in place, for now.

"I think everybody's a little disappointed," said Matt Coogan of Haven, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender student union at UD. "He ran as an agent of change."

Coogan and other Haven members marched against O'Donnell before her nationally televised debate with Democrat Chris Coons on campus Wednesday. Disappointment aside, Coogan said Democrats have carefully picked where to spend political capital and perhaps expectations for

Obama soared too high.

Saw what they wanted

"The economy is the biggest piece of it, but Obama's policies are probably some element of it," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at University of Virginia. "He probably went a little further to the left than most people thought he would. ... On the other hand, some liberals thought they were going to get someone that would shake up the system. People saw in Obama what they wanted to see."

Before the 9-12 Patriots meeting in Sussex started, Ritchie Barron approached a table and inspected a packet of greeting cards decorated with a picture of the 9-12 Project rally, promoted by radio commentator and Fox News host Glenn Beck.

"I was there, you know," said Barron, 46, of Lewes of the Sept. 12, 2009, event in Washington.

The man selling the merchandise -- Alex Garcia, one of the founding members of the Delaware 9-12 Patriots -- nodded his approval. As the materials on the table in front of Garcia explained, 9-12 stands for nine principles and 12 values that Beck espouses, a guiding force in Garcia's life since one spring day in 2009. Garcia and his wife, Teresa, had just spent an hour "yelling and screaming" while watching Beck's show on Fox News. The next day, they received a serendipitous call from friend Russ Murphy. He wanted to start a conservative grass-roots organization. The Garcias got on board and soon many others did, too.

The group holds five regular meetings per month throughout the state. The early gatherings often devolved into cathartic rants against the government, said Murphy, now the executive director.

"I figured beforehand there was a lot of anger and animosity out there, so I thought, 'Let's let the anger flow out there and vent,'" he said. "Then I said, 'OK, you've said everything you don't like -- the big government, the corporate greed. But we've been sitting back and doing nothing.'"

They aren't anymore. In about six months, they organized their disgruntled supporters into a political force and swept House Republican candidate Glen Urquhart and O'Donnell past more mild-mannered primary opponents. And despite O'Donnell trailing in the polls, her supporters still believe an agitated electorate can carry her to victory over Coons.

O'Donnell credited the passion of the 9-12 Patriots and other tea party groups with her primary victory over Republican favorite Mike Castle. At a GOP fundraising picnic shortly after her Sept. 14 victory, O'Donnell approached the Garcias and other 9-12 members to acknowledge their contribution.

"When I stepped up to run, if they hadn't laid the groundwork, there wouldn't have been a foundation," O'Donnell told them. "There wouldn't have been already a network of people giving the same message. So I think that's what's helped candidates like me, candidates like Glen Urquhart, just good candidates who are outside of the political scope."

Aside from her pledges to cut spending and taxes while still reducing the deficit, O'Donnell's appeal over Castle and Coons seemed simple to a fellow 9-12 Patriot seated near the Garcias at the picnic.

"She would come and talk to us when other candidates wouldn't," said Susan Cooksey, 53, of Frederica. "She listened. She came and talked. And she said what we wanted to hear."

"Aww," O'Donnell said appreciatively before adding, "Because I meant it! I didn't say what you wanted. I meant it."

Disappointed

Most people don't attend rallies. Most don't volunteer for "grass-roots movements," pledge unwavering loyalty to a political philosophy or pay much attention to politics on a daily basis.

Most people are more like 60-year-old Sandy Mercante, sitting on the front stoop of her Pike Creek home, enjoying a glass of wine with ice after a long day on her feet. Though she voted for Obama in 2008, she considers him "a disappointment."

"The bottom line is, everybody that's in there hasn't helped anybody," she said.

"It's all partisan politics," added her husband, Nick, 70. "It's gonna be the same no matter who's elected. Everybody voted for Obama because they were down on Bush, and surprise, he's worse."

The Mercantes own a hair salon on Kirkwood Highway and a modest two-story home with a small yard and a driveway -- much like the rest of the homes in their development. Mercante and the moderate, middle-class residents of her voting district swung big for Obama. They voted 850-655 in his favor, almost an exact flip-flop of the 2004 result, 801-646 in favor of Republican George W. Bush over Democrat John Kerry.

Now in 2010, even Democratic-leaning voters here like Jennifer Myers, 32, grimace when admitting their enthusiastic support of Obama in 2008.

"I'm not too happy about it now," she said.

David Wilson, a UD political scientist, wanted to see just how resonant this supposed anger could be among the general electorate, people like Myers and the Mercantes.

He created a poll that found, on the whole, Delawareans aren't especially angry. Conducted in the second half of September, the poll asked more than 900 state residents, "Today, are you personally angry at [fill in the blank], or not?" The pollsters went down a list, inserting various entities into the blank.

About 29 percent expressed anger, vaguely, at the federal government. The rest were nearly equal. President Obama: 22 percent. Democrats in Congress: 22 percent. Republicans in Congress: 23 percent.

Perhaps not surprisingly, likely O'Donnell supporters voiced the most anger, but even they weren't the majority, Wilson said. About 45 percent of those who prefer O'Donnell were angry at Obama, while only 8 percent of Coons backers were. And 36 percent of right-leaning voters were angry at the "federal government," compared with only 14 percent of left-leaning voters.

Still, a nationwide Newsweek poll earlier this month found 54 percent of voters "frustrated" and 68 percent merely "dissatisfied." However you term it, discontent of some kind has made an impact around the country, Sabato said.

"People are fundamentally unhappy because they are being squeezed economically," he said. "It isn't just unemployment. It's the bank and Wall Street crisis that shrank people's retirements. Their house might be in foreclosure. They don't know how they'll pay for their kids' college."

In Wilson's view, anger reached its highest potency in the primary season when a small group of conservative voters picked the Republican nominees. If Democrats lose big in November, they can blame voters' desire for something new, not anger, Wilson said.

"I think the difference now is the way it's being posed as a narrative," Wilson said. "Times are tough. We have two wars. We have big companies taking government money. I think the anger is something that's a great story. ... But I don't think it's substantively real. Just like 'hope' in the 2008 election. People didn't have hope. They just wanted something different. So all these things, when you peel back the onion, you see nothing has changed."

Welcome, Mr. President

Around 12:30 p.m. Friday on King Street in Wilmington, tension built as the presidential motorcade approached. About 50 members of the 9-12 Patriots held signs or wore shirts either supporting O'Donnell or criticizing Obama or Coons. At one point, a police officer asked a few people to move away from a crosswalk.

"No one wants to see that ugly sign anyway," said Ashley Jones, 24, who came to support "my president" during her lunch break.

Hours earlier, about half of the 9-12 Patriots boarded a bus in either Milford or Dover, paying \$15 per ticket to attend what they called a "Welcome to Delaware Rally," an opportunity to show the president their anger. The group included Murphy, the Garcias and Preston Clark, who packed an American flag and a little white cooler for his lunch. Before the commander in chief passed, Clark turned his back. Another man held a sign saying "LIAR."

The Garcias and others opted for a full-throated boo, their jeers mixing with cheers and applause. The president waved from behind tinted windows and saw the crowd for no more than a few seconds before he was driven past.

The crowd soon dispersed. And the 9-12 Patriots gathered their belongings, walked to the bus and rode home.

CHRISTINA INVESTIGATED FOR DISCIPLINE BIAS (WILNJ)

By Nichole Dobo

Wilmington News Journal, October 17, 2010

The US Department of Education's office of civil rights is investigating whether black male students are punished disproportionately in the Christina School District, one of five districts nationwide under scrutiny for its discipline record.

Federal investigators are in the process of visiting all of Christina's schools and have requested detailed discipline data for at least the last two academic years.

Although the investigation began in the spring, Christina officials did not publicly confirm its existence until The News Journal called about this story.

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan first mentioned districts were being investigated at a conference in late September hosted by the US Department of Education's civil rights office and the US Department of Justice's civil rights division. The school districts under review are in Delaware, New York, North Carolina, Utah and Minnesota.

One of the other districts, the San Juan School District in rural Utah, is being investigated for alleged gender disparities without respect to race or ethnicity, according to a school official.

In Christina, the federal inquiry focuses on the treatment of black male students, spokeswoman Wendy Lapham said. District officials acknowledge a disparity exists among the discipline rates, which they are working to correct, she said, adding the district has been cooperating with the investigation.

Statewide, black students made up about 32 percent of the public school population last year, but they accounted for about 55 percent of students who were suspended or expelled, according to an analysis by The News Journal published in June that compared discipline statistics provided by the state to school enrollments.

The discipline rates for all students in Delaware are higher than the national average: 21,690 of the state's 126,801 students -- about 1 in 6 -- were suspended or expelled in the 2009-2010 school year, which is down slightly from the year before. Those numbers include in-school suspensions. Counting only expulsions and out-of-school suspensions, the number dips to 14,368 students, or about 1 in 9.

The national suspension rate for all students was 7.1 percent in 2006, according to the most recent report by the US Department of Education. During that same year, the Delaware rate was 12.8 percent.

The Christina School District had the highest rate among the state's 19 school districts in the 2008-2009 and the 2007-2008 school years. However, the district's numbers went down in almost every school in 2009-2010.

Lapham says the decrease is the result of an effort by the district to better train teachers, help students learn to deal with conflicts and the elimination of a zero-tolerance policy. The district wants to keep more children in the schools, she said. She said the district has been analyzing its data internally and has been "working to address any issues of disparity by working with teachers at the classroom level, increasing training for para-professionals, reviewing and discussing data at the school level and significantly reducing suspensions and expulsions."

Zero tolerance -- sometimes

In 2009, a 6-year-old boy brought a Boy Scout tool to a Christina school to eat his pudding at lunch. Under the district's zero-tolerance policy, Zachary Christie faced a punishment of suspension or expulsion. The policy did not allow educators to make a punishment judgment call based on the context of the incident or age of the child.

But after public outcry and widespread media attention, the school board in 2009 decided to amend its policy as it pertained to kindergarten and first-grade students. Then in spring 2010, it eliminated the zero-tolerance policy.

Parents and officials like New Castle County Councilman Jea Street point to that outcome when they complain about Christina's high rate of punishment among black males. The 6-year-old was white.

Parent Wanda Stanley said she read about the boy's case with interest because she was dealing with the effects of Christina's zero tolerance policy that year. Her 11-year-old daughter was expelled after a box cutter fell out of her jacket pocket at Pulaski Elementary School in Wilmington. The girl did not know how the box cutter got in her pocket and had no intention of hurting anyone, her mother says. Police were notified by the school but did not file any criminal charges.

School officials told her there was no room for debate about the expulsion because of the zero-tolerance policy, Stanley says. This was confusing, she said, because she read in the newspaper that another child was not going to be punished after "powerful people" intervened. From her perspective, she saw a white boy who went unpunished while her black daughter was put out of school.

"I am hurt because I know my daughter is totally innocent and I don't want this to follow my daughter through her schooling," Stanley said.

The district's board of education and the state board of education ruled that the expulsion was justified.

A complaint against the school board is pending before the state Human Relations Commission. It alleges the district discriminated against Stanley's daughter on the basis of age and race. The district is appealing to have the case thrown out, but the commission declined to dismiss the case in a Sept. 28 order, which means a hearing is likely.

Stanley says she is devoted to making sure her daughter's case is heard because she believes there is a fundamental unfairness in the district. She wonders what happens to children who don't have a parent who is willing or able to fight their child's suspension or expulsion.

"You just cannot sit still when things are not right for your children," she said.

Robert Charles of Wilmington, the parent of an 11-year-old boy who was expelled when he was 9, agrees. Charles said his son was being bullied and wound up getting caught with a knife in his school bag at Bancroft Elementary School. The boy said the knife was not his and his father said he believes him.

The boy wound up getting expelled under the zero-tolerance policy.

"There was no discussion about the circumstances," Charles said. "It was like, 'Boom. We have a zero-tolerance policy and he's gone.' "

The boy wound up not attending school anywhere for the remainder of his fourth-grade year. He's now in the sixth grade in the Christina district.

Charles believes there was a racial bias when the zero-tolerance policy was applied. Again, it was based on an account that a white student who committed a similar infraction wound up not getting expulsion.

"Seems like when one group gets accused of something, they get expelled without an investigation and if another group does something, it gets looked into and being expelled isn't automatic."

Charles said his son is struggling in sixth grade, in part because of the part of fourth grade he missed.

"But he'll be OK," Charles said. "To me, education is the key. That's how I raise him."

District taking steps

Studies show that minorities are punished at higher rates than their peers, but there's not evidence that these children misbehave more, said Dan Losen, a former teacher who now works for The Civil Rights Project at UCLA. The federal government under President George W. Bush did not investigate many schools for these issues, which are now getting attention under a new administration, he said.

Typically, reviews from the office of civil rights are used to help districts find solutions and to monitor progress, Losen said, because "the preference has historically been to enter into a joint problem-solving approach rather than issuing violations."

It's important for children to remain in school -- especially those who are at risk because they do not have a home life that has afforded them the opportunity to learn how to behave in a school setting, Losen said. When children are removed from school they miss class time and are sent back to the home setting, compounding the problem.

"Our job as public educators is: Those kids need help so they can succeed in school," Losen said.

"How is suspending them and sending them to the dysfunctional home going to help? The school's job is to take kids as they receive them."

From 1978 until 1996, the state was under court order to publicly report discipline numbers in Delaware schools that showed how many minority students were being punished. When the court order expired, the state stopped providing the information, Street says. The state Department of Education lists discipline data on its website, but it does not break down the figures in a way that shows race, ethnicity or gender. That information was supplied to The News Journal in May following a request.

Helen Spacht, principal at Christina's Wilson Elementary, said programs like the district's Day of Caring help reinforce the importance of kindness and how to treat others with respect. The school is certified under the Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" program, a distinction that means the school has undergone training for staff and students on diversity issues. Also, teachers have been meeting to share ideas and literature on better classroom and bullying management, she said.

"It's really changing the strategies and how they work with students," she said.

But the district has not made enough progress in dealing with these issues, said Street, who organized a rally in April to protest both Christina and the Capital School District for escalating discipline rates. That was the same month district officials received word they would face a review from the office of civil rights, information that was not shared by the district at the time.

"The fact is that [office of civil rights] is once again going to have to do what local officials refuse to do," Street said. "Nobody would listen to me when I claimed Christina was discriminating when it changed policy to accommodate one child and knew full well that the same policy had been used overzealously for others."

RENOWNED DELAWARE MONEY MANAGER DAVID BALDT FACES INSIDER-TRADING CHARGES FROM '08 (WILNJ)

By Jonathan Starkey

Wilmington News Journal, October 17, 2010

As markets panicked in the fall of 2008, David Baldt was engaged in a debate inside the Philadelphia offices of British investment firm Schroders.

Baldt, a high-flying money manager who owns a home in Centreville, had watched as investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed into history's largest bankruptcy on Sept. 15, sending the stock market into its largest sell-off since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

That same week, the Bush administration pumped \$85 billion into insurance conglomerate AIG and proposed infusing banks with \$700 billion to prevent a domino string of failures. Frenzied investors rushed to pull money from stocks, bonds and money-market funds.

Investors in Baldt's municipal bonds clamored for their money. One investor sought to redeem more than \$20 million, and higher-ups pressed Baldt to aggressively sell securities to meet rising redemption requests. Baldt resisted, arguing that a hasty sell-off would leave remaining investors in the lurch.

After one such meeting on Sept. 17, Baldt returned to his office to a message from one of his daughters. Rattled by the week's events, she sought her father's advice about savings she had invested in one of Baldt's funds.

"Well, you should own what you could live with, and if owning a Treasury makes you sleep better at night, just temporarily take haven in Treasury bills," Baldt offered, according to a recording of the call supplied to the SEC by Schroders. Baldt suggested his daughter relay the advice to other family members.

That call, and another that followed in early October, could cost Baldt his career.

Out of work for a year

Baldt faces federal charges of insider trading for allegedly misusing nonpublic information to warn his family to protect their savings during the worst of America's financial meltdown. He'll represent himself at a hearing in Philadelphia on Monday.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission slapped Baldt with an 11-page administrative proceeding in May. It recounts the events of mid-September and early October 2008, including Baldt's debates with management, and his conversations with his daughter, who is referred to only as "Family Member A."

Reached last week at his Centreville home -- for which records show he paid \$995,000 in 2006 -- Baldt said he could not comment on details of the case but was looking forward to telling his side of the story.

"I'm anxious to have my day in court, when the truth can be told," Baldt said.

Depending on the outcome of this week's hearing, Baldt could be barred from working in the securities industry, and he could face steep fines.

The ordeal has already taken a sledgehammer to his professional life. He has not worked for the past year and has resigned board posts across northern Delaware to avoid involving the likes of the University of Delaware and the Delaware Art Museum.

A spokesman for the university said Baldt took a leave of absence in May from an investment committee that oversees the school's \$1 billion endowment. He had sat on the committee since 1997, when the fund was valued at \$664 million.

Baldt left the museum's board in May so "he wouldn't embarrass the museum in any way," said Danielle Rice, executive director there. The museum, still one of Delaware's premier cultural institutions, counts many of Delaware's most revered families among its founders and earliest

supporters, including the Bancrofts and the du Ponts. Louisa d'Andelot du Pont Copeland and others chartered the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts in 1912 to exhibit the work of illustrator Howard Pyle, establishing a foundation for the museum.

"As anyone who knows [Baldt] will tell you, he is a deeply religious, spiritual person," Rice said. "So all of us were quite taken aback when we heard of the proceedings against him."

Gerret van S. Copeland, Louisa's grandson, who chairs the museum's board, said he found Baldt to be "very astute, very careful in his analysis of things."

That would hardly surprise people who have trusted Baldt with their money over the years -- many of them in positions of social and professional esteem in Delaware.

R.R.M. "Ruly" Carpenter III, a one-time owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, said he's known Baldt for 30 years. For much of that time, Baldt managed some of his personal investments, Carpenter said.

"He's always done an excellent job of managing my bond portfolio," said Carpenter, a trustee at the University of Delaware, where he has often bumped into Baldt at basketball and football games. "He always performed well and was very low-key. When he spoke about bonds, and what to do and what not to do, it was well-advised to listen."

Baldt has also managed investments for the state of Delaware, the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington and the New Castle County pension fund, which sought to cut ties with Schroders after Baldt left the company. The county finally traded Schroders in for another manager this past summer, after liquidating its account. Schroders still handles more than \$360 million for the state, according to the treasurer's office.

Outperforming others

In 1971, Baldt graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in international relations. He turned down a job working in intelligence at the National Security Agency to work for Delaware Trust Co., where he remained for 16 years, developing a reputation as an all-star municipal bond picker.

Baldt, who directed fixed-income investments at Delaware Trust, regularly outperformed the competition throughout the early 1980s, earning 18 percent versus an industry average of 11.7 percent. From 1982 to 1985, Baldt tripled Delaware Trust's bond assets, to \$900 million.

"It's pretty amazing, the performance he's had," Ronald G. Crampton, who studied bond performance for investment firm John Nuveen & Co., told The News Journal for a profile of Baldt in 1985.

Later, Baldt managed bond portfolios for Morgan Grenfell -- where he worked in 1997, the year he was recognized as "Fund Manager of the Year" by investment research firm Morningstar -- and Deutsche Asset Management. Schroders plucked him from Deutsche in 2003 to run a new bond business in Philadelphia.

After Baldt's Sept. 17 conversation with his daughter, she redeemed \$150,000 from the fund, according to the SEC, and Baldt's debate with management about how to manage the sell-off continued. Ultimately overruled, Baldt's team moved forward, selling securities to raise cash, as directed.

On Oct. 3, after learning that an outside broker had expressed concern about Schroders' position, Baldt penned an e-mail to members of the firm's management, writing that the "massive sale lists that we have recently undertaken" were leading the dealer community to question whether "we are in trouble." That day, Baldt had another conversation with his daughter -- "Family Member A" -- during which he urged her to "consider [her] inclination to sell."

"I'd go the full route," Baldt advised, according to the SEC. His daughter redeemed \$50,000 on the next trading day, and the same amount the day after. Overall, she redeemed \$250,000. Other family members in October redeemed \$100,000 but failed to redeem another \$3 million in shares. Amy Greer, a securities lawyer who from 2003 to 2008 was the SEC's head trial lawyer in Philadelphia, said government lawyers must prove that Baldt intended to disclose nonpublic information that would encourage his family to sell.

Early on, Greer said that Baldt seemed to be offering his family "pretty bland advice" in advising them to seek safety in Treasury bills, Greer said.

"It's not uncommon for investment professionals to tell investors that they should only invest to their comfort level," she said.

Greer added, however, that Baldt may have gone too far in the Oct. 3 conversation with his

daughter, saying he seemed to be "promoting" the idea to sell.

"That's part of the problem," Greer said. "This is what this case is."

Internal investigation

In October of 2008, Schroders moved to liquidate two municipal bond funds Baldt managed, by which time they had apparently adopted Baldt's caution. In an Oct. 14 letter to shareholders, the firm wrote, "Recently, management of the funds has become concerned that a large amount of redemptions in a short period of time could force the Funds to sell portfolio securities at unfavorable prices, to the disadvantage of all of the Funds' shareholders."

Baldt left the firm in October but remained in an advisory role until May of 2009, Schroders said. In a statement, the firm said it had detected Baldt's actions, launched an internal investigation and ultimately turned its evidence over to the SEC.

"[Schroders] has no tolerance for the activities alleged in the SEC's administrative action against David Baldt," the firm said.

Schroders said it was only working to "preserve shareholder value ... following the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the near-collapse of AIG and the dramatic efforts of governments around the world to respond to the unprecedented financial crisis."

Today, the broader economy has regained some footing. The Dow Jones industrial average is up 69 percent from its bottom on March 9, 2009, and AIG recently announced a plan to pay back its government bailout funds. Baldt, however, remains embroiled in the high drama of America's financial meltdown, with his professional life at stake. The SEC's case against Baldt is a civil one, but if he's found guilty, he could be suspended from working in the securities industry, or even barred.

Greer, the securities lawyer, said it can be more difficult for prosecutors to establish intent in cases such as Baldt's, in which the defendant did not trade shares for their own personal gain using inside information.

Last year, for instance, the SEC lost a similar insider-trading case it filed against Frederick Anton, a Pennsylvania businessman. The SEC alleged that Anton, then the chairman of Blue Ball, Pa.-based workers' compensation insurer PMA Capital Corp., provided inside information to a former employee in 2003, leading the employee, David Johnson, to sell shares he owned in the company. Johnson even testified against Anton, but a judge found his testimony unconvincing, and ruled there was no proof that Anton actually possessed information that the SEC claimed he used to tip Johnson.

In Baldt's case, the question of why he would divulge insider information could seem clear -- because the case involves protecting his family's savings -- but prosecutors still face challenges, Greer said.

"They have to have that fraudulent intent," Greer said. "So, what was the person thinking? Why would they do this? That becomes more difficult [when there is no personal gain], though not impossible."

PHILLIES GET NO MAGIC FROM HALLADAY IN GAME 1 (WILNJ)

By David Hale

Wilmington News Journal, October 17, 2010

PHILADELPHIA -- Roy Halladay is steady. That's his whole persona. An even keel, all the time. The buildup to Saturday night's start, however, was tough to ignore. The hype was ubiquitous. There was Halladay, fresh off the second no-hitter in postseason history. The Giants countered with Tim Lincecum, who was nearly as sharp in pitching a two-hit shutout against Atlanta last week.

Two former Cy Young Award winners, two of the best pitchers baseball has to offer, and Game 1 of the National League Championship Series on the line.

And yet, for all the hype, Halladay never let it soak in. It had been more than a week since his last start, and Halladay deftly avoided the drama.

By the sixth inning, however, the stoic pitcher finally showed he was human.

A 90-mph cutter appeared to hit the inside corner for what would have been strike three on Pat Burrell. Halladay wanted that pitch. He needed it.

But he didn't get it, and the frustration was evident.

His next pitch was a fastball that caught too much of the plate, and Burrell sent it deep into left field

for an RBI double that proved to be the difference in a pitching matchup that never quite lived up to the hype. The Giants won 4-3, taking a one-game lead in the best-of-seven NLCS.

"You find out what you're made of," said Halladay, who followed his no-hitter by allowing eight hits and four runs in seven innings against the Giants. "You never obviously expect it to be easy. You grind it out and make adjustments next time out. I think if you can't handle failure at this point, you're in the wrong business."

Failure isn't something Halladay or Lincecum had experienced much of this season, and their playoff debuts set a lofty standard.

"The way this series was built up, if anyone got a hit it was going to be a miracle," closer Brad Lidge said.

But the hits came. Both starters allowed two homers. Lincecum allowed six hits and walked three. Halladay's efforts were undercut by Burrell's long fly ball that nearly found Raul Ibanez's glove. Burrell's hit was the final blow. The first came from a far more unlikely source.

Five months ago, Cody Ross was in the lineup for the Marlins when Halladay tossed a perfect game.

Three months later, Ross was on waivers. The Giants weren't particularly interested, but they didn't want to see their division rival Padres get him, either. So Ross earned a roster spot, even if he wasn't playing regularly.

Two weeks ago, Ross wasn't the Giants' right fielder. But Jose Guillen was struggling, and manager Bruce Bochy decided to roll the dice with Ross, leaving Guillen off the postseason roster.

And so it was that Ross came to bat against Halladay in the bottom of the third. It had been 12 innings since Halladay had last allowed a hit, three weeks since he last allowed a run.

Superman had his kryptonite. Halladay had Ross.

The Giants' right fielder sent a fastball over the left-field wall for a solo homer to give San Francisco a 1-0 lead. Two innings later, he provided a replay, his second homer in as many at-bats.

"The first pitch to Ross I didn't think was that bad," Halladay said. "The second one, I left the ball over the plate. In the sixth, a couple pitches there cost me. At this point, if you make a couple mistakes they end up costing you."

The sixth is when Burrell did his damage, when a chink was finally visible in Halladay's armor.

The last time Burrell belted an extra-base hit in the postseason at Citizens Bank Park, it was a double off J.P. Howell in the seventh inning of Game 5 of the 2008 World Series. He left for pinch runner Eric Bruntlett, who eventually came around to score the winning run that sent the Phillies to their first World Series title in 28 years.

Burrell's double Saturday night put a significant dent in this year's quest for another championship. Ibanez -- the man the Phillies chose to replace Burrell after the '08 season -- gave chase, climbed the wall and nearly corralled it before the ball bounced free and Burrell cruised into second base with an RBI double.

"I thought he hit it better than that, actually," Ibanez said. "I thought it was going to go up off the top of the wall. By the time I jumped against the wall to get a little leverage and get a little height, the ball was lower than I thought."

Juan Uribe followed with a single that scored Burrell to take a 4-1 lead.

The Phillies battled back on the strength of a two-run homer by Jayson Werth in the bottom of the sixth, but that's where the rally ended.

Jimmy Rollins struck out twice with runners on base, including once to end the eighth. Ross Gload and Shane Victorino each struck out with a runner on first in the ninth. Brian Wilson recorded a four-out save.

"I think definitely you want to swing the bats better for sure," said Ibanez, whose fly ball stranded Ryan Howard at second after a leadoff double in the second. "But at the same time, you've got to stay after it and come back and keep fighting."

The loss was the first for the Phillies in the opening game of a postseason series since 2007, when the Rockies swept three games in the division series.

"Usually, it's the other way around. We win Game 1 and find a way to lose Game 2," Rollins said.

"Now we've got to find a way to win Game 2."

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIALS:

VOTERS RIGHTLY ANGERED AT THE SYSTEM'S FAILURES (WILNJ)

Wilmington News Journal, October 17, 2010

The theme of this year's election is anger. That still seems to astound some people. But this late in the game, it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone paying attention to the world around him.

People who disdain politics often think the news media and the political campaign staffs manufacture and manipulate the public with their coverage and political advertising. In reality, the news reflects what is going on in the world, however imperfectly. And the campaign ads, however inglorious, are inspired by research into what people think, admire and fear.

Anger is this year's theme because many voters are angry.

Unemployment is high and will be for some time. Housing values have declined even for those who can still pay their mortgages. Healthcare expenses keep rising. And savings and investments are down, 401(k) accounts took big hits, and many private-sector pension plans have either disappeared or are shrinking rapidly.

The government's multi-billion dollar bailouts seem to have benefitted only Wall Street fat cats and public employees who still have comfortable health benefits and pensions.

Why shouldn't taxpayers be angry?

Meanwhile, the political establishments seemed unable to do anything about it. So thanks to modern communications technology, some on the right copied and improved upon the campaign tactics of the Obama campaign and turned the Republican Party upside down with the tea party movement.

We saw that here in Delaware with Christine O'Donnell's victory over party stalwart Mike Castle in the Republican primary.

But anger won't last. Even the most vocal candidate has to settle down when the election is won. It has happened before in American history. Voters have turned to the ballot before to vent their frustration and anger. From those votes have come many long-term, positive reforms.

If we're lucky, it will this time, too.

BIDEN IN THE NEWS:

BIDEN: GOP ON DEFICITS IS LIKE AN ARSONIST BECOMING FIRE MARSHAL (HILL)

By Bridget Johnson

The Hill, October 16, 2010

Vice President Joe Biden said at a fundraiser Friday night that Republicans have "zero, zero, zero" credibility on reducing the deficit, and such talk from the GOP was "like making an arsonist the fire marshal."

Biden headlined the Milwaukee event for incumbent Rep. Steve Kagen (D-Wisc.), who's in a tight re-election race with Republican Reid Ribble, and state Sen. Julie Lassa, who's running for the seat being left open by David Obey's retirement.

According to the White House pool report, Biden, as well as the two candidates, joined the chorus of Democrats accusing the right of using outside groups and anonymous donors to propel campaigns.

"Why do you think the Chamber of Commerce will not tell us who is contributing to them? ... Follow the money! Follow the money!" Biden said.

Biden said the administration has been tasked with digging the country out of a "godawful" hole created by Republicans, and lambasted the right for criticizing government spending.

"These guys are not for real ... They have zero, zero, zero credibility on deficits," he said. "The last guy to balance a budget was William Jefferson Clinton ... These guys talking about deficits is like making an arsonist the fire marshal."

Biden warned that Democrats needed to not let voter anger carry away the election.

"If we let this remain a referendum on their anger, we will lose ... When you're angry you don't want to focus on the alternative," he said. "You only want to focus on your pain and your anger.

And shame on us, shame on us if we let them do it and not remind them of what the alternative is and the progress we've made."

VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN SCHEDULED TO CAMPAIGN FOR HARRY REID ON WEDNESDAY (RGJ)

Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal, October 17, 2010

Vice President Joe Biden is coming to Reno Wednesday to stage a campaign rally for Sen. Harry Reid.

The Democrats are scheduled to appear at the Old Gymnasium at the University of Nevada, Reno at 900 N. Virginia St. The doors open at 8 a.m.

People who want to attend are asked to RSVP at Reid's Web site at <http://www.harryreid.com/page/s/oct20reno>.

BIDEN TO CAMPAIGN WEDNESDAY FOR REID IN RENO (AP)

Associated Press, October 16, 2010

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Vice President Joe Biden will join Sen. Harry Reid at a rally Wednesday at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Organizers say doors will open at 8 a.m. at the Virginia Street Gymnasium on the campus.

Biden also joined Reid for a fundraising breakfast and speech in Reno in October 2009.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to hold a rally on Friday in Las Vegas.

Reid is locked in a tight race with Republican Sharron Angle.

LINCOLN IN LONELY UPHILL RACE IN ARKANSAS (NYT)

By Mark Leibovich

New York Times, October 17, 2010

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. -- Senator Blanche Lincoln, the incumbent Democrat -- a double-whammy of a handicap this year -- was hanging around the Pope County Courthouse here, looking for someone, anyone, to talk to.

"Hi, I'm Blanche Lincoln," the two-term senator said, popping her head into an office populated by two people, one of whom barely looked up while the other politely declared herself a supporter of Mrs. Lincoln's Republican opponent, Representative John Boozman.

"I'd love to come around here for one of y'all's office Christmas parties," Mrs. Lincoln told the county judge, Jim Ed Gibson, before heading up a flight of stairs and down a dark hallway.

It has come to this for the chairwoman of a powerful Senate committee, a former up-and-comer in her party and onetime favorite daughter in a state whose political royalty includes President Bill Clinton and former Senators J. William Fulbright and Dale Bumpers.

Late on Thursday afternoon, the 80-year-old courthouse was largely abandoned, which could aptly describe the predicament of Mrs. Lincoln, the 50-year-old Arkansan who became the youngest woman ever elected to the Senate 12 years ago and the first to lead the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

She appears abandoned by voters, who have favored Mr. Boozman by double digits in nearly every poll in recent months. She has been forsaken by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which has essentially written off her race and apportioned almost no money to it, and she has been dismissed by pundits, handicappers and operatives who are focused instead on a cluster of tossup Senate races in states -- like Colorado, Illinois, Nevada and West Virginia -- that absolutely do not include this one.

"It might not be a total wipeout for Lincoln," said Jennifer Duffy, the senior editor of the Cook Political Report, charitably. "But it's going to be bad for her."

Mrs. Lincoln, whose come-from-behind defeat of Lt. Gov. Bill Halter in a Democratic primary runoff brought her fleeting hope in June, now finds herself very much on the wrong side of the triage that takes place in the final weeks of a Congressional campaign. This is particularly true in a midterm election in which both parties are engaged in a national chess game, deciding which races are winnable or within reach and deserving of their vast but finite means.

This beyond-hope fate befalls dozens of candidates in every national election cycle. But what is striking -- and oddly poignant -- about Mrs. Lincoln is the degree to which such a formidable incumbent who is, in large part, well respected by her colleagues and well liked by many of her constituents, finds herself as seemingly left for dead.

"To be honest with you, I'd rather do it on my own," Mrs. Lincoln said in an interview after an

impromptu meet-and-greet session on Thursday night at the Russellville Whirlwinds junior high school football game.

She is largely getting her wish, doing it on her own, with a few exceptions. Mr. Clinton, for one, comes back here periodically and has campaigned twice with Mrs. Lincoln in the last six weeks, most recently on Wednesday night at a rally in Jonesboro.

Mr. Clinton is the rare national Democrat who is popular here these days -- President Obama, who lost this state to Senator John McCain in 2008, is box-office poison at this point. Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. held a fund-raiser for Mrs. Lincoln last month, but it was in Boston -- the city in Massachusetts, not the township in northwest Arkansas.

As with many incumbent Democrats, Mrs. Lincoln has been stung by association with the president's agenda. She takes strenuous pains to distance herself from the White House, trumpet her centrist credentials and assert her independence from her Democratic colleagues.

"Look, as far as the Democratic caucus in the Senate goes, I've spent my share of time in the time-out chair over there," Mrs. Lincoln said, noting her opposition to cap-and-trade energy measures and her support for lowering estate taxes, both of which put her at odds with most of her Democratic colleagues.

But by and large, Mrs. Lincoln's support for such divisive White House-driven legislation as last year's economic stimulus bill and especially this year's healthcare overhaul -- which she voted for only after equivocating, upsetting both liberals and conservatives -- has put her in a seemingly inescapable box.

"She can be tough, but she is wishy-washy by nature," said Max Brantley, a longtime political columnist here who is the editor of the left-leaning Arkansas Times. "This is no year for that on things like healthcare. She made the worst of a bad situation by temporizing and creating a drama in which she became the star last vote."

In a dogged procession that routinely totals six or seven campaign stops a day, Mrs. Lincoln speaks often about her family, especially her young twin boys. She also mentions her chairmanship of the agriculture committee, a position that affords obvious advantage to a rural state and would be a political asset in a normal year.

But Mrs. Lincoln is one of several examples of a powerful veteran lawmaker whose growing influence in Washington belies declining home-state electoral prospects.

"I've worked hard to get to places that are useful to you," Mrs. Lincoln said, almost pleadingly, at a Democratic women's luncheon at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock on Friday. "And I'm not doing it for me. I'm doing it for you."

Like pretty much every underdog politician in America, Mrs. Lincoln insists that she is going to win, that momentum is shifting toward her and that she hates polls (except, presumably, the internal ones her campaign officials let slip that have her within single digits of Mr. Boozman, not the 19.7 percent average deficit of recent polls compiled by RealClearPolitics).

She wears brightly colored scarves to match a determinedly sunny disposition on the stump.

Everything was either "wonderful" or "great" Thursday on a tour of a community services agency in Russellville. For the most part, she is greeted warmly, even by people who do not support her.

There is no visible sign of the dreaded "voter rage" that supposedly defines today's political mood. As she meandered through the state fairgrounds in Little Rock late Friday, Mrs. Lincoln conveyed serenity and a hint of nostalgia. The seventh-generation Arkansan had changed into jeans and a white sweater with the collar turned up, ate fistfuls of popcorn and contemplated making a bid on a goat in a livestock auction.

"My husband would hit the ceiling," concluded Mrs. Lincoln, whose family owned a rice and soybean farm in Helena, Ark., with a couple of pigs ("not show pigs") out in the pecan orchard. She resisted the deep-fried Twinkie stand and headed into the Hall of Industry, where she stopped by a booth to get her handwriting analyzed.

A few feet away, Bruce Todd of Franklin, Wis., tried to entice Mrs. Lincoln into filling out a raffle ticket that could yield her a "fantastic vacation cruise" in the Bahamas.

"No, thank you," she said at first, before succumbing to Mr. Todd's last-chance sales pitch. "I guarantee you might win," he promised.

BIZ SOLIDLY IN BOXER'S CORNER (VARIETY)

By Ted Johnson

Variety, October 16, 2010

One candidate seeking to return to Washington has raised more money from Hollywood than any other: Barbara Boxer.

That's no surprise, as her entertainment connections run deep and she's been holding entertainment-centric fund-raisers for this race for years now.

What is a bit curious is how little industry support has gone to Boxer's Republican challenger, Carly Fiorina.

Fiorina has not collected contributions from entertainment industry figures even at the same level as her fellow Silicon Valley veteran, Meg Whitman, running as a Republican in a tight race for governor against Democrat Jerry Brown.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Boxer has raised \$712,712 from showbiz sources for her re-election bid, compared with less than \$39,000 for Fiorina.

The caveat is that the figures were based on campaign finance reports as of June 30. The latest figures were due on Oct. 15, and the CRP usually takes several more days to conduct a new analysis; Fiorina is expected to have added to her showbiz pot.

But it's very doubtful that the dynamics will change much.

Boxer has been on a fund-raising tear through Hollywood, with barely a week going by when she hasn't held a significant event, often with the support of studio moguls. On Oct. 17, she was due to appear at a fund-raiser at the Malibu home of

Universal Studios' Ron Meyer and his wife, Kelly, with singer-songwriter Jackson Browne providing an acoustic performance. Co-chairs include Warner Bros.' Alan Horn and his wife Cindy, as well as Steven and Dayna Bochco and Pierce Brosnan and his wife Keely. In July, Fox's Tom Rothman and his wife Jessica hosted a fund-raiser for Boxer, with Vice President Joseph Biden adding to the draw.

On Oct. 22, President Obama will raise money for her at a reception at USC, having been to Los Angeles in April on her behalf, followed several days later by first lady Michelle Obama, appearing at an event at the Wilshire Ebell in Hancock Park.

Industry money is even being raised for producer Robert Greenwald's independent effort to produce anti-Fiorina viral videos through his Brave New Films; the latest is a project called "Carly Fiorina Is a Job Killer," featuring interviews with former Hewlett Packard employees.

Hollywood's leftward tilt makes it difficult for any Republican to make significant fund-raising inroads, and the fact that the race has been so close may have triggered among the industry's donors a greater sense of urgency to contribute to Boxer. She has a slight lead in recent polls, but this is also a very volatile year.

The Fiorina campaign sees the gulf between her Hollywood support and that of Boxer as easy to explain. "Barbara Boxer is a career politician who has been stockpiling funds for six years, while Carly is a political outsider," says Andrea Saul, a spokeswoman for the campaign, while also arguing that Boxer has been "bad for the entertainment business" by "pressing for job-killing legislation, more than a trillion dollars in tax hikes and more government intrusion into our lives while limiting our film, music and television shows' global reach and exposing them to more piracy by opposing free trade."

Rose Kapolczynski, Boxer's campaign manager, says Boxer "is pleased to have earned the support of industry leaders, many of whom are Californians who support her on a wide variety of issues. Senator Boxer recognizes that entertainment is a critical economic engine for California, and she has worked hard on causes important to the industry, including halting runaway production and cracking down on overseas piracy."

Others attribute the gap in support to a matter of contacts and, certainly among Boxer's supporters, personality. Fiorina doesn't have as strong ties to the industry as Whitman, relationships that can sometimes help in winning over converts who normally side with Democrats. Whitman, who had a brief tenure at Disney and even interviewed for the top job there in 2005, courted donors from the first stages of her campaign, winning early support of such figures as Terry Semel, Harry Sloan and even Michael Lynton, the latter of whom was a bundler for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential bid. Fiorina launched her bid later. In May, Semel, Sloan and attorney Bruce Ramer held a meet-and-greet for a Senate candidate in the GOP primary, but it was for Tom Campbell, not Fiorina.

Certainly another difference is in the way Whitman and Fiorina have campaigned: Whitman has

tacked to the center as Nov. 2 approaches, calling for a one-year suspension of the state's global warming law but opposing Prop 23, which is more likely to delay it far longer. Fiorina, by contrast, supports Prop 23, as well as offshore oil drilling.

"I think it was a matter of opportunity," says Sam Haskell, a longtime supporter of Republican candidates and chairman of the Miss America Organization. "Whitman, because of her job at eBay, dealt with entertainment executives and then drew on her contacts. She knows everybody. Fiorina does not."

There's also competition, given that there are only so many GOP donors in Hollywood, and as the campaign progresses, Fiorina is competing with candidates across the country for a smaller pool. "At a certain point you have to make the decision, 'Where is the most likely place where you are going to get the most money?'" notes producer Craig Haffner, who has long been active in supporting Republican and conservative candidates. "To a certain extent, that is just the pragmatic business of politics."

SCHAUER, WALBERG DISAGREE ON NAFTA (JCP)

By Chris Gautz

Jackson (MI) Citizen Patriot, October 17, 2010

This has been a key issue for Mark Schauer. Upon entering Congress, Schauer co-sponsored a bill to repeal NAFTA, while Tim Walberg wants to keep it in place.

Walberg said NAFTA has had a positive impact nationally and led to 500,000 new jobs in the US in its first 10 years.

Schauer has spent much of his two years in Washington talking about the need for fair trade and being tougher on China.

He helped a Jackson company, Full Spectrum Solutions, with issues it was having with China and the stimulus, and got the attention of Vice President Joe Biden.

This year he wrote a bill that would stop tax dollars from being spent on products the government buys that are made in China. He also voted against the "Cash for Caulkers" bill, which provides rebates to people who make energy-efficiency upgrades to their homes. Schauer said it would spend tax dollars on goods made in China.

Walberg said he introduced legislation while in office to create a trade prosecutor's office to go after China, Mexico and other countries that manipulate their currency and violate trade agreements. That bill wasn't given a hearing by Democrats.

Schauer maintains that 68,300 Michigan jobs have been shipped to China because of policies Walberg supports.

That number comes from a report from the liberal Economic Policy Institute, although it represents jobs the group says were lost from 2001 through 2008. Walberg served in Congress in 2007 and 2008.

Schauer also accuses Walberg of wanting to protect tax breaks and loopholes for companies that send jobs overseas. Factcheck.org has called this a "false tax attack."

HECK, HERRERA SPRINT FOR THE HILL (VACOL)

By Zachary Kaufman

Vancouver (WA) Columbian, October 17, 2010

Who will represent Southwest Washington in Congress for the next two years?

As voters mark their ballots for the Nov. 2 election over the next two weeks, that's still an open question.

The race between Democratic businessman Denny Heck and Republican state Rep. Jaime Herrera for the open 3rd Congressional District seat gained drama and momentum last week as the candidates debated face-to-face for the first time, new TV attack ads filled the airwaves and at least one poll showed the contest too close to call.

Washington's 3rd District race is still ranked a toss-up by national political pundits. A poll commissioned by the Capitol Hill newspaper The Hill showed Heck closing the gap with Herrera, with 15 percent of voters in the district still undecided. Another poll, commissioned by KING-TV, released Thursday, showed Herrera maintaining an 11-point lead and only 6 percent undecided.

The contest to succeed Democratic Rep. Brian Baird is on the national radar this year for one reason: If 40 of the 435 House seats change from Republican to Democrat as a result of the

election, the GOP will take control of the House of Representatives. That would change the political math in Washington, D.C., and likely block President Obama's legislative agenda for the remainder of his term.

The 3rd District, which includes all or parts of seven counties in Southwest Washington, has been a swing district in recent years. Voters in the district went for Republican Dino Rossi in the 2004 and 2008 governor's races, for George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004, and for Barack Obama in 2008.

Democrats have represented the 3rd for all but six of the past 50 years. But Republicans see the 2010 midterm election as their chance to break that pattern.

"The 3rd has been trending Republican over the years," said Clark County Republican Chairman Ryan Hart. "We've seen that with the support Dino Rossi has received, and our current Congress is much further to the left than the residents of the 3rd Congressional District. Not to mention that the current Congress is not very popular with the public."

On top of that, Hart said, "We've got an outstanding candidate. Jaime has been a very effective legislator. She'll listen to her constituents, and she'll be an effective member of Congress."

County Democratic Chair Dena Horton said the 3rd isn't like other Washington congressional districts that trend Democratic.

"The 3rd has always been characterized as the most conservative-leaning district in Washington held by a Democrat," she said. "It takes someone who is very independent. That's why someone like (US Rep.) Brian Baird represented this district well."

Heck fits the Baird mold, Horton said. "He actually has the real-world experience with the economy, with jobs, with education. He's going to bring all of those things to the district, and those are the things the district cares about the most. The more that he and Herrera debate, the more people will see that Denny is very open-minded and independent and that he has solid ideas. They won't see that kind of substance from Herrera; they'll see Republican talking points."

Heck, 58, and Herrera, 31, are separated not only by ideology but by a generation -- a fact the Herrera campaign pointed out in a new, not-so-subtle TV ad that links Heck with 1970s-era leisure suits and disco music.

Both candidates were born and educated in Clark County. Heck's long résumé includes serving five terms as a state legislator representing Clark County, serving as chief of staff to Democratic Gov. Booth Gardner, and co-founding TVW, the public affairs television channel based in Olympia, his home for the past 25 years. Over the past decade, Heck has founded and invested in several successful businesses.

Herrera, 31, worked in Washington, D.C., for two years after graduating from the University of Washington, including a stint in the office of US Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane. She returned home to Clark County in late 2007 to seek appointment to a vacant legislative seat and won election to the seat in 2008.

The two emerged as the top vote-getters in a field of six after the Aug. 17 primary and went directly into a rough-and-tumble general election campaign. Herrera jumped to a substantial lead after beating two other Republicans in the primary and never lost it. Three polls commissioned by KING-TV show her with a comfortable lead. However, the pollster the station uses, SurveyUSA, which polls using automated telephone calls, consistently overestimates support for Republican candidates, according to an analysis of polling in the New York Times.

The Hill used a Democratic pollster in its new poll that shows Herrera leading Heck by just two points, well within the margin of error.

With two weeks to go, the safest conclusion is that the outcome of the race remains unpredictable. Awash in money

The major political parties have invested heavily in the 3rd District race. According to the Federal Election Commission, the National Republican Campaign Committee has spent about \$625,000 on TV ads and other media targeting Heck to date, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has spent a comparable amount -- about \$640,000 -- targeting Herrera.

The DCCC is on track to spend at least \$1 million on the race by Election Day, according to spokesman Andy Stone. Joanna Burgos of the NRCC said the Republican campaign committee will spend more than \$900,000 on the race.

In addition, independent GOP-affiliated groups not associated with the Herrera campaign have poured buckets of cash into the race on her behalf. The American Future Fund has spent

\$872,000 for attacks on Heck that began the day after the primary. Another group, Americans for Prosperity, which is backed by the billionaire Koch Brothers and is not required to reveal its corporate donors, has spent \$282,000 attacking Heck.

The latest reports to the FEC by the candidates' own campaigns, due Friday, show Herrera has nearly \$514,000 in the bank. Heck has \$411,000 on hand.

Herrera raised \$613,910 from July 29-Sept. 30, compared to the \$550,000 raised by Heck during that same period, according to numbers provided by both candidates' campaigns Friday.

Quarterly reports for the three months ending June 30 showed that as of that date Heck had raised about \$1 million, including \$350,000 he donated to his own campaign. Herrera had raised \$411,000.

It's not clear how effective the blizzard of TV ads funded by all that cash has been. In fact, the media blitz may be turning voters off.

GOP-backed ads typically link Heck, who has never served in Congress, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whom he has never met, and refer to Heck's "Democrat friends" in Congress. They play up the fact that Heck has said he would have voted for both the health reform bill and the stimulus, without mentioning that he has stated clear reservations about both bills.

The new 1970s "leisure suit" ad from the Herrera campaign that began running Friday details Heck's support for state spending increases while he served in the Legislature in the 1970s and 1980s.

Heck, meanwhile, has accused Herrera of supporting privatization of Social Security, a political third-rail position. Herrera indicated at an event early in the campaign that she favored privatization, but she has since corrected that statement. Her campaign website states, "I have never supported privatizing Social Security."

One recent anti-Herrera ad paid for by the DCCC illustrates how political ads can backfire. The ad accused Herrera of using the state treasury as her "personal piggybank" for spending a few hundred dollars of state money on business cards and protective covers for her office furniture. That gave the Herrera campaign an opening to raise Heck's spending record in the Legislature three decades ago. Debates

Heck and Herrera debated three times last week, in Lacey and Longview before live audiences Wednesday and in a taped debate at the Portland studio of KGW-TV on Friday. The KGW-TV debate, which aired Saturday on the station's "Straight Talk" public affairs program, gave Clark County voters their first and likely their only chance to appraise the candidates side-by-side. The contrasts between them came across clearly in the debates.

Heck described in detail his plan for growing middle-class jobs in Southwest Washington through a combination of federal tax breaks, legislation to get credit flowing to small businesses, and investments in manufacturing and green energy.

Herrera called for repealing health reform and declared that the stimulus had done next to nothing to create new jobs. The answer to the region's stubbornly high unemployment rate, she says, lies in sharply reducing federal spending and burdensome federal regulations on businesses. At the same time, she favors a permanent extension of the Bush administration tax cuts, which would cost an estimated \$700 billion over 10 years.

Each candidate has spent a fair amount of time campaigning in Clark County since the primary. Heck, who lives in Olympia, has held 18 official campaign events in the county since mid-August, according to his campaign. He's visited several times during his just-completed five-week "Let's Get to Work" tour, stopping at a wind energy startup company, meeting with credit union officials, touring vocational programs at Clark College and checking in with businesses at the Port of Camas-Washougal to get ideas about how to get the economy moving again.

Vice President Joe Biden campaigned for Heck Oct. 8 at a fundraiser in Seattle.

Herrera, who lives in Camas, has taken part in about two dozen campaign events in Clark County since the primary, according to her campaign spokesman, though she's been less visible than Heck. She has made at least two fundraising trips to Washington, D.C., since she entered the race. In late September, US Rep Pete Sessions, R-Texas, hosted a fundraiser for her in Camas. In a year when Democrats are out of favor, both candidates have calibrated their campaigns to match the national mood.

Heck, who has strong connections with establishment Democrats in Seattle and Olympia, has cultivated an outsider's perspective on Beltway politics that allows him to be critical of the current

Congress and neutral on the Obama administration's record.
Herrera has name familiarity, a fresh face, and the Republican Party's momentum in an election year that will be one for the history books.

STATE DEPARTMENT CONDEMNS EAST JERUSALEM BUILDING (JERP)

By Tovah Lazaroff, Melanie Lidman

Jerusalem Post, October 17, 2010

The US, Russia and France have condemned Israel's plan to build 238 homes in two east Jerusalem Jewish neighborhoods, saying it runs counter to the peace process.

Russia and France have asked the government to reconsider the decision.

The government, however, has stood firmly behind the Ministry of Construction and Housing's publication on Thursday of tenders for 80 new homes in Ramot and 158 in Pisgat Ze'ev.

The Palestinian Authority has said that building in the settlements and in east Jerusalem must stop for the peace process to continue, while Israel has insisted that there is no reason why talks cannot move forward despite such building.

"In no way is this construction antithetical to a historic peace agreement with the Palestinians," a government official told The Jerusalem Post on Saturday night.

The tenders are for construction in neighborhoods that every peace plan for the past 20 years has stated would remain part of Israel in a final status agreement, the official said.

Although Israel froze new construction in West Bank settlements from November 26, 2009 through September 26 of this year, it has refused to consider a similar measure in east Jerusalem.

Continued construction in all parts of Jerusalem, has been a consistent government policy, about which "we have been frank and above board," the official said.

"There is no policy change here. Even when there was a moratorium, it never included Jerusalem, the official said.

The US was informed of the new construction before Thursday's publication of the tenders, which were included in a list of 4,000 new homes to be built nationwide.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters on Friday that in response the US told Israel, "We felt this was contrary to what we were trying to do, to get direct negotiations resumed." He added that the US was "disappointed."

The State Department and Israel have long been at odds over east Jerusalem construction, with Israel insisting that it has a right to build in the city which is its eternal capital.

Israeli and US officials held telephone conversations about the new construction over the weekend.

Meanwhile, US Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-New York), who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, issued a strong statement in defense of Israel on Friday, taking to task those who have equated the capital with West Bank settlements.

"Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It is not a settlement," Ackerman told the press.

It has been "the singular geographic center of the hopes and aspirations of the Jewish people for three millennia," he said.

"Construction in Jerusalem is not a justification for a crisis, a showdown, a meltdown or even a hissy fit," Ackerman said.

"Ramot and Pisgat Ze'ev are going to be part of Israel in any conceivable final-status deal, and to pretend otherwise is pointless," he said.

"Those who earlier complained about the inadequacy of Israel's unilateral and uncompensated settlement freeze, who chose to waste those 10 months instead of diving aggressively into direct talks on peace, cannot reasonably now turn around and complain that the end of the freeze and the resumption of Israeli construction in Jerusalem... is either a shock or an insurmountable obstacle to peace," Ackerman said.

Such construction "is neither a show of bad faith, nor a justification for avoiding negotiations aimed at achieving a final-status agreement.

"The legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians are not going to be achieved by violence and they're not going to be achieved by the equivalent of holding their breath until their lips turn blue," he said.

"Direct negotiations are sole pathway to their goal, and the sooner they recognize this fact, the better," he said.

Thursday's announcement marked the first time since March that east Jerusalem tenders have

been published.

According to Hagit Ofran of Peace Now, tenders for 377 housing units were published for the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Neveh Ya'acov on March 10, tenders for 48 were published for Pisgat Ze'ev on January 7, and another 150 in that same neighborhood on December 31, 2009.

Separately, in a move that deeply angered the US, the Interior Ministry's District Committee for Planning and Construction in March approved a plan to build 1,600 homes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo, during a visit by US Vice President Joseph Biden. The announcement of the Ramat Shlomo plan caught the Prime Minister's Office by surprise, and new mechanisms have since been put in place to ensure that the prime minister is kept abreast of east Jerusalem construction. No tenders have been issued yet for the Ramat Shlomo plan. Right-wing politicians and activists have complained that a de facto freeze exists in east Jerusalem, an allegation that has been denied by the Prime Minister's Office and the Jerusalem Municipality.

According to Deputy Mayor Kobi Kahlon, the head of the Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee, the 238 new homes for Ramot and Pisgat Ze'ev are in projects that were begun in 2003 or even earlier.

It will be two to three years before construction begins on the projects, he said.

Kahlon denied that there was any political motivation behind the approvals, noting that the growing neighborhoods had asked for the new buildings years ago.

"We're still going along with the status quo, like we've been doing for 40 years," Kahlon told the Post.

These Jerusalem neighborhoods "are not settlements," he said.

Kahlon noted that almost everyone agrees that Ramot and Pisgat Ze'ev will remain a part of Israel in any peace agreement "Published tender" means that a construction project has passed the government's lengthy approval process, and after a contractor is chosen, the project will be released back to the municipality for the final building permit, which enables contractors to begin construction. The list of published tenders is significant because it is one of the last steps in the approval process where the government can control what buildings are built in what areas. After the tender is published, the final approval rests with the municipality.

PM'S OFFICE: CONSTRUCTION PLANS IN EAST JERUSALEM ARE NOTHING NEW (HAAR)
Ha'aretz, October 17, 2010

The Prime Minister's Office responded Saturday to the criticism by the United States and France regarding Israel's plans to build 238 new housing units in East Jerusalem, saying that announcements on renewal of construction in Jerusalem are nothing new.

Israel announced Friday its approval of tenders for 238 new housing units in areas of Jerusalem east of the Green Line, which triggered statements by both the US and France saying they were "disappointed" by the announcement.

"We have already said in the past that there is no longer a settlement freeze in Jerusalem," the PMO said. "Regarding the relationship with the United States, they received notification of the plan before we announced it."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office also noted that even though the White House did not approve of the plans for further settlement construction, opposition to the settlements has been a US policy for 40 years already.

Over the weekend, sources in Netanyahu's office said that as opposed to the time Israel announced new building plans during US Vice President Joseph Biden's visit and caused an international uproar, this time Netanyahu was well aware of the plans and approved them before the announcement was made.

On Friday, the United States expressed disappointment over reports that Israel had approved tenders for construction of nearly 240 new housing units in East Jerusalem.

"We were disappointed by the announcement of new tenders in East Jerusalem yesterday. It is contrary to our efforts to resume direct negotiations between the parties," US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said during a press conference in Washington.

On Saturday, France also condemned Israel's construction plans, saying that "France is deeply disappointed" by the decision and urged the Israeli government to reconsider.

Earlier Saturday, Egypt said that Israel's building permits for 238 new housing units in East

Jerusalem are a sign that direct peace talks could collapse. On Friday, the Arab League said it may ask the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state if Israel goes ahead with building settlements.

Also on Saturday, the Organization of the Islamic Conference condemned Israel for renewing settlement construction in East Jerusalem and urged the international community to put an end to what it called "Israeli arrogance."

BILL CLINTON BACK OUT CAMPAIGNING "FOR EVERYBODY THAT HELPED HILLARY RUN FOR PRESIDENT" AGAINST OBAMA (TEL)

By Toby Harnden

London Telegraph, October 17, 2010

Fear and loathing in the American body politic is not confined to the anti-tax Tea Party. Across the spectrum of the Democratic party, every hue is feeling it too.

With a fortnight to go to the midterms, moderate "Blue Dog" Democrats are in big trouble. The party's left-wing "Yellow Dogs" are up in arms about being taken for granted by the White House "hippy bashers". Even black bloggers are warning President Barack Obama they won't be "pimped" for him.

In this febrile climate within the party, there is one Democratic figure whose soothing tones can help calm things down – the Big Dog himself, former President Bill Clinton. I caught up with him in Española, New Mexico, site of the first European colony in America, last week and he was on vintage form.

Gone was the red-faced, finger-wagging Bill who I saw in South Carolina in early 2008, when he exploded with anger at being accused of racism by Obama allies as the Democratic nomination slipped from his wife Hillary's grasp. Instead, Española saw Chilled Bill, a man vindicated by events and who knows he was right to warn of Obama's shortcomings.

The event, for which nearly 4,000 people crammed into the town square, was for Diane Denish, the Democratic candidate for governor. Behind in the polls, she had supported Hillary against Obama in 2008 and Bill was back to repay the debt.

Bill, hoarse-voiced but with a glint in his eye, explained that this was his 80th event. He made crystal clear just who he was representing on the campaign trail – and it wasn't Obama. "I planned to do about one stop for everybody that helped Hillary run for president because she's one of only two members of the president's cabinet who cannot participate in politics," he said.

As Secretary of State, he reminded people, is not permitted to campaign. "Then I got out here and started stirring around and realised that a lot of people were mad and even more confused and I didn't want it on my conscience so I just loaded up and started strolling around."

The Clintons are undoubtedly an unusual couple. Bill's past indiscretions are legendary and their jobs – he is now a globe-trotting philanthropist – mean that these days they see each other less often than the average American goes to the dentist.

Yet they remain together (who would have thought the Gore marriage would unravel first?) and are a remarkable political tag team.

Bill's energetic reappearance on the campaign trail comes just as rumours, some of them eagerly fuelled by the Clinton camp, swirl that Hillary might replace the hapless Joe Biden as Obama's vice-presidential running mate in 2012 or even challenge the President for the Democratic nomination if his popularity continues to slide.

Neither option makes much sense for Hillary, whose performance as Secretary of State, in which she has been supportive of the US military and sought to stiffen Obama's spine in Afghanistan, has won admirers even on the Right.

Becoming vice-president would tie her to Obama on domestic policy. Through political good fortune (not to mention calculation), she has been out of that arena for the past two years, meaning that there are no Clinton fingerprints on unpopular healthcare, bail-out or stimulus legislation.

Hillary has been loyal to Obama – it would have been politically foolish to appear otherwise – but her discrete job means she can remain distant from most of what he does.

It just so happens that Hillary will be out of town on November 2nd, when Democrats expect a pummeling at the polls. She'll be on the other side of the globe, in fact, on a tour including stops in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

The message is unmistakable: "Nothing to do with me!" Challenging Obama in 2012, even if he is in dire straits, would be incredibly risky. To seek to oust the first black president would split the Democrats in two and almost guarantee a Republican victory even if Hillary won the nomination. It's a non-starter.

But 2016 is different. No one takes her denials of wanting to run again at face value and aides are quietly putting it about that she still has her eyes on the White House. Her former chief strategist Mark Penn recently polled her popularity compared to Obama's.

Bill's stump speeches are helping lay the foundations of a 2016 campaign. His presence on the campaign trail, often in parts of the country where Obama is not so popular, reinforces the 2008 argument that the Clintons (in terms of power politics, it is fruitless to view them separately) can reach places Obama cannot.

It also shows that the wounds of the epic Obama-Clinton battle of 2008 have not healed. Conspicuous by his absence from Española was Bill Richardson, the current New Mexico governor, who was publicly branded a "Judas" by James Carville, the Clinton consigliere, for endorsing Obama. Richardson was never even mentioned by Denish or the former President. After trying something new and shiny in the person of Obama and being disappointed, many Democrats are now indulging in Clinton nostalgia. "We Miss the Thrill of Bill" read one prominent sign in Española.

"He let me hug him!" exclaimed Loyda Martinez, 57, after the event. "And he hugged me back! A lot of these politicians, you can barely touch their hands. Bill has a way of connecting with the ordinary person that Obama does not." Bill's past foibles are viewed as endearing. "He like the ladies!" laughed one man as Bill posed for pictures beside a platinum blonde.

I chatted to Bill Clinton briefly as he worked the rope line. Having garnered some unwelcome headlines in 2008, he was sticking very firmly to the script this time.

"She's already answered that," he said, when I asked him if there really was any chance she might replace Biden in 2012. He turned and added: "I'll tell you what, she likes being Secretary of State and she's doing a great job."

So might she run in 2016? The Big Dog of the Democratic party paused, appeared to be about to hold forth and then seemed to hold himself in check. "She speaks for herself on these things," he said, flashing me a big grin.

HILLARY CLINTON TO RUN FOR US PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IN 2016? (PTI)

Press Trust of India, October 17, 2010

Speculation is rife that Hillary Clinton may run for the US president's office in 2016, as her husband Bill is back on the campaign trail -- offering thanks to those who backed her in 2008 against Barack Obama, a media report said.

According to Britain's 'The Daily Telegraph', former President Bill Clinton has been laying the foundations for the Secretary of State's another try in 2016, by campaigning for Democratic politicians who helped his wife Hillary run for the president's office against President Obama two years back.

In fact, Bill, now a globe-trotting philanthropist, went to Espanola, New Mexico, the site of the first European colony in America, last week to campaign for Diane Denish, the Democratic candidate for the governor.

Denish had supported Hillary against Obama in 2008 and Bill was back to repay the debt; he made crystal clear who he was representing on the campaign trail -- and it wasn't Obama, the report said.

"I planned to do about one stop for everybody that helped Hillary run for president because she's one of only two members of the president's cabinet who cannot participate in politics," he told a gathering of 4,000 people.

As Secretary of State, he reminded people, is not permitted to campaign. "Then I got out here and started stirring around and realised that a lot of people were mad and even more confused and I didn't want it on my conscience so I just loaded up and started strolling around," Bill said.

Bill's energetic reappearance on the campaign trail comes just as rumours, some of them eagerly fuelled by the Clinton camp, swirl that Hillary might replace the hapless Joe Biden as Obama's vice-presidential running mate in 2012 or even challenge the President for the Democratic nomination if his popularity continues to slide.

JILL BIDEN: VICE PREZ MEANS NO PRIVACY (NYPOST)

New York Post, October 17, 2010

Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, says privacy and romantic dinners go out the window when you become Mrs. VP. "Joe and I went to dinner, just the two of us, and 14 people came up to the table," Biden, a schoolteacher and professor, tells the latest issue of Self. "That's part of his job, and he loves it, but you can't really have an intimate discussion under those circumstances. So now when he says, 'Let's go out to dinner,' if I want time alone together, I'll say, 'Let's not. Let's stay home.' "

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TODAY'S EDITION

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WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES

Christine O'Donnell's Ads Buy National Attention To Delaware Senate Race (WILNJ)

By Ryan Cormier

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

During Wednesday's nationally televised debate with Chris Coons, Christine O'Donnell was on the receiving end of a blunt question from CNN newsman Wolf Blitzer: "What were you thinking?"

The question came toward the end of the 90-minute debate and the topic was O'Donnell's first TV campaign ad, during which she famously proclaims, "I'm not a witch."

"To put it to rest; to put it behind me," O'Donnell answered, referring to an old clip of her on Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect" saying she had "dabbled into witchcraft."

Before O'Donnell changed the subject, Blitzer continued, "But didn't you realize if you do that in a commercial it would just revive it and everybody would be talking about that?"

The answer, undoubtedly, is yes. Everybody is talking about that ad: her black dress, white pearls and straight talk.

"I'm nothing you've heard. I'm you. None of us are perfect. But none of us can be happy with what we see all around us."

O'Donnell's "I'm you" ad just might be the most memorable of the 2010 election cycle.

Since it aired on Oct. 4, political advertisements from the pair have heated up, with Coons targeting O'Donnell's "I'm you" slogan by launching the website christineisnotme.com, complete with "Not me" icons supporters can repost on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

"Tell Christine O'Donnell: You are not me ... unless you think the retirement age for Social Security should be raised, want to further deregulate Wall Street, are against a woman's right to choose even in cases of rape or incest, think public schools should teach Creationism and think homosexuality is an 'identity disorder.'"

O'Donnell responded with her own website, coonsthetaxman.com, tied to a pair of theatrical ads labeling Coons as "The Tax Man" who's "taxing everything out here."

But no other Delaware political ad has ever received more attention than O'Donnell's "I'm not

a witch" proclamation, said David Bass, assistant media archivist for the University of Oklahoma's collection of political advertisements, which includes more than 90,000 radio and television spots.

"Beginning the first spot of your general campaign saying, 'I'm not a witch,' is certainly unique," he said. "We don't have anything like that in the 90,000 spots we have."

The reaction was instant. David Letterman aired his own version of the ad on his CBS show, with O'Donnell transforming into a demonic beast surrounded by fire as she denied being a witch. He also dedicated his nightly Top Ten list to her: "Top Ten Bad Campaign Commercial Opening Lines."

A few days later, "Saturday Night Live" had a parody with Kristen Wiig re-creating the commercial, but adding the line, "Isn't that what the people of Delaware deserve? A candidate who promises first and foremost that she's not a witch? That's the kind of candidate that Delaware hasn't had since 1692."

It was that parody that was on O'Donnell's mind during the debate when she interrupted Coons at one point to say, "You're just jealous that you weren't on 'Saturday Night Live.'"

Coons responded, "I'm dying to see who's going to play me, Christine."

What does slogan mean?

Nestled between the laughs and jokes are some striking words of praise for the advertisement, which was created by Fred Davis and his Hollywood-based Strategic Perception Inc.

Roy Peter Clark, a senior scholar at The Poynter Institute, where he has taught writing since 1979, wrote an opinion column for CNN.com earlier this month defending the much-parodied ad.

"That sentence, 'I'm you,' may be the shortest and most soulful in the history of American electioneering, sounding more like philosopher

Martin Buber's existential 'I and Thou' than Barack Obama's 'Yes we can,' " he wrote.

In this hyperpartisan election year, Clark said, he received plenty of complaints about his column praising the ad. But he's used to it. Earlier this summer, he also wrote a column for CNN defending Sarah Palin's use of "refudiate" in a Twitter posting about the proposed mosque near ground zero in New York.

"You want skepticism in a democracy, which is what I try to apply even to people whose politics I dislike," Clark told The News Journal. "As opposed to cynicism, which just assumes from the start that everything that comes out of the opponent's mouth is a lie."

Clark was not alone in his praise of the ad. Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert -- no fan of O'Donnell -- also gave it kudos online.

But Harris Ross, associate professor of film and journalism at the University of Delaware, thinks they are both off. He said the ad reassures her supporters but fails to reach out to everyone else.

And with the most recent poll by the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication showing Coons with a 21-point advantage over O'Donnell with just over two weeks until the election, she needs to focus on outreach, he said.

"The question that people have about Christine O'Donnell is not whether she's a witch. I think for most people that's neither here nor there -- it certainly is for me," Ross said. "But it's, 'Does she have the intellectual heft to do the job?' And the problem with the ad is it's remarkably empty.

"All she says is, 'I'll go to Washington and do what you would do.' Well, what does that mean? It means absolutely nothing."

With all the attention -- most of which came in the form of punch lines and parody -- O'Donnell is no longer unknown to Delaware voters and she has fashioned a national identity.

"There's the old adage, 'Any publicity is good publicity.' Everybody is talking about you and your campaign and they wouldn't be if it had been a different kind of commercial," Bass said.

More negative ads

Even as the pair sling charges back and forth in ads and during debates, neither wants to be seen as going negative. At a debate at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington on Thursday, they were asked about "The Delaware Way" of civil politicking. O'Donnell took the opportunity to say, "I would ask that the negative ads, the slanderous ads against me stop."

With no primary opponent, Coons ran mostly under the radar until September. O'Donnell's Tea Party Express-backed run against US Rep. Mike Castle, though, was one of the most nasty in recent Delaware history. At one point, O'Donnell called Castle "unmanly" and told him to get his "man pants" on. Two weeks after leaving her campaign, a former O'Donnell staffer produced a video spot suggesting Castle was "cheating on his wife with a man."

The negative advertising isn't likely to stop.

Since her "I'm not a witch" ad, O'Donnell has released three more television ads.

On Oct. 7, O'Donnell re-appeared with the same dark background as in the "I'm not a witch" ad, but this time the focus was on Coons, a graduate of Amherst and Yale whose stepfather, Robert Gore, is president of W.L. Gore, maker of Gore-Tex fabrics.

"I didn't go to Yale. I didn't inherit millions like my opponent. I'm you," she says, bathed in soft light. "I know how tough it is to make and keep a dollar."

The "tax man" ads have a different flavor.

One of the ads is in the form of a minute-long fictitious film trailer. Opening with the familiar green screen announcing it's a preview, a sinister voice booms: "In America, where jobs are being lost and wages cut. In Delaware, where the economy is suffering and families are losing their

homes, there is one man who stood against the tide and raised taxes.”

Before revealing the name of the faux film, “Tax Man,” the voice warns: “Hide your will. Hide your lights. ‘Cause he’s taxing everything out here. Chris Coons is the tax man.”

O’Donnell’s “tax man” theme fits neatly with her mailings released in recent weeks that show a cartoonish image of Coons with a fistful of cash in one hand and a bag of money in the other with the headline, “Chris Coons: Big Spending. Big Taxing. Typical Politician.”

Coons is largely avoiding the headline-grabbing volleys, whether it’s about her past anti-masturbation activism or alliance with witchcraft.

“That’s got to be one of the more memorable ways to introduce oneself,” Coons told The New York Times about the witch ad, sidestepping the subject with what Times reporter Frank Bruni described as a “controlled and very, very brief” smile.

Serious issues and spoofs

Coons’ trio of television ads have been less attention-getting, focusing on jobs, ending bailouts and cutting wasteful spending without any mention of O’Donnell. However, an ad in heavy rotation paid for by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee attacks O’Donnell directly.

“Christine O’Donnell claims she’ll control Washington spending, but look at her record,” a female voice says. “She was sued for not paying her bills. Didn’t pay her taxes. Has a federal complaint filed against her for spending campaign funds on herself.

“If Christine O’Donnell wants to be irresponsible with her money, that’s her business. But she’s running for Senate and being irresponsible with our money is our business.”

Coons has had to fend off attacks about a college essay titled “Chris Coons, the Making of a Bearded Marxist,” a title he says was a joke. While his past has not aroused the sort of comedic

frenzy that O’Donnell’s has, Coons has been pulled into the fray.

“Jimmy Kimmel Live” on ABC aired a full-length, satirical Coons television ad focusing on O’Donnell’s work as founder of The Savior’s Alliance for Lifting the Truth and her opposition to masturbation.

Daniel McElhatton, Coons’ campaign spokesman, brushed off any jokes directed at his boss: “We’re not paying attention to late-night spoofs.”

When asked by the Times’ Bruni about O’Donnell’s stance on masturbation, Coons responded: “I have 11-year-old twin boys, and this campaign has allowed us to accelerate awkward conversations.”

Each side has their own forum for political entertainment, Clark said: for the left, it’s comedy shows like “The Daily Show” and “Saturday Night Live,” and for the right, it’s talk radio. Both are able to redefine candidates or their message, and the jokes and satirical spoofs of O’Donnell’s witch ad is an example.

“Here’s the problem with humor: by its very nature, it exaggerates behaviors in order to call attention to them and make light of them,” Clark said. “And it’s those exaggerations that become real for partisans.”

Personal history exposed

Whether it’s O’Donnell’s witchcraft comments or Coons’ “Bearded Marxist” paper, Clark doesn’t believe either should be the focus of the election. He came to this conclusion by putting himself in their shoes, even though he’s fairly sure he’ll never run for public office.

“But if I do, I hope people won’t go picking through the garbage of my personal history. I’m not exactly the same person I was when I was 23 because I know there’s a lot of stuff there that would make me unelectable,” said Clark, 62. “But I think it’s fair to say that probably everybody -- if you could peer deeply enough into their personal lives, preferences, histories and behaviors -- have

got stuff that would hurt their chances of getting elected in this climate.”

There’s no denying that personal history has attracted the national attention, whether it’s Rachel Maddow hosting her MSNBC show live from The Deer Park Tavern in Newark, Blitzer co-moderating Wednesday’s debate live on CNN or “The Daily Show” report from Delaware about the differences between upstate and downstate Delaware.

“The media is always looking for a hook, and this already had one -- she was the witch/masturbation candidate,” Ross said.

For her part, O’Donnell seems to be taking the humorous barbs about her ad pretty well. The day after the “Saturday Night Live” skit, she logged onto her Twitter account to respond.

Instead of defending herself, she took the self-deprecating approach: “SNL skit was really funny ... and I have to admit, her hair looked better than mine.”

Angry On The Right. Beleaguered On The Left. Disappointed In The Middle. (WILNJ)

By Wade Malcolm

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

On a recent Thursday night, deep in Sussex County, more than 200 grumbling people squeezed into a small fire hall, united by their unhappiness.

They spent the evening listening to a handful of mostly obscure political newcomers, among them long-shot Independent Doug Campbell.

“I’m not an attorney,” said the candidate for state attorney general. “I’m an Eagle Scout, an ex-Marine and a man with common sense.”

Many in the audience cheered at the introduction and voiced more approval when Campbell advocated wider handgun ownership, lamented the US currency’s departure from the gold standard and railed against illegal immigration.

Then Preston Clark, liking what he had heard so far, raised his hand and asked a question.

“Have you got any college?” asked the 70-year-old from Ellendale.

“No,” replied Campbell, who seal-coats driveways and parking lots for a living.

“Good,” Clark said, drawing laughter. “Because they’re the ones who got us in this mess.”

In the year of the frustrated, anti-incumbent voter, groups such as the this one -- Delaware 9-12 Patriots -- most visibly personify voter anger in the First State, but the displeasure of disappointed moderates and beleaguered liberals also boils below the surface. For some on the right, the nation’s high unemployment and the unpopular bailouts and back-room deals have created weariness of “elite” politicians and led to increasing affinity for neophyte candidates such as Campbell. Republican Senate hopeful Christine O’Donnell attempted to capture those emotions in her famous “I’m you” commercial.

It’s not that he dislikes people with an education or experience, Clark said. In fact, he encouraged his five children and eight grandchildren to get the best education they could. He just doesn’t like the assumption that it makes someone better than him. Before they started attending 9-12 meetings, Clark said, he and other members of the group never spoke publicly about their views -- afraid people would talk down to them or make them look foolish.

“You feel better about [speaking] here because everybody feels the same way,” he said.

Right behind Clark, the meeting organizers sold flags, T-shirts and bumper stickers offering stern summaries of the outrage in the room. “Don’t tread on me.” “I’ll hold on to my guns and my faith ... you can keep your ‘change.’”

And perhaps, more to the point: “Can you hear us now?”

Cycles of resentment

Political scientists often say elections are cyclical, said Jason Mycoff, associate professor of political science and international relations at the

University of Delaware. One party or political philosophy is up and the other is down. Whatever side holds the power, the other often feels angry.

"In every election, there's a certain percentage of voters who are angry -- vehemently angry," he said. "This year, there may be some that are intensely angry and just making a lot of noise."

Much of the shouting has centered on President Barack Obama's policies, and O'Donnell has derided Coons as a potential "rubber stamp" for the administration. Obama and Vice President Joe **Biden** have tried in earnest to break the conservative momentum and resist the tide of voter fury. They have encouraged their beleaguered base with a series of rallies in liberal strongholds, including one in Philadelphia a week ago and another in Wilmington on Friday.

Business agent Joe Schorah of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 19 traveled with other union members from Delaware to Philadelphia to show loyalty to Obama. But he admits their patience won't last forever. Schorah said with the economy still slow he's had to work harder to get his members to show the same energy supporting Democrats that they did in 2008.

"Is there frustration out there? Absolutely there's frustration," said Schorah, whose union represents about 150 Delaware workers. "Things are starting to turn around, but negativity always rules out the good that is happening."

While the country languishes, many malign Obama as appearing too calm, contemplative or aloof. The president has tried to counteract this, experts have said. When the president arrived at the Philadelphia rally, a smiling **Biden**, sporting aviator sunglasses, stayed on stage, providing the straight-laced Obama with convenient comic relief.

"Joe looks cool in those glasses, too, doesn't he?" Obama kidded, before giving a fiery speech accusing Republicans of trying to derail the country's progress.

While the left might lack the rage felt on the right, some liberals have lost excitement for the Democratic agenda. The Guantanamo Bay detention camp stayed open. The war in Afghanistan escalated. The military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gay service members remains in place, for now.

"I think everybody's a little disappointed," said Matt Coogan of Haven, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender student union at UD. "He ran as an agent of change."

Coogan and other Haven members marched against O'Donnell before her nationally televised debate with Democrat Chris Coons on campus Wednesday. Disappointment aside, Coogan said Democrats have carefully picked where to spend political capital and perhaps expectations for Obama soared too high.

Saw what they wanted

"The economy is the biggest piece of it, but Obama's policies are probably some element of it," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at University of Virginia. "He probably went a little further to the left than most people thought he would. ... On the other hand, some liberals thought they were going to get someone that would shake up the system. People saw in Obama what they wanted to see."

Before the 9-12 Patriots meeting in Sussex started, Ritchie Barron approached a table and inspected a packet of greeting cards decorated with a picture of the 9-12 Project rally, promoted by radio commentator and Fox News host Glenn Beck.

"I was there, you know," said Barron, 46, of Lewes of the Sept. 12, 2009, event in Washington.

The man selling the merchandise -- Alex Garcia, one of the founding members of the Delaware 9-12 Patriots -- nodded his approval. As the materials on the table in front of Garcia explained, 9-12 stands for nine principles and 12 values that Beck espouses, a guiding force in

Garcia's life since one spring day in 2009. Garcia and his wife, Teresa, had just spent an hour "yelling and screaming" while watching Beck's show on Fox News. The next day, they received a serendipitous call from friend Russ Murphy. He wanted to start a conservative grass-roots organization. The Garcias got on board and soon many others did, too.

The group holds five regular meetings per month throughout the state. The early gatherings often devolved into cathartic rants against the government, said Murphy, now the executive director.

"I figured beforehand there was a lot of anger and animosity out there, so I thought, 'Let's let the anger flow out there and vent,' " he said. "Then I said, 'OK, you've said everything you don't like -- the big government, the corporate greed. But we've been sitting back and doing nothing.' "

They aren't anymore. In about six months, they organized their disgruntled supporters into a political force and swept House Republican candidate Glen Urquhart and O'Donnell past more mild-mannered primary opponents. And despite O'Donnell trailing in the polls, her supporters still believe an agitated electorate can carry her to victory over Coons.

O'Donnell credited the passion of the 9-12 Patriots and other tea party groups with her primary victory over Republican favorite Mike Castle. At a GOP fundraising picnic shortly after her Sept. 14 victory, O'Donnell approached the Garcias and other 9-12 members to acknowledge their contribution.

"When I stepped up to run, if they hadn't laid the groundwork, there wouldn't have been a foundation," O'Donnell told them. "There wouldn't have been already a network of people giving the same message. So I think that's what's helped candidates like me, candidates like Glen Urquhart, just good candidates who are outside of the political scope."

Aside from her pledges to cut spending and taxes while still reducing the deficit, O'Donnell's appeal over Castle and Coons seemed simple to a fellow 9-12 Patriot seated near the Garcias at the picnic.

"She would come and talk to us when other candidates wouldn't," said Susan Cooksey, 53, of Frederica. "She listened. She came and talked. And she said what we wanted to hear."

"Aww," O'Donnell said appreciatively before adding, "Because I meant it! I didn't say what you wanted. I meant it."

Disappointed

Most people don't attend rallies. Most don't volunteer for "grass-roots movements," pledge unwavering loyalty to a political philosophy or pay much attention to politics on a daily basis.

Most people are more like 60-year-old Sandy Mercante, sitting on the front stoop of her Pike Creek home, enjoying a glass of wine with ice after a long day on her feet. Though she voted for Obama in 2008, she considers him "a disappointment."

"The bottom line is, everybody that's in there hasn't helped anybody," she said.

"It's all partisan politics," added her husband, Nick, 70. "It's gonna be the same no matter who's elected. Everybody voted for Obama because they were down on Bush, and surprise, he's worse."

The Mercantes own a hair salon on Kirkwood Highway and a modest two-story home with a small yard and a driveway -- much like the rest of the homes in their development. Mercante and the moderate, middle-class residents of her voting district swung big for Obama. They voted 850-655 in his favor, almost an exact flip-flop of the 2004 result, 801-646 in favor of Republican George W. Bush over Democrat John Kerry.

Now in 2010, even Democratic-leaning voters here like Jennifer Myers, 32, grimace when admitting their enthusiastic support of Obama in 2008.

"I'm not too happy about it now," she said.

David Wilson, a UD political scientist, wanted to see just how resonant this supposed anger could be among the general electorate, people like Myers and the Mercantes.

He created a poll that found, on the whole, Delawareans aren't especially angry. Conducted in the second half of September, the poll asked more than 900 state residents, "Today, are you personally angry at [fill in the blank], or not?" The pollsters went down a list, inserting various entities into the blank.

About 29 percent expressed anger, vaguely, at the federal government. The rest were nearly equal. President Obama: 22 percent. Democrats in Congress: 22 percent. Republicans in Congress: 23 percent.

Perhaps not surprisingly, likely O'Donnell supporters voiced the most anger, but even they weren't the majority, Wilson said. About 45 percent of those who prefer O'Donnell were angry at Obama, while only 8 percent of Coons backers were. And 36 percent of right-leaning voters were angry at the "federal government," compared with only 14 percent of left-leaning voters.

Still, a nationwide Newsweek poll earlier this month found 54 percent of voters "frustrated" and 68 percent merely "dissatisfied." However you term it, discontent of some kind has made an impact around the country, Sabato said.

"People are fundamentally unhappy because they are being squeezed economically," he said. "It isn't just unemployment. It's the bank and Wall Street crisis that shrank people's retirements. Their house might be in foreclosure. They don't know how they'll pay for their kids' college."

In Wilson's view, anger reached its highest potency in the primary season when a small group of conservative voters picked the Republican nominees. If Democrats lose big in November, they can blame voters' desire for something new, not anger, Wilson said.

"I think the difference now is the way it's being posed as a narrative," Wilson said. "Times are tough. We have two wars. We have big companies taking government money. I think the anger is something that's a great story. ... But I don't think it's substantively real. Just like 'hope' in the 2008 election. People didn't have hope. They just wanted something different. So all these things, when you peel back the onion, you see nothing has changed."

Welcome, Mr. President

Around 12:30 p.m. Friday on King Street in Wilmington, tension built as the presidential motorcade approached. About 50 members of the 9-12 Patriots held signs or wore shirts either supporting O'Donnell or criticizing Obama or Coons. At one point, a police officer asked a few people to move away from a crosswalk.

"No one wants to see that ugly sign anyway," said Ashley Jones, 24, who came to support "my president" during her lunch break.

Hours earlier, about half of the 9-12 Patriots boarded a bus in either Milford or Dover, paying \$15 per ticket to attend what they called a "Welcome to Delaware Rally," an opportunity to show the president their anger. The group included Murphy, the Garcias and Preston Clark, who packed an American flag and a little white cooler for his lunch. Before the commander in chief passed, Clark turned his back. Another man held a sign saying "LIAR."

The Garcias and others opted for a full-throated boo, their jeers mixing with cheers and applause. The president waved from behind tinted windows and saw the crowd for no more than a few seconds before he was driven past.

The crowd soon dispersed. And the 9-12 Patriots gathered their belongings, walked to the bus and rode home.

Christina Investigated For Discipline Bias (WILNJ)

By Nichole Dobo

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

The US Department of Education's office of civil rights is investigating whether black male students are punished disproportionately in the Christina School District, one of five districts nationwide under scrutiny for its discipline record.

Federal investigators are in the process of visiting all of Christina's schools and have requested detailed discipline data for at least the last two academic years.

Although the investigation began in the spring, Christina officials did not publicly confirm its existence until The News Journal called about this story.

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan first mentioned districts were being investigated at a conference in late September hosted by the US Department of Education's civil rights office and the US Department of Justice's civil rights division. The school districts under review are in Delaware, New York, North Carolina, Utah and Minnesota.

One of the other districts, the San Juan School District in rural Utah, is being investigated for alleged gender disparities without respect to race or ethnicity, according to a school official.

In Christina, the federal inquiry focuses on the treatment of black male students, spokeswoman Wendy Lapham said. District officials acknowledge a disparity exists among the discipline rates, which they are working to correct, she said, adding the district has been cooperating with the investigation.

Statewide, black students made up about 32 percent of the public school population last year, but they accounted for about 55 percent of students who were suspended or expelled, according to an analysis by The News Journal published in June that compared discipline statistics provided by the state to school enrollments.

The discipline rates for all students in Delaware are higher than the national average: 21,690 of the state's 126,801 students -- about 1 in 6 -- were suspended or expelled in the 2009-2010 school year, which is down slightly from the year before. Those numbers include in-school suspensions. Counting only expulsions and out-of-school suspensions, the number dips to 14,368 students, or about 1 in 9.

The national suspension rate for all students was 7.1 percent in 2006, according to the most recent report by the US Department of Education. During that same year, the Delaware rate was 12.8 percent.

The Christina School District had the highest rate among the state's 19 school districts in the 2008-2009 and the 2007-2008 school years. However, the district's numbers went down in almost every school in 2009-2010.

Lapham says the decrease is the result of an effort by the district to better train teachers, help students learn to deal with conflicts and the elimination of a zero-tolerance policy. The district wants to keep more children in the schools, she said. She said the district has been analyzing its data internally and has been "working to address any issues of disparity by working with teachers at the classroom level, increasing training for para-professionals, reviewing and discussing data at the school level and significantly reducing suspensions and expulsions."

Zero tolerance -- sometimes

In 2009, a 6-year-old boy brought a Boy Scout tool to a Christina school to eat his pudding at lunch. Under the district's zero-tolerance policy, Zachary Christie faced a punishment of suspension or expulsion. The policy did not allow educators to make a punishment judgment call based on the context of the incident or age of the child.

But after public outcry and widespread media attention, the school board in 2009 decided to amend its policy as it pertained to kindergarten

and first-grade students. Then in spring 2010, it eliminated the zero-tolerance policy.

Parents and officials like New Castle County Councilman Jea Street point to that outcome when they complain about Christina's high rate of punishment among black males. The 6-year-old was white.

Parent Wanda Stanley said she read about the boy's case with interest because she was dealing with the effects of Christina's zero tolerance policy that year. Her 11-year-old daughter was expelled after a box cutter fell out of her jacket pocket at Pulaski Elementary School in Wilmington. The girl did not know how the box cutter got in her pocket and had no intention of hurting anyone, her mother says. Police were notified by the school but did not file any criminal charges.

School officials told her there was no room for debate about the expulsion because of the zero-tolerance policy, Stanley says. This was confusing, she said, because she read in the newspaper that another child was not going to be punished after "powerful people" intervened. From her perspective, she saw a white boy who went unpunished while her black daughter was put out of school.

"I am hurt because I know my daughter is totally innocent and I don't want this to follow my daughter through her schooling," Stanley said.

The district's board of education and the state board of education ruled that the expulsion was justified.

A complaint against the school board is pending before the state Human Relations Commission. It alleges the district discriminated against Stanley's daughter on the basis of age and race. The district is appealing to have the case thrown out, but the commission declined to dismiss the case in a Sept. 28 order, which means a hearing is likely.

Stanley says she is devoted to making sure her daughter's case is heard because she

believes there is a fundamental unfairness in the district. She wonders what happens to children who don't have a parent who is willing or able to fight their child's suspension or expulsion.

"You just cannot sit still when things are not right for your children," she said.

Robert Charles of Wilmington, the parent of an 11-year-old boy who was expelled when he was 9, agrees. Charles said his son was being bullied and wound up getting caught with a knife in his school bag at Bancroft Elementary School. The boy said the knife was not his and his father said he believes him.

The boy wound up getting expelled under the zero-tolerance policy.

"There was no discussion about the circumstances," Charles said. "It was like, 'Boom. We have a zero-tolerance policy and he's gone.'"

The boy wound up not attending school anywhere for the remainder of his fourth-grade year. He's now in the sixth grade in the Christina district.

Charles believes there was a racial bias when the zero-tolerance policy was applied. Again, it was based on an account that a white student who committed a similar infraction wound up not getting expulsion.

"Seems like when one group gets accused of something, they get expelled without an investigation and if another group does something, it gets looked into and being expelled isn't automatic."

Charles said his son is struggling in sixth grade, in part because of the part of fourth grade he missed.

"But he'll be OK," Charles said. "To me, education is the key. That's how I raise him."

District taking steps

Studies show that minorities are punished at higher rates than their peers, but there's not evidence that these children misbehave more, said Dan Losen, a former teacher who now works for The Civil Rights Project at UCLA. The federal

government under President George W. Bush did not investigate many schools for these issues, which are now getting attention under a new administration, he said.

Typically, reviews from the office of civil rights are used to help districts find solutions and to monitor progress, Losen said, because "the preference has historically been to enter into a joint problem-solving approach rather than issuing violations."

It's important for children to remain in school -- especially those who are at risk because they do not have a home life that has afforded them the opportunity to learn how to behave in a school setting, Losen said. When children are removed from school they miss class time and are sent back to the home setting, compounding the problem.

"Our job as public educators is: Those kids need help so they can succeed in school," Losen said. "How is suspending them and sending them to the dysfunctional home going to help? The school's job is to take kids as they receive them."

From 1978 until 1996, the state was under court order to publicly report discipline numbers in Delaware schools that showed how many minority students were being punished. When the court order expired, the state stopped providing the information, Street says. The state Department of Education lists discipline data on its website, but it does not break down the figures in a way that shows race, ethnicity or gender. That information was supplied to The News Journal in May following a request.

Helen Spacht, principal at Christina's Wilson Elementary, said programs like the district's Day of Caring help reinforce the importance of kindness and how to treat others with respect. The school is certified under the Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" program, a distinction that means the school has undergone training for staff and students on diversity issues. Also, teachers have been meeting to share ideas

and literature on better classroom and bullying management, she said.

"It's really changing the strategies and how they work with students," she said.

But the district has not made enough progress in dealing with these issues, said Street, who organized a rally in April to protest both Christina and the Capital School District for escalating discipline rates. That was the same month district officials received word they would face a review from the office of civil rights, information that was not shared by the district at the time.

"The fact is that [office of civil rights] is once again going to have to do what local officials refuse to do," Street said. "Nobody would listen to me when I claimed Christina was discriminating when it changed policy to accommodate one child and knew full well that the same policy had been used overzealously for others."

Renowned Delaware Money Manager David Baldt Faces Insider-Trading Charges From '08 (WILNJ)

By Jonathan Starkey

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

As markets panicked in the fall of 2008, David Baldt was engaged in a debate inside the Philadelphia offices of British investment firm Schroders.

Baldt, a high-flying money manager who owns a home in Centreville, had watched as investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed into history's largest bankruptcy on Sept. 15, sending the stock market into its largest sell-off since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

That same week, the Bush administration pumped \$85 billion into insurance conglomerate AIG and proposed infusing banks with \$700 billion to prevent a domino string of failures. Frenzied investors rushed to pull money from stocks, bonds and money-market funds.

Investors in Baldt's municipal bonds clamored for their money. One investor sought to redeem more than \$20 million, and higher-ups pressed Baldt to aggressively sell securities to meet rising redemption requests. Baldt resisted, arguing that a hasty sell-off would leave remaining investors in the lurch.

After one such meeting on Sept. 17, Baldt returned to his office to a message from one of his daughters. Rattled by the week's events, she sought her father's advice about savings she had invested in one of Baldt's funds.

"Well, you should own what you could live with, and if owning a Treasury makes you sleep better at night, just temporarily take haven in Treasury bills," Baldt offered, according to a recording of the call supplied to the SEC by Schroders. Baldt suggested his daughter relay the advice to other family members.

That call, and another that followed in early October, could cost Baldt his career.

Out of work for a year

Baldt faces federal charges of insider trading for allegedly misusing nonpublic information to warn his family to protect their savings during the worst of America's financial meltdown. He'll represent himself at a hearing in Philadelphia on Monday.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission slapped Baldt with an 11-page administrative proceeding in May. It recounts the events of mid-September and early October 2008, including Baldt's debates with management, and his conversations with his daughter, who is referred to only as "Family Member A."

Reached last week at his Centreville home -- for which records show he paid \$995,000 in 2006 -- Baldt said he could not comment on details of the case but was looking forward to telling his side of the story.

"I'm anxious to have my day in court, when the truth can be told," Baldt said.

Depending on the outcome of this week's hearing, Baldt could be barred from working in the securities industry, and he could face steep fines.

The ordeal has already taken a sledgehammer to his professional life. He has not worked for the past year and has resigned board posts across northern Delaware to avoid involving the likes of the University of Delaware and the Delaware Art Museum.

A spokesman for the university said Baldt took a leave of absence in May from an investment committee that oversees the school's \$1 billion endowment. He had sat on the committee since 1997, when the fund was valued at \$664 million.

Baldt left the museum's board in May so "he wouldn't embarrass the museum in any way," said Danielle Rice, executive director there. The museum, still one of Delaware's premier cultural institutions, counts many of Delaware's most revered families among its founders and earliest supporters, including the Bancrofts and the du Ponts. Louisa d'Andelot du Pont Copeland and others chartered the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts in 1912 to exhibit the work of illustrator Howard Pyle, establishing a foundation for the museum.

"As anyone who knows [Baldt] will tell you, he is a deeply religious, spiritual person," Rice said. "So all of us were quite taken aback when we heard of the proceedings against him."

Gerret van S. Copeland, Louisa's grandson, who chairs the museum's board, said he found Baldt to be "very astute, very careful in his analysis of things."

That would hardly surprise people who have trusted Baldt with their money over the years -- many of them in positions of social and professional esteem in Delaware.

R.R.M. "Ruly" Carpenter III, a one-time owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, said he's known Baldt for 30 years. For much of that time, Baldt

managed some of his personal investments, Carpenter said.

"He's always done an excellent job of managing my bond portfolio," said Carpenter, a trustee at the University of Delaware, where he has often bumped into Baldt at basketball and football games. "He always performed well and was very low-key. When he spoke about bonds, and what to do and what not to do, it was well-advised to listen."

Baldt has also managed investments for the state of Delaware, the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington and the New Castle County pension fund, which sought to cut ties with Schroders after Baldt left the company. The county finally traded Schroders in for another manager this past summer, after liquidating its account. Schroders still handles more than \$360 million for the state, according to the treasurer's office.

Outperforming others

In 1971, Baldt graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in international relations. He turned down a job working in intelligence at the National Security Agency to work for Delaware Trust Co., where he remained for 16 years, developing a reputation as an all-star municipal bond picker.

Baldt, who directed fixed-income investments at Delaware Trust, regularly outperformed the competition throughout the early 1980s, earning 18 percent versus an industry average of 11.7 percent. From 1982 to 1985, Baldt tripled Delaware Trust's bond assets, to \$900 million.

"It's pretty amazing, the performance he's had," Ronald G. Crampton, who studied bond performance for investment firm John Nuveen & Co., told The News Journal for a profile of Baldt in 1985.

Later, Baldt managed bond portfolios for Morgan Grenfell -- where he worked in 1997, the year he was recognized as "Fund Manager of the Year" by investment research firm Morningstar -- and Deutsche Asset Management. Schroders

plucked him from Deutsche in 2003 to run a new bond business in Philadelphia.

After Baldt's Sept. 17 conversation with his daughter, she redeemed \$150,000 from the fund, according to the SEC, and Baldt's debate with management about how to manage the sell-off continued. Ultimately overruled, Baldt's team moved forward, selling securities to raise cash, as directed.

On Oct. 3, after learning that an outside broker had expressed concern about Schroders' position, Baldt penned an e-mail to members of the firm's management, writing that the "massive sale lists that we have recently undertaken" were leading the dealer community to question whether "we are in trouble." That day, Baldt had another conversation with his daughter -- "Family Member A" -- during which he urged her to "consider [her] inclination to sell."

"I'd go the full route," Baldt advised, according to the SEC. His daughter redeemed \$50,000 on the next trading day, and the same amount the day after. Overall, she redeemed \$250,000. Other family members in October redeemed \$100,000 but failed to redeem another \$3 million in shares.

Amy Greer, a securities lawyer who from 2003 to 2008 was the SEC's head trial lawyer in Philadelphia, said government lawyers must prove that Baldt intended to disclose nonpublic information that would encourage his family to sell.

Early on, Greer said that Baldt seemed to be offering his family "pretty bland advice" in advising them to seek safety in Treasury bills, Greer said.

"It's not uncommon for investment professionals to tell investors that they should only invest to their comfort level," she said.

Greer added, however, that Baldt may have gone too far in the Oct. 3 conversation with his daughter, saying he seemed to be "promoting" the idea to sell.

"That's part of the problem," Greer said. "This is what this case is."

Internal investigation

In October of 2008, Schroders moved to liquidate two municipal bond funds Baldt managed, by which time they had apparently adopted Baldt's caution. In an Oct. 14 letter to shareholders, the firm wrote, "Recently, management of the funds has become concerned that a large amount of redemptions in a short period of time could force the Funds to sell portfolio securities at unfavorable prices, to the disadvantage of all of the Funds' shareholders."

Baldt left the firm in October but remained in an advisory role until May of 2009, Schroders said. In a statement, the firm said it had detected Baldt's actions, launched an internal investigation and ultimately turned its evidence over to the SEC.

"[Schroders] has no tolerance for the activities alleged in the SEC's administrative action against David Baldt," the firm said.

Schroders said it was only working to "preserve shareholder value ... following the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the near-collapse of AIG and the dramatic efforts of governments around the world to respond to the unprecedented financial crisis."

Today, the broader economy has regained some footing. The Dow Jones industrial average is up 69 percent from its bottom on March 9, 2009, and AIG recently announced a plan to pay back its government bailout funds. Baldt, however, remains embroiled in the high drama of America's financial meltdown, with his professional life at stake. The SEC's case against Baldt is a civil one, but if he's found guilty, he could be suspended from working in the securities industry, or even barred.

Greer, the securities lawyer, said it can be more difficult for prosecutors to establish intent in cases such as Baldt's, in which the defendant did

not trade shares for their own personal gain using inside information.

Last year, for instance, the SEC lost a similar insider-trading case it filed against Frederick Anton, a Pennsylvania businessman. The SEC alleged that Anton, then the chairman of Blue Ball, Pa.-based workers' compensation insurer PMA Capital Corp., provided inside information to a former employee in 2003, leading the employee, David Johnson, to sell shares he owned in the company. Johnson even testified against Anton, but a judge found his testimony unconvincing, and ruled there was no proof that Anton actually possessed information that the SEC claimed he used to tip Johnson.

In Baldt's case, the question of why he would divulge insider information could seem clear -- because the case involves protecting his family's savings -- but prosecutors still face challenges, Greer said.

"They have to have that fraudulent intent," Greer said. "So, what was the person thinking? Why would they do this? That becomes more difficult [when there is no personal gain], though not impossible."

Phillies Get No Magic From Halladay In Game 1 (WILNJ)

By David Hale

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

PHILADELPHIA -- Roy Halladay is steady. That's his whole persona. An even keel, all the time.

The buildup to Saturday night's start, however, was tough to ignore. The hype was ubiquitous. There was Halladay, fresh off the second no-hitter in postseason history. The Giants countered with Tim Lincecum, who was nearly as sharp in pitching a two-hit shutout against Atlanta last week.

Two former Cy Young Award winners, two of the best pitchers baseball has to offer, and Game 1 of the National League Championship Series on the line.

And yet, for all the hype, Halladay never let it soak in. It had been more than a week since his last start, and Halladay deftly avoided the drama.

By the sixth inning, however, the stoic pitcher finally showed he was human.

A 90-mph cutter appeared to hit the inside corner for what would have been strike three on Pat Burrell. Halladay wanted that pitch. He needed it.

But he didn't get it, and the frustration was evident.

His next pitch was a fastball that caught too much of the plate, and Burrell sent it deep into left field for an RBI double that proved to be the difference in a pitching matchup that never quite lived up to the hype. The Giants won 4-3, taking a one-game lead in the best-of-seven NLCS.

"You find out what you're made of," said Halladay, who followed his no-hitter by allowing eight hits and four runs in seven innings against the Giants. "You never obviously expect it to be easy. You grind it out and make adjustments next time out. I think if you can't handle failure at this point, you're in the wrong business."

Failure isn't something Halladay or Lincecum had experienced much of this season, and their playoff debuts set a lofty standard.

"The way this series was built up, if anyone got a hit it was going to be a miracle," closer Brad Lidge said.

But the hits came. Both starters allowed two homers. Lincecum allowed six hits and walked three. Halladay's efforts were undercut by Burrell's long fly ball that nearly found Raul Ibanez's glove.

Burrell's hit was the final blow. The first came from a far more unlikely source.

Five months ago, Cody Ross was in the lineup for the Marlins when Halladay tossed a perfect game.

Three months later, Ross was on waivers. The Giants weren't particularly interested, but they didn't want to see their division rival Padres get him, either. So Ross earned a roster spot, even if he wasn't playing regularly.

Two weeks ago, Ross wasn't the Giants' right fielder. But Jose Guillen was struggling, and manager Bruce Bochy decided to roll the dice with Ross, leaving Guillen off the postseason roster.

And so it was that Ross came to bat against Halladay in the bottom of the third. It had been 12 innings since Halladay had last allowed a hit, three weeks since he last allowed a run.

Superman had his kryptonite. Halladay had Ross.

The Giants' right fielder sent a fastball over the left-field wall for a solo homer to give San Francisco a 1-0 lead. Two innings later, he provided a replay, his second homer in as many at-bats.

"The first pitch to Ross I didn't think was that bad," Halladay said. "The second one, I left the ball over the plate. In the sixth, a couple pitches there cost me. At this point, if you make a couple mistakes they end up costing you."

The sixth is when Burrell did his damage, when a chink was finally visible in Halladay's armor.

The last time Burrell belted an extra-base hit in the postseason at Citizens Bank Park, it was a double off J.P. Howell in the seventh inning of Game 5 of the 2008 World Series. He left for pinch runner Eric Bruntlett, who eventually came around to score the winning run that sent the Phillies to their first World Series title in 28 years.

Burrell's double Saturday night put a significant dent in this year's quest for another championship. Ibanez -- the man the Phillies chose to replace Burrell after the '08 season -- gave chase, climbed the wall and nearly corralled it before the ball bounced free and Burrell cruised into second base with an RBI double.

"I thought he hit it better than that, actually," Ibanez said. "I thought it was going to go up off the top of the wall. By the time I jumped against the wall to get a little leverage and get a little height, the ball was lower than I thought."

Juan Uribe followed with a single that scored Burrell to take a 4-1 lead.

The Phillies battled back on the strength of a two-run homer by Jayson Werth in the bottom of the sixth, but that's where the rally ended.

Jimmy Rollins struck out twice with runners on base, including once to end the eighth. Ross Gload and Shane Victorino each struck out with a runner on first in the ninth. Brian Wilson recorded a four-out save.

"I think definitely you want to swing the bats better for sure," said Ibanez, whose fly ball stranded Ryan Howard at second after a leadoff double in the second. "But at the same time, you've got to stay after it and come back and keep fighting."

The loss was the first for the Phillies in the opening game of a postseason series since 2007, when the Rockies swept three games in the division series.

"Usually, it's the other way around. We win Game 1 and find a way to lose Game 2," Rollins said. "Now we've got to find a way to win Game 2."

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

EDITORIALS

Voters Rightly Angered At The System's Failures (WILNJ)

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

The theme of this year's election is anger. That still seems to astound some people. But this late in the game, it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone paying attention to the world around him.

People who disdain politics often think the news media and the political campaign staffs manufacture and manipulate the public with their coverage and political advertising. In reality, the news reflects what is going on in the world, however imperfectly. And the campaign ads, however inglorious, are inspired by research into what people think, admire and fear.

Anger is this year's theme because many voters are angry.

Unemployment is high and will be for some time. Housing values have declined even for those who can still pay their mortgages. Healthcare expenses keep rising. And savings and investments are down, 401(k) accounts took big hits, and many private-sector pension plans have either disappeared or are shrinking rapidly.

The government's multi-billion dollar bailouts seem to have benefitted only Wall Street fat cats and public employees who still have comfortable health benefits and pensions.

Why shouldn't taxpayers be angry?

Meanwhile, the political establishments seemed unable to do anything about it. So thanks to modern communications technology, some on the right copied and improved upon the campaign tactics of the Obama campaign and turned the Republican Party upside down with the tea party movement.

We saw that here in Delaware with Christine O'Donnell's victory over party stalwart Mike Castle in the Republican primary.

But anger won't last. Even the most vocal candidate has to settle down when the election is won. It has happened before in American history. Voters have turned to the ballot before to vent their frustration and anger. From those votes have come many long-term, positive reforms.

If we're lucky, it will this time, too.

BIDEN IN THE NEWS

Biden: GOP On Deficits Is Like An Arsonist Becoming Fire Marshal (HILL)

By Bridget Johnson

[The Hill](#), October 16, 2010

Vice President Joe **Biden** said at a fundraiser Friday night that Republicans have "zero, zero, zero" credibility on reducing the deficit, and such talk from the GOP was "like making an arsonist the fire marshal."

Biden headlined the Milwaukee event for incumbent Rep. Steve Kagen (D-Wisc.), who's in a tight re-election race with Republican Reid Ribble, and state Sen. Julie Lassa, who's running for the seat being left open by David Obey's retirement.

According to the White House pool report, **Biden**, as well as the two candidates, joined the chorus of Democrats accusing the right of using outside groups and anonymous donors to propel campaigns.

"Why do you think the Chamber of Commerce will not tell us who is contributing to them? ... Follow the money! Follow the money!" **Biden** said.

Biden said the administration has been tasked with digging the country out of a "godawful" hole created by Republicans, and lambasted the right for criticizing government spending.

"These guys are not for real ... They have zero, zero, zero credibility on deficits," he said. "The last guy to balance a budget was William Jefferson Clinton ... These guys talking about deficits is like making an arsonist the fire marshal."

Biden warned that Democrats needed to not let voter anger carry away the election.

"If we let this remain a referendum on their anger, we will lose ... When you're angry you don't want to focus on the alternative," he said. "You only want to focus on your pain and your anger. And shame on us, shame on us if we let them do it and not remind them of what the alternative is and the progress we've made."

Vice President Joe Biden Scheduled To Campaign For Harry Reid On Wednesday (RGJ)

[Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#), October 17, 2010

Vice President Joe **Biden** is coming to Reno Wednesday to stage a campaign rally for Sen. Harry Reid.

The Democrats are scheduled to appear at the Old Gymnasium at the University of Nevada, Reno at 900 N. Virginia St. The doors open at 8 a.m.

People who want to attend at asked to RSVP at Reid's Web site at <http://www.harryreid.com/page/s/oct20reno>.

Biden To Campaign Wednesday For Reid In Reno (AP)

[Associated Press](#), October 16, 2010

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Vice President Joe **Biden** will join Sen. Harry Reid at a rally Wednesday at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Organizers say doors will open at 8 a.m. at the Virginia Street Gymnasium on the campus.

Biden also joined Reid for a fundraising breakfast and speech in Reno in October 2009.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to hold a rally on Friday in Las Vegas.

Reid is locked in a tight race with Republican Sharron Angle.

Lincoln In Lonely Uphill Race In Arkansas (NYT)

By Mark Leibovich

[New York Times](#), October 17, 2010

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. -- Senator Blanche Lincoln, the incumbent Democrat -- a double-whammy of a handicap this year -- was hanging around the Pope County Courthouse here, looking for someone, anyone, to talk to.

"Hi, I'm Blanche Lincoln," the two-term senator said, popping her head into an office populated by two people, one of whom barely

looked up while the other politely declared herself a supporter of Mrs. Lincoln's Republican opponent, Representative John Boozman.

"I'd love to come around here for one of y'all's office Christmas parties," Mrs. Lincoln told the county judge, Jim Ed Gibson, before heading up a flight of stairs and down a dark hallway.

It has come to this for the chairwoman of a powerful Senate committee, a former up-and-comer in her party and onetime favorite daughter in a state whose political royalty includes President Bill Clinton and former Senators J. William Fulbright and Dale Bumpers.

Late on Thursday afternoon, the 80-year-old courthouse was largely abandoned, which could aptly describe the predicament of Mrs. Lincoln, the 50-year-old Arkansan who became the youngest woman ever elected to the Senate 12 years ago and the first to lead the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

She appears abandoned by voters, who have favored Mr. Boozman by double digits in nearly every poll in recent months. She has been forsaken by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which has essentially written off her race and apportioned almost no money to it, and she has been dismissed by pundits, handicappers and operatives who are focused instead on a cluster of tossup Senate races in states -- like Colorado, Illinois, Nevada and West Virginia -- that absolutely do not include this one.

"It might not be a total wipeout for Lincoln," said Jennifer Duffy, the senior editor of the Cook Political Report, charitably. "But it's going to be bad for her."

Mrs. Lincoln, whose come-from-behind defeat of Lt. Gov. Bill Halter in a Democratic primary runoff brought her fleeting hope in June, now finds herself very much on the wrong side of the triage that takes place in the final weeks of a Congressional campaign. This is particularly true in a midterm election in which both parties are engaged in a national chess game, deciding

which races are winnable or within reach and deserving of their vast but finite means.

This beyond-hope fate befalls dozens of candidates in every national election cycle. But what is striking -- and oddly poignant -- about Mrs. Lincoln is the degree to which such a formidable incumbent who is, in large part, well respected by her colleagues and well liked by many of her constituents, finds herself as seemingly left for dead.

"To be honest with you, I'd rather do it on my own," Mrs. Lincoln said in an interview after an impromptu meet-and-greet session on Thursday night at the Russellville Whirlwinds junior high school football game.

She is largely getting her wish, doing it on her own, with a few exceptions. Mr. Clinton, for one, comes back here periodically and has campaigned twice with Mrs. Lincoln in the last six weeks, most recently on Wednesday night at a rally in Jonesboro.

Mr. Clinton is the rare national Democrat who is popular here these days -- President Obama, who lost this state to Senator John McCain in 2008, is box-office poison at this point. Vice President Joseph R. **Biden** Jr. held a fund-raiser for Mrs. Lincoln last month, but it was in Boston -- the city in Massachusetts, not the township in northwest Arkansas.

As with many incumbent Democrats, Mrs. Lincoln has been stung by association with the president's agenda. She takes strenuous pains to distance herself from the White House, trumpet her centrist credentials and assert her independence from her Democratic colleagues.

"Look, as far as the Democratic caucus in the Senate goes, I've spent my share of time in the time-out chair over there," Mrs. Lincoln said, noting her opposition to cap-and-trade energy measures and her support for lowering estate taxes, both of which put her at odds with most of her Democratic colleagues.

But by and large, Mrs. Lincoln's support for such divisive White House-driven legislation as last year's economic stimulus bill and especially this year's healthcare overhaul -- which she voted for only after equivocating, upsetting both liberals and conservatives -- has put her in a seemingly inescapable box.

"She can be tough, but she is wishy-washy by nature," said Max Brantley, a longtime political columnist here who is the editor of the left-leaning Arkansas Times. "This is no year for that on things like healthcare. She made the worst of a bad situation by temporizing and creating a drama in which she became the star last vote."

In a dogged procession that routinely totals six or seven campaign stops a day, Mrs. Lincoln speaks often about her family, especially her young twin boys. She also mentions her chairmanship of the agriculture committee, a position that affords obvious advantage to a rural state and would be a political asset in a normal year.

But Mrs. Lincoln is one of several examples of a powerful veteran lawmaker whose growing influence in Washington belies declining home-state electoral prospects.

"I've worked hard to get to places that are useful to you," Mrs. Lincoln said, almost pleadingly, at a Democratic women's luncheon at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock on Friday. "And I'm not doing it for me. I'm doing it for you."

Like pretty much every underdog politician in America, Mrs. Lincoln insists that she is going to win, that momentum is shifting toward her and that she hates polls (except, presumably, the internal ones her campaign officials let slip that have her within single digits of Mr. Boozman, not the 19.7 percent average deficit of recent polls compiled by RealClearPolitics).

She wears brightly colored scarves to match a determinedly sunny disposition on the stump. Everything was either "wonderful" or "great"

Thursday on a tour of a community services agency in Russellville. For the most part, she is greeted warmly, even by people who do not support her. There is no visible sign of the dreaded “voter rage” that supposedly defines today’s political mood.

As she meandered through the state fairgrounds in Little Rock late Friday, Mrs. Lincoln conveyed serenity and a hint of nostalgia. The seventh-generation Arkansan had changed into jeans and a white sweater with the collar turned up, ate fistfuls of popcorn and contemplated making a bid on a goat in a livestock auction.

“My husband would hit the ceiling,” concluded Mrs. Lincoln, whose family owned a rice and soybean farm in Helena, Ark., with a couple of pigs (“not show pigs”) out in the pecan orchard.

She resisted the deep-fried Twinkie stand and headed into the Hall of Industry, where she stopped by a booth to get her handwriting analyzed.

A few feet away, Bruce Todd of Franklin, Wis., tried to entice Mrs. Lincoln into filling out a raffle ticket that could yield her a “fantastic vacation cruise” in the Bahamas.

“No, thank you,” she said at first, before succumbing to Mr. Todd’s last-chance sales pitch. “I guarantee you might win,” he promised.

Biz Solidly In Boxer’s Corner (VARIETY)

By Ted Johnson

[Variety](#), October 16, 2010

One candidate seeking to return to Washington has raised more money from Hollywood than any other: Barbara Boxer.

That’s no surprise, as her entertainment connections run deep and she’s been holding entertainment-centric fund-raisers for this race for years now.

What is a bit curious is how little industry support has gone to Boxer’s Republican challenger, Carly Fiorina.

Fiorina has not collected contributions from entertainment industry figures even at the same level as her fellow Silicon Valley veteran, Meg Whitman, running as a Republican in a tight race for governor against Democrat Jerry Brown.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Boxer has raised \$712,712 from showbiz sources for her re-election bid, compared with less than \$39,000 for Fiorina.

The caveat is that the figures were based on campaign finance reports as of June 30. The latest figures were due on Oct. 15, and the CRP usually takes several more days to conduct a new analysis; Fiorina is expected to have added to her showbiz pot.

But it’s very doubtful that the dynamics will change much.

Boxer has been on a fund-raising tear through Hollywood, with barely a week going by when she hasn’t held a significant event, often with the support of studio moguls. On Oct. 17, she was due to appear at a fund-raiser at the Malibu home of

Universal Studios’ Ron Meyer and his wife, Kelly, with singer-songwriter Jackson Browne providing an acoustic performance. Co-chairs include Warner Bros.’ Alan Horn and his wife Cindy, as well as Steven and Dayna Bochco and Pierce Brosnan and his wife Keely. In July, Fox’s Tom Rothman and his wife Jessica hosted a fund-raiser for Boxer, with Vice President Joseph **Biden** adding to the draw.

On Oct. 22, President Obama will raise money for her at a reception at USC, having been to Los Angeles in April on her behalf, followed several days later by first lady Michelle Obama, appearing at an event at the Wilshire Ebell in Hancock Park.

Industry money is even being raised for producer Robert Greenwald’s independent effort to produce anti-Fiorina viral videos through his Brave New Films; the latest is a project called

“Carly Fiorina Is a Job Killer,” featuring interviews with former Hewlett Packard employees.

Hollywood’s leftward tilt makes it difficult for any Republican to make significant fund-raising inroads, and the fact that the race has been so close may have triggered among the industry’s donors a greater sense of urgency to contribute to Boxer. She has a slight lead in recent polls, but this is also a very volatile year.

The Fiorina campaign sees the gulf between her Hollywood support and that of Boxer as easy to explain. “Barbara Boxer is a career politician who has been stockpiling funds for six years, while Carly is a political outsider,” says Andrea Saul, a spokeswoman for the campaign, while also arguing that Boxer has been “bad for the entertainment business” by “pressing for job-killing legislation, more than a trillion dollars in tax hikes and more government intrusion into our lives while limiting our film, music and television shows’ global reach and exposing them to more piracy by opposing free trade.”

Rose Kapolczynski, Boxer’s campaign manager, says Boxer “is pleased to have earned the support of industry leaders, many of whom are Californians who support her on a wide variety of issues. Senator Boxer recognizes that entertainment is a critical economic engine for California, and she has worked hard on causes important to the industry, including halting runaway production and cracking down on overseas piracy.”

Others attribute the gap in support to a matter of contacts and, certainly among Boxer’s supporters, personality. Fiorina doesn’t have as strong ties to the industry as Whitman, relationships that can sometimes help in winning over converts who normally side with Democrats. Whitman, who had a brief tenure at Disney and even interviewed for the top job there in 2005, courted donors from the first stages of her campaign, winning early support of such figures as Terry Semel, Harry Sloan and even Michael

Lynton, the latter of whom was a bundler for Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential bid. Fiorina launched her bid later. In May, Semel, Sloan and attorney Bruce Ramer held a meet-and-greet for a Senate candidate in the GOP primary, but it was for Tom Campbell, not Fiorina.

Certainly another difference is in the way Whitman and Fiorina have campaigned: Whitman has tacked to the center as Nov. 2 approaches, calling for a one-year suspension of the state’s global warming law but opposing Prop 23, which is more likely to delay it far longer. Fiorina, by contrast, supports Prop 23, as well as offshore oil drilling.

“I think it was a matter of opportunity,” says Sam Haskell, a longtime supporter of Republican candidates and chairman of the Miss America Organization. “Whitman, because of her job at eBay, dealt with entertainment executives and then drew on her contacts. She knows everybody. Fiorina does not.”

There’s also competition, given that there are only so many GOP donors in Hollywood, and as the campaign progresses, Fiorina is competing with candidates across the country for a smaller pool. “At a certain point you have to make the decision, ‘Where is the most likely place where you are going to get the most money?’” notes producer Craig Haffner, who has long been active in supporting Republican and conservative candidates. “To a certain extent, that is just the pragmatic business of politics.”

Schauer, Walberg Disagree On NAFTA (JCP)

By Chris Gault

[Jackson \(MI\) Citizen Patriot](#), October 17, 2010

This has been a key issue for Mark Schauer. Upon entering Congress, Schauer co-sponsored a bill to repeal NAFTA, while Tim Walberg wants to keep it in place.

Walberg said NAFTA has had a positive impact nationally and led to 500,000 new jobs in the US in its first 10 years.

Schauer has spent much of his two years in Washington talking about the need for fair trade and being tougher on China.

He helped a Jackson company, Full Spectrum Solutions, with issues it was having with China and the stimulus, and got the attention of Vice President Joe **Biden**.

This year he wrote a bill that would stop tax dollars from being spent on products the government buys that are made in China. He also voted against the "Cash for Caulkers" bill, which provides rebates to people who make energy-efficiency upgrades to their homes. Schauer said it would spend tax dollars on goods made in China.

Walberg said he introduced legislation while in office to create a trade prosecutor's office to go after China, Mexico and other countries that manipulate their currency and violate trade agreements. That bill wasn't given a hearing by Democrats.

Schauer maintains that 68,300 Michigan jobs have been shipped to China because of policies Walberg supports.

That number comes from a report from the liberal Economic Policy Institute, although it represents jobs the group says were lost from 2001 through 2008. Walberg served in Congress in 2007 and 2008.

Schauer also accuses Walberg of wanting to protect tax breaks and loopholes for companies that send jobs overseas. Factcheck.org has called this a "false tax attack."

Heck, Herrera Sprint For The Hill (VACOL)

By Zachary Kaufman

[Vancouver \(WA\) Columbian](#), October 17, 2010

Who will represent Southwest Washington in Congress for the next two years?

As voters mark their ballots for the Nov. 2 election over the next two weeks, that's still an open question.

The race between Democratic businessman Denny Heck and Republican state Rep. Jaime Herrera for the open 3rd Congressional District seat gained drama and momentum last week as the candidates debated face-to-face for the first time, new TV attack ads filled the airwaves and at least one poll showed the contest too close to call.

Washington's 3rd District race is still ranked a toss-up by national political pundits. A poll commissioned by the Capitol Hill newspaper The Hill showed Heck closing the gap with Herrera, with 15 percent of voters in the district still undecided. Another poll, commissioned by KING-TV, released Thursday, showed Herrera maintaining an 11-point lead and only 6 percent undecided.

The contest to succeed Democratic Rep. Brian Baird is on the national radar this year for one reason: If 40 of the 435 House seats change from Republican to Democrat as a result of the election, the GOP will take control of the House of Representatives. That would change the political math in Washington, D.C., and likely block President Obama's legislative agenda for the remainder of his term.

The 3rd District, which includes all or parts of seven counties in Southwest Washington, has been a swing district in recent years. Voters in the district went for Republican Dino Rossi in the 2004 and 2008 governor's races, for George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004, and for Barack Obama in 2008.

Democrats have represented the 3rd for all but six of the past 50 years. But Republicans see the 2010 midterm election as their chance to break that pattern.

"The 3rd has been trending Republican over the years," said Clark County Republican Chairman Ryan Hart. "We've seen that with the support Dino Rossi has received, and our current Congress is much further to the left than the residents of the 3rd Congressional District. Not to mention that the current Congress is not very popular with the public."

On top of that, Hart said, "We've got an outstanding candidate. Jaime has been a very effective legislator. She'll listen to her constituents, and she'll be an effective member of Congress."

County Democratic Chair Dena Horton said the 3rd isn't like other Washington congressional districts that trend Democratic.

"The 3rd has always been characterized as the most conservative-leaning district in Washington held by a Democrat," she said. "It takes someone who is very independent. That's why someone like (US Rep.) Brian Baird represented this district well."

Heck fits the Baird mold, Horton said. "He actually has the real-world experience with the economy, with jobs, with education. He's going to bring all of those things to the district, and those are the things the district cares about the most. The more that he and Herrera debate, the more people will see that Denny is very open-minded and independent and that he has solid ideas. They won't see that kind of substance from Herrera; they'll see Republican talking points."

Heck, 58, and Herrera, 31, are separated not only by ideology but by a generation -- a fact the Herrera campaign pointed out in a new, not-so-subtle TV ad that links Heck with 1970s-era leisure suits and disco music.

Both candidates were born and educated in Clark County. Heck's long résumé includes serving five terms as a state legislator representing Clark County, serving as chief of staff to Democratic Gov. Booth Gardner, and co-founding TVW, the public affairs television channel based in Olympia, his home for the past 25 years. Over the past decade, Heck has founded and invested in several successful businesses.

Herrera, 31, worked in Washington, D.C., for two years after graduating from the University of Washington, including a stint in the office of US Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane. She returned home to Clark County in late 2007 to

seek appointment to a vacant legislative seat and won election to the seat in 2008.

The two emerged as the top vote-getters in a field of six after the Aug. 17 primary and went directly into a rough-and-tumble general election campaign. Herrera jumped to a substantial lead after beating two other Republicans in the primary and never lost it. Three polls commissioned by KING-TV show her with a comfortable lead. However, the pollster the station uses, SurveyUSA, which polls using automated telephone calls, consistently overestimates support for Republican candidates, according to an analysis of polling in the New York Times.

The Hill used a Democratic pollster in its new poll that shows Herrera leading Heck by just two points, well within the margin of error.

With two weeks to go, the safest conclusion is that the outcome of the race remains unpredictable. Awash in money

The major political parties have invested heavily in the 3rd District race. According to the Federal Election Commission, the National Republican Campaign Committee has spent about \$625,000 on TV ads and other media targeting Heck to date, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has spent a comparable amount -- about \$640,000 -- targeting Herrera.

The DCCC is on track to spend at least \$1 million on the race by Election Day, according to spokesman Andy Stone. Joanna Burgos of the NRCC said the Republican campaign committee will spend more than \$900,000 on the race.

In addition, independent GOP-affiliated groups not associated with the Herrera campaign have poured buckets of cash into the race on her behalf. The American Future Fund has spent \$872,000 for attacks on Heck that began the day after the primary. Another group, Americans for Prosperity, which is backed by the billionaire Koch Brothers and is not required to reveal its corporate donors, has spent \$282,000 attacking Heck.

The latest reports to the FEC by the candidates' own campaigns, due Friday, show Herrera has nearly \$514,000 in the bank. Heck has \$411,000 on hand.

Herrera raised \$613,910 from July 29-Sept. 30, compared to the \$550,000 raised by Heck during that same period, according to numbers provided by both candidates' campaigns Friday.

Quarterly reports for the three months ending June 30 showed that as of that date Heck had raised about \$1 million, including \$350,000 he donated to his own campaign. Herrera had raised \$411,000.

It's not clear how effective the blizzard of TV ads funded by all that cash has been. In fact, the media blitz may be turning voters off.

GOP-backed ads typically link Heck, who has never served in Congress, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whom he has never met, and refer to Heck's "Democrat friends" in Congress. They play up the fact that Heck has said he would have voted for both the health reform bill and the stimulus, without mentioning that he has stated clear reservations about both bills.

The new 1970s "leisure suit" ad from the Herrera campaign that began running Friday details Heck's support for state spending increases while he served in the Legislature in the 1970s and 1980s.

Heck, meanwhile, has accused Herrera of supporting privatization of Social Security, a political third-rail position. Herrera indicated at an event early in the campaign that she favored privatization, but she has since corrected that statement. Her campaign website states, "I have never supported privatizing Social Security."

One recent anti-Herrera ad paid for by the DCCC illustrates how political ads can backfire. The ad accused Herrera of using the state treasury as her "personal piggybank" for spending a few hundred dollars of state money on business cards and protective covers for her office furniture. That gave the Herrera campaign an opening to

raise Heck's spending record in the Legislature three decades ago. Debates

Heck and Herrera debated three times last week, in Lacey and Longview before live audiences Wednesday and in a taped debate at the Portland studio of KGW-TV on Friday. The KGW-TV debate, which aired Saturday on the station's "Straight Talk" public affairs program, gave Clark County voters their first and likely their only chance to appraise the candidates side-by-side. The contrasts between them came across clearly in the debates.

Heck described in detail his plan for growing middle-class jobs in Southwest Washington through a combination of federal tax breaks, legislation to get credit flowing to small businesses, and investments in manufacturing and green energy.

Herrera called for repealing health reform and declared that the stimulus had done next to nothing to create new jobs. The answer to the region's stubbornly high unemployment rate, she says, lies in sharply reducing federal spending and burdensome federal regulations on businesses. At the same time, she favors a permanent extension of the Bush administration tax cuts, which would cost an estimated \$700 billion over 10 years.

Each candidate has spent a fair amount of time campaigning in Clark County since the primary.

Heck, who lives in Olympia, has held 18 official campaign events in the county since mid-August, according to his campaign. He's visited several times during his just-completed five-week "Let's Get to Work" tour, stopping at a wind energy startup company, meeting with credit union officials, touring vocational programs at Clark College and checking in with businesses at the Port of Camas-Washougal to get ideas about how to get the economy moving again.

Vice President Joe **Biden** campaigned for Heck Oct. 8 at a fundraiser in Seattle.

Herrera, who lives in Camas, has taken part in about two dozen campaign events in Clark County since the primary, according to her campaign spokesman, though she's been less visible than Heck. She has made at least two fundraising trips to Washington, D.C., since she entered the race. In late September, US Rep Pete Sessions, R-Texas, hosted a fundraiser for her in Camas.

In a year when Democrats are out of favor, both candidates have calibrated their campaigns to match the national mood.

Heck, who has strong connections with establishment Democrats in Seattle and Olympia, has cultivated an outsider's perspective on Beltway politics that allows him to be critical of the current Congress and neutral on the Obama administration's record.

Herrera has name familiarity, a fresh face, and the Republican Party's momentum in an election year that will be one for the history books.

State Department Condemns East Jerusalem Building (JERP)

By Tovah Lazaroff, Melanie Lidman
[Jerusalem Post](#), October 17, 2010

The US, Russia and France have condemned Israel's plan to build 238 homes in two east Jerusalem Jewish neighborhoods, saying it runs counter to the peace process.

Russia and France have asked the government to reconsider the decision.

The government, however, has stood firmly behind the Ministry of Construction and Housing's publication on Thursday of tenders for 80 new homes in Ramot and 158 in Pisgat Ze'ev.

The Palestinian Authority has said that building in the settlements and in east Jerusalem must stop for the peace process to continue, while Israel has insisted that there is no reason why talks cannot move forward despite such building.

"In no way is this construction antithetical to a historic peace agreement with the Palestinians," a

government official told The Jerusalem Post on Saturday night.

The tenders are for construction in neighborhoods that every peace plan for the past 20 years has stated would remain part of Israel in a final status agreement, the official said.

Although Israel froze new construction in West Bank settlements from November 26, 2009 through September 26 of this year, it has refused to consider a similar measure in east Jerusalem.

Continued construction in all parts of Jerusalem, has been a consistent government policy, about which "we have been frank and above board," the official said.

"There is no policy change here. Even when there was a moratorium, it never included Jerusalem, the official said.

The US was informed of the new construction before Thursday's publication of the tenders, which were included in a list of 4,000 new homes to be built nationwide.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters on Friday that in response the US told Israel, "We felt this was contrary to what we were trying to do, to get direct negotiations resumed." He added that the US was "disappointed."

The State Department and Israel have long been at odds over east Jerusalem construction, with Israel insisting that it has a right to build in the city which is its eternal capital.

Israeli and US officials held telephone conversations about the new construction over the weekend.

Meanwhile, US Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-New York), who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, issued a strong statement in defense of Israel on Friday, taking to task those who have equated the capital with West Bank settlements.

"Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It is not a settlement," Ackerman told the press.

It has been “the singular geographic center of the hopes and aspirations of the Jewish people for three millennia,” he said.

“Construction in Jerusalem is not a justification for a crisis, a showdown, a meltdown or even a hissy fit,” Ackerman said.

“Ramot and Pisgat Ze’ev are going to be part of Israel in any conceivable final-status deal, and to pretend otherwise is pointless,” he said.

“Those who earlier complained about the inadequacy of Israel’s unilateral and uncompensated settlement freeze, who chose to waste those 10 months instead of diving aggressively into direct talks on peace, cannot reasonably now turn around and complain that the end of the freeze and the resumption of Israeli construction in Jerusalem... is either a shock or an insurmountable obstacle to peace,” Ackerman said.

Such construction “is neither a show of bad faith, nor a justification for avoiding negotiations aimed at achieving a final-status agreement.

“The legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians are not going to be achieved by violence and they’re not going to be achieved by the equivalent of holding their breath until their lips turn blue,” he said.

“Direct negotiations are sole pathway to their goal, and the sooner they recognize this fact, the better,” he said.

Thursday’s announcement marked the first time since March that east Jerusalem tenders have been published.

According to Hagit Ofran of Peace Now, tenders for 377 housing units were published for the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Neveh Ya’acov on March 10, tenders for 48 were published for Pisgat Ze’ev on January 7, and another 150 in that same neighborhood on December 31, 2009.

Separately, in a move that deeply angered the US, the Interior Ministry’s District Committee for Planning and Construction in March approved

a plan to build 1,600 homes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo, during a visit by US Vice President Joseph **Biden**. The announcement of the Ramat Shlomo plan caught the Prime Minister’s Office by surprise, and new mechanisms have since been put in place to ensure that the prime minister is kept abreast of east Jerusalem construction. No tenders have been issued yet for the Ramat Shlomo plan.

Right-wing politicians and activists have complained that a de facto freeze exists in east Jerusalem, an allegation that has been denied by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Jerusalem Municipality.

According to Deputy Mayor Kobi Kahlon, the head of the Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee, the 238 new homes for Ramot and Pisgat Ze’ev are in projects that were begun in 2003 or even earlier.

It will be two to three years before construction begins on the projects, he said.

Kahlon denied that there was any political motivation behind the approvals, noting that the growing neighborhoods had asked for the new buildings years ago.

“We’re still going along with the status quo, like we’ve been doing for 40 years,” Kahlon told the Post.

These Jerusalem neighborhoods “are not settlements,” he said.

Kahlon noted that almost everyone agrees that Ramot and Pisgat Ze’ev will remain a part of Israel in any peace agreement “Published tender” means that a construction project has passed the government’s lengthy approval process, and after a contractor is chosen, the project will be released back to the municipality for the final building permit, which enables contractors to begin construction. The list of published tenders is significant because it is one of the last steps in the approval process where the government can control what buildings are built in what areas. After

the tender is published, the final approval rests with the municipality.

PM's Office: Construction Plans In East Jerusalem Are Nothing New (HAAR)

[Ha'aretz](#), October 17, 2010

The Prime Minister's Office responded Saturday to the criticism by the United States and France regarding Israel's plans to build 238 new housing units in East Jerusalem, saying that announcements on renewal of construction in Jerusalem are nothing new.

Israel announced Friday its approval of tenders for 238 new housing units in areas of Jerusalem east of the Green Line, which triggered statements by both the US and France saying they were "disappointed" by the announcement.

"We have already said in the past that there is no longer a settlement freeze in Jerusalem," the PMO said. "Regarding the relationship with the United States, they received notification of the plan before we announced it."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office also noted that even though the White House did not approve of the plans for further settlement construction, opposition to the settlements has been a US policy for 40 years already.

Over the weekend, sources in Netanyahu's office said that as opposed to the time Israel announced new building plans during US Vice President Joseph **Biden's** visit and caused an international uproar, this time Netanyahu was well aware of the plans and approved them before the announcement was made.

On Friday, the United States expressed disappointment over reports that Israel had approved tenders for construction of nearly 240 new housing units in East Jerusalem.

"We were disappointed by the announcement of new tenders in East Jerusalem yesterday. It is contrary to our efforts to resume direct negotiations between the parties," US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said during a press conference in Washington.

On Saturday, France also condemned Israel's construction plans, saying that "France is deeply disappointed" by the decision and urged the Israeli government to reconsider.

Earlier Saturday, Egypt said that Israel's building permits for 238 new housing units in East Jerusalem are a sign that direct peace talks could collapse. On Friday, the Arab League said it may ask the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state if Israel goes ahead with building settlements.

Also on Saturday, the Organization of the Islamic Conference condemned Israel for renewing settlement construction in East Jerusalem and urged the international community to put an end to what it called "Israeli arrogance."

Bill Clinton Back Out Campaigning "For Everybody That Helped Hillary Run For President" Against Obama (TEL)

By Toby Harnden

[London Telegraph](#), October 17, 2010

Fear and loathing in the American body politic is not confined to the anti-tax Tea Party. Across the spectrum of the Democratic party, every hue is feeling it too.

With a fortnight to go to the midterms, moderate "Blue Dog" Democrats are in big trouble. The party's left-wing "Yellow Dogs" are up in arms about being taken for granted by the White House "hippy bashers". Even black bloggers are warning President Barack Obama they won't be "pimped" for him.

In this febrile climate within the party, there is one Democratic figure whose soothing tones can help calm things down – the Big Dog himself, former President Bill Clinton. I caught up with him in Española, New Mexico, site of the first European colony in America, last week and he was on vintage form.

Gone was the red-faced, finger-wagging Bill who I saw in South Carolina in early 2008, when he exploded with anger at being accused of

racism by Obama allies as the Democratic nomination slipped from his wife Hillary's grasp. Instead, Española saw Chilled Bill, a man vindicated by events and who knows he was right to warn of Obama's shortcomings.

The event, for which nearly 4,000 people crammed into the town square, was for Diane Denish, the Democratic candidate for governor. Behind in the polls, she had supported Hillary against Obama in 2008 and Bill was back to repay the debt.

Bill, hoarse-voiced but with a glint in his eye, explained that this was his 80th event. He made crystal clear just who he was representing on the campaign trail – and it wasn't Obama. "I planned to do about one stop for everybody that helped Hillary run for president because she's one of only two members of the president's cabinet who cannot participate in politics," he said.

As Secretary of State, he reminded people, is not permitted to campaign. "Then I got out here and started stirring around and realised that a lot of people were mad and even more confused and I didn't want it on my conscience so I just loaded up and started strolling around."

The Clintons are undoubtedly an unusual couple. Bill's past indiscretions are legendary and their jobs – he is now a globe-trotting philanthropist – mean that these days they see each other less often than the average American goes to the dentist.

Yet they remain together (who would have thought the Gore marriage would unravel first?) and are a remarkable political tag team.

Bill's energetic reappearance on the campaign trail comes just as rumours, some of them eagerly fuelled by the Clinton camp, swirl that Hillary might replace the hapless Joe **Biden** as Obama's vice-presidential running mate in 2012 or even challenge the President for the Democratic nomination if his popularity continues to slide.

Neither option makes much sense for Hillary, whose performance as Secretary of State, in which she has been supportive of the US military and sought to stiffen Obama's spine in Afghanistan, has won admirers even on the Right.

Becoming vice-president would tie her to Obama on domestic policy. Through political good fortune (not to mention calculation), she has been out of that arena for the past two years, meaning that there are no Clinton fingerprints on unpopular healthcare, bail-out or stimulus legislation.

Hillary has been loyal to Obama – it would have been politically foolish to appear otherwise – but her discrete job means she can remain distant from most of what he does.

It just so happens that Hillary will be out of town on November 2nd, when Democrats expect a pummeling at the polls. She'll be on the other side of the globe, in fact, on a tour including stops in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

The message is unmistakable: "Nothing to do with me!" Challenging Obama in 2012, even if he is in dire straits, would be incredibly risky. To seek to oust the first black president would split the Democrats in two and almost guarantee a Republican victory even if Hillary won the nomination. It's a non-starter.

But 2016 is different. No one takes her denials of wanting to run again at face value and aides are quietly putting it about that she still has her eyes on the White House. Her former chief strategist Mark Penn recently polled her popularity compared to Obama's.

Bill's stump speeches are helping lay the foundations of a 2016 campaign. His presence on the campaign trail, often in parts of the country where Obama is not so popular, reinforces the 2008 argument that the Clintons (in terms of power politics, it is fruitless to view them separately) can reach places Obama cannot.

It also shows that the wounds of the epic Obama-Clinton battle of 2008 have not healed.

Conspicuous by his absence from Española was Bill Richardson, the current New Mexico governor, who was publicly branded a “Judas” by James Carville, the Clinton consigliere, for endorsing Obama. Richardson was never even mentioned by Denish or the former President.

After trying something new and shiny in the person of Obama and being disappointed, many Democrats are now indulging in Clinton nostalgia. “We Miss the Thrill of Bill” read one prominent sign in Española.

“He let me hug him!” exclaimed Loyda Martinez, 57, after the event. “And he hugged me back! A lot of these politicians, you can barely touch their hands. Bill has a way of connecting with the ordinary person that Obama does not.” Bill’s past foibles are viewed as endearing. “He like the ladies!” laughed one man as Bill posed for pictures beside a platinum blonde.

I chatted to Bill Clinton briefly as he worked the rope line. Having garnered some unwelcome headlines in 2008, he was sticking very firmly to the script this time.

“She’s already answered that,” he said, when I asked him if there really was any chance she might replace **Biden** in 2012. He turned and added: “I’ll tell you what, she likes being Secretary of State and she’s doing a great job.”

So might she run in 2016? The Big Dog of the Democratic party paused, appeared to be about to hold forth and then seemed to hold himself in check. “She speaks for herself on these things,” he said, flashing me a big grin.

Hillary Clinton To Run For US President’s Office In 2016? (PTI)

[Press Trust of India](#), October 17, 2010

Speculation is rife that Hillary Clinton may run for the US president’s office in 2016, as her husband Bill is back on the campaign trail -- offering thanks to those who backed her in 2008 against Barack Obama, a media report said.

According to Britain’s ‘The Daily Telegraph’, former President Bill Clinton has been laying the foundations for the Secretary of State’s another try in 2016, by campaigning for Democratic politicians who helped his wife Hillary run for the president’s office against President Obama two years back.

In fact, Bill, now a globe-trotting philanthropist, went to Espanola, New Mexico, the site of the first European colony in America, last week to campaign for Diane Denish, the Democratic candidate for the governor.

Denish had supported Hillary against Obama in 2008 and Bill was back to repay the debt; he made crystal clear who he was representing on the campaign trail -- and it wasn’t Obama, the report said.

“I planned to do about one stop for everybody that helped Hillary run for president because she’s one of only two members of the president’s cabinet who cannot participate in politics,” he told a gathering of 4,000 people.

As Secretary of State, he reminded people, is not permitted to campaign. “Then I got out here and started stirring around and realised that a lot of people were mad and even more confused and I didn’t want it on my conscience so I just loaded up and started strolling around,” Bill said.

Bill’s energetic reappearance on the campaign trail comes just as rumours, some of them eagerly fuelled by the Clinton camp, swirl that Hillary might replace the hapless Joe **Biden** as Obama’s vice-presidential running mate in 2012 or even challenge the President for the Democratic nomination if his popularity continues to slide.

Jill Biden: Vice Prez Means No Privacy (NYPOST)

[New York Post](#), October 17, 2010

Jill **Biden**, wife of Vice President Joe **Biden**, says privacy and romantic dinners go out the window when you become Mrs. VP. “Joe and I went to dinner, just the two of us, and 14 people

came up to the table,” **Biden**, a schoolteacher and professor, tells the latest issue of Self. “That’s part of his job, and he loves it, but you can’t really have an intimate discussion under those

circumstances. So now when he says, ‘Let’s go out to dinner,’ if I want time alone together, I’ll say, ‘Let’s not. Let’s stay home.’ “

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WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES

Christine O'Donnell's Ads Buy National Attention To Delaware Senate Race (WILNJ)

By Ryan Cormier

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

During Wednesday's nationally televised debate with Chris Coons, Christine O'Donnell was on the receiving end of a blunt question from CNN newsman Wolf Blitzer: "What were you thinking?"

The question came toward the end of the 90-minute debate and the topic was O'Donnell's first TV campaign ad, during which she famously proclaims, "I'm not a witch."

"To put it to rest; to put it behind me," O'Donnell answered, referring to an old clip of her on Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect" saying she had "dabbled into witchcraft."

Before O'Donnell changed the subject, Blitzer continued, "But didn't you realize if you do that in a commercial it would just revive it and everybody would be talking about that?"

The answer, undoubtedly, is yes. Everybody is talking about that ad: her black dress, white pearls and straight talk.

"I'm nothing you've heard. I'm you. None of us are perfect. But none of us can be happy with what we see all around us."

O'Donnell's "I'm you" ad just might be the most memorable of the 2010 election cycle.

Since it aired on Oct. 4, political advertisements from the pair have heated up, with Coons targeting O'Donnell's "I'm you" slogan by launching the website christineisnotme.com, complete with "Not me" icons supporters can re-post on their Facebook and Twitter pages.

"Tell Christine O'Donnell: You are not me ... unless you think the retirement age for Social Security should be raised, want to further deregulate Wall Street, are against a woman's right to choose even in cases of rape or incest, think public schools should teach Creationism and think homosexuality is an 'identity disorder.'" "

O'Donnell responded with her own website, coonsthetaxman.com, tied to a pair of theatrical ads labeling Coons as "The Tax Man" who's "taxing everything out here."

But no other Delaware political ad has ever received more attention than O'Donnell's "I'm not a witch" proclamation, said David Bass, assistant media archivist for the University of Oklahoma's collection of political advertisements, which includes more than 90,000 radio and television spots.

"Beginning the first spot of your general campaign saying, 'I'm not a witch,' is certainly unique," he said. "We don't have anything like that in the 90,000 spots we have."

The reaction was instant. David Letterman aired his own version of the ad on his CBS show, with O'Donnell transforming into a demonic beast surrounded by fire as she denied being a witch. He also dedicated his nightly Top Ten list to her: "Top Ten Bad Campaign Commercial Opening Lines."

A few days later, "Saturday Night Live" had a parody with Kristen Wiig re-creating the commercial, but adding the line, "Isn't that what the people of Delaware deserve? A candidate who promises first and foremost that she's not a witch? That's the kind of candidate that Delaware hasn't had since 1692."

It was that parody that was on O'Donnell's mind during the debate when she interrupted Coons at one point to say, "You're just jealous that you weren't on 'Saturday Night Live.'" "

Coons responded, "I'm dying to see who's going to play me, Christine."

What does slogan mean?

Nestled between the laughs and jokes are some striking words of praise for the advertisement, which was created by Fred Davis and his Hollywood-based Strategic Perception Inc.

Roy Peter Clark, a senior scholar at The Poynter Institute, where he has taught writing since 1979, wrote an opinion column for CNN.com earlier this month defending the much-parodied ad.

"That sentence, 'I'm you,' may be the shortest and most soulful in the history of American electioneering, sounding more like philosopher Martin Buber's existential 'I and Thou' than Barack Obama's 'Yes we can,'" he wrote.

In this hyperpartisan election year, Clark said, he received plenty of complaints about his column praising the ad. But he's used to it. Earlier this summer, he also wrote a column for CNN defending Sarah Palin's use of "refudiate" in a Twitter posting about the proposed mosque near ground zero in New York.

"You want skepticism in a democracy, which is what I try to apply even to people whose politics I dislike," Clark told The News Journal. "As opposed to cynicism, which just assumes from the start that everything that comes out of the opponent's mouth is a lie."

Clark was not alone in his praise of the ad. Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert -- no fan of O'Donnell -- also gave it kudos online.

But Harris Ross, associate professor of film and journalism at the University of Delaware, thinks they are both off. He said the ad reassures her supporters but fails to reach out to everyone else.

And with the most recent poll by the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication showing Coons with a 21-point advantage over O'Donnell with just over two weeks until the election, she needs to focus on outreach, he said.

"The question that people have about Christine O'Donnell is not whether she's a witch. I think for most people that's neither here nor there -- it certainly is for me," Ross said. "But it's, 'Does she have the intellectual heft to do the job?' And the problem with the ad is it's remarkably empty.

"All she says is, 'I'll go to Washington and do what you would do.' Well, what does that mean? It means absolutely nothing."

With all the attention -- most of which came in the form of punch lines and parody -- O'Donnell is no longer unknown to Delaware voters and she has fashioned a national identity.

"There's the old adage, 'Any publicity is good publicity.' Everybody is talking about you and your campaign and they wouldn't be if it had been a different kind of commercial," Bass said.

More negative ads

Even as the pair sling charges back and forth in ads and during debates, neither wants to be seen as going negative. At a debate at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington on Thursday, they were asked about "The Delaware Way" of civil politicking. O'Donnell took the opportunity to say, "I would ask that the negative ads, the slanderous ads against me stop."

With no primary opponent, Coons ran mostly under the radar until September. O'Donnell's Tea Party Express-backed run against US Rep. Mike Castle, though, was one of the most nasty in recent Delaware history. At one point, O'Donnell called Castle "unmanly" and told him to get his "man pants" on. Two weeks after leaving her campaign, a former O'Donnell staffer produced a video spot suggesting Castle was "cheating on his wife with a man."

The negative advertising isn't likely to stop.

Since her "I'm not a witch" ad, O'Donnell has released three more television ads.

On Oct. 7, O'Donnell re-appeared with the same dark background as in the "I'm not a witch" ad, but this time the focus was on Coons, a graduate of Amherst and Yale whose stepfather, Robert Gore, is president of W.L. Gore, maker of Gore-Tex fabrics.

"I didn't go to Yale. I didn't inherit millions like my opponent. I'm you," she says, bathed in soft light. "I know how tough it is to make and keep a dollar."

The "tax man" ads have a different flavor.

One of the ads is in the form of a minute-long fictitious film trailer. Opening with the familiar green screen announcing it's a preview, a sinister voice booms: "In America, where jobs are being lost and wages cut. In Delaware, where the economy is suffering and families are losing their homes, there is one man who stood against the tide and raised taxes."

Before revealing the name of the faux film, "Tax Man," the voice warns: "Hide your will. Hide your lights. 'Cause he's taxing everything out here. Chris Coons is the tax man."

O'Donnell's "tax man" theme fits neatly with her mailings released in recent weeks that show a cartoonish image of Coons with a fistful of cash in one hand and a bag of money in the other with the headline, "Chris Coons: Big Spending. Big Taxing. Typical Politician."

Coons is largely avoiding the headline-grabbing volleys, whether it's about her past anti-masturbation activism or alliance with witchcraft.

"That's got to be one of the more memorable ways to introduce oneself," Coons told The New York Times about the witch ad, sidestepping the subject with what Times reporter Frank Bruni described as a "controlled and very, very brief" smile.

Serious issues and spoofs

Coons' trio of television ads have been less attention-getting, focusing on jobs, ending bailouts and cutting wasteful spending without any mention of O'Donnell. However, an ad in heavy rotation paid for by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee attacks O'Donnell directly.

"Christine O'Donnell claims she'll control Washington spending, but look at her record," a female voice says. "She was sued for not paying her bills. Didn't pay her taxes. Has a federal complaint filed against her for spending campaign funds on herself.

"If Christine O'Donnell wants to be irresponsible with her money, that's her business. But she's running for Senate and being irresponsible with our money is our business."

Coons has had to fend off attacks about a college essay titled "Chris Coons, the Making of a Bearded Marxist," a title he says was a joke. While his past has not aroused the sort of comedic frenzy that O'Donnell's has, Coons has been pulled into the fray.

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" on ABC aired a full-length, satirical Coons television ad focusing on O'Donnell's work as founder of The Savior's Alliance for Lifting the Truth and her opposition to masturbation.

Daniel McElhatton, Coons' campaign spokesman, brushed off any jokes directed at his boss: "We're not paying attention to late-night spoofs."

When asked by the Times' Bruni about O'Donnell's stance on masturbation, Coons responded: "I have 11-year-old twin boys, and this campaign has allowed us to accelerate awkward conversations."

Each side has their own forum for political entertainment, Clark said: for the left, it's comedy shows like "The Daily Show" and "Saturday Night Live," and for the right, it's talk radio. Both are able to redefine candidates or their message, and the jokes and satirical spoofs of O'Donnell's witch ad is an example.

"Here's the problem with humor: by its very nature, it exaggerates behaviors in order to call attention to them and make light of them," Clark said. "And it's those exaggerations that become real for partisans."

Personal history exposed

Whether it's O'Donnell's witchcraft comments or Coons' "Bearded Marxist" paper, Clark doesn't believe either should be the focus of the election. He came to this conclusion by putting himself in their shoes, even though he's fairly sure he'll never run for public office.

"But if I do, I hope people won't go picking through the garbage of my personal history. I'm not exactly the same person I was when I was 23 because I know there's a lot of stuff there that would make me unelectable," said Clark, 62. "But I think it's fair to say that probably everybody -- if you could peer deeply enough into their personal lives, preferences, histories and behaviors -- have got stuff that would hurt their chances of getting elected in this climate."

There's no denying that personal history has attracted the national attention, whether it's Rachel Maddow hosting her MSNBC show live from The Deer Park Tavern in Newark, Blitzer co-moderating Wednesday's debate live on CNN or "The Daily Show" report from Delaware about the differences between upstate and downstate Delaware.

"The media is always looking for a hook, and this already had one -- she was the witch/masturbation candidate," Ross said.

For her part, O'Donnell seems to be taking the humorous barbs about her ad pretty well. The day after the "Saturday Night Live" skit, she logged onto her Twitter account to respond.

Instead of defending herself, she took the self-deprecating approach: "SNL skit was really funny ... and I have to admit, her hair looked better than mine."

Angry On The Right. Beleaguered On The Left. Disappointed In The Middle. (WILNJ)

By Wade Malcolm

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

On a recent Thursday night, deep in Sussex County, more than 200 grumbling people squeezed into a small fire hall, united by their unhappiness.

They spent the evening listening to a handful of mostly obscure political newcomers, among them long-shot Independent Doug Campbell.

"I'm not an attorney," said the candidate for state attorney general. "I'm an Eagle Scout, an ex-Marine and a man with common sense."

Many in the audience cheered at the introduction and voiced more approval when Campbell advocated wider handgun ownership, lamented the US currency's departure from the gold standard and railed against illegal immigration.

Then Preston Clark, liking what he had heard so far, raised his hand and asked a question.

"Have you got any college?" asked the 70-year-old from Ellendale.

"No," replied Campbell, who seal-coats driveways and parking lots for a living.

"Good," Clark said, drawing laughter. "Because they're the ones who got us in this mess."

In the year of the frustrated, anti-incumbent voter, groups such as the this one -- Delaware 9-12 Patriots -- most visibly personify voter anger in the First State, but the displeasure of disappointed moderates and beleaguered liberals also boils below the surface. For some on the right, the nation's high unemployment and the unpopular bailouts and back-room deals have created weariness of "elite" politicians and led to increasing affinity for neophyte candidates such as Campbell. Republican Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell attempted to capture those emotions in her famous "I'm you" commercial.

It's not that he dislikes people with an education or experience, Clark said. In fact, he encouraged his five children and eight grandchildren to get the best education they could. He just doesn't like the assumption that it makes someone better than him. Before they started attending 9-12 meetings, Clark said, he and other members of the group never spoke publicly about their views -- afraid people would talk down to them or make them look foolish.

"You feel better about [speaking] here because everybody feels the same way," he said.

Right behind Clark, the meeting organizers sold flags, T-shirts and bumper stickers offering stern summaries of the outrage in the room. "Don't tread on me." "I'll hold on to my guns and my faith ... you can keep your 'change.' "

And perhaps, more to the point: "Can you hear us now?"

Cycles of resentment

Political scientists often say elections are cyclical, said Jason Mycoff, associate professor of political science and international relations at the University of Delaware. One party or political philosophy is up and the other is down. Whatever side holds the power, the other often feels angry.

"In every election, there's a certain percentage of voters who are angry -- vehemently angry," he said. "This year, there may be some that are intensely angry and just making a lot of noise."

Much of the shouting has centered on President Barack Obama's policies, and O'Donnell has derided Coons as a potential "rubber stamp" for the administration. Obama and Vice President Joe **Biden**

have tried in earnest to break the conservative momentum and resist the tide of voter fury. They have encouraged their beleaguered base with a series of rallies in liberal strongholds, including one in Philadelphia a week ago and another in Wilmington on Friday.

Business agent Joe Schorah of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 19 traveled with other union members from Delaware to Philadelphia to show loyalty to Obama. But he admits their patience won't last forever. Schorah said with the economy still slow he's had to work harder to get his members to show the same energy supporting Democrats that they did in 2008.

"Is there frustration out there? Absolutely there's frustration," said Schorah, whose union represents about 150 Delaware workers. "Things are starting to turn around, but negativity always rules out the good that is happening."

While the country languishes, many malign Obama as appearing too calm, contemplative or aloof. The president has tried to counteract this, experts have said. When the president arrived at the Philadelphia rally, a smiling **Biden**, sporting aviator sunglasses, stayed on stage, providing the straight-laced Obama with convenient comic relief.

"Joe looks cool in those glasses, too, doesn't he?" Obama kidded, before giving a fiery speech accusing Republicans of trying to derail the country's progress.

While the left might lack the rage felt on the right, some liberals have lost excitement for the Democratic agenda. The Guantanamo Bay detention camp stayed open. The war in Afghanistan escalated. The military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gay service members remains in place, for now.

"I think everybody's a little disappointed," said Matt Coogan of Haven, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender student union at UD. "He ran as an agent of change."

Coogan and other Haven members marched against O'Donnell before her nationally televised debate with Democrat Chris Coons on campus Wednesday. Disappointment aside, Coogan said Democrats have carefully picked where to spend political capital and perhaps expectations for Obama soared too high.

Saw what they wanted

"The economy is the biggest piece of it, but Obama's policies are probably some element of it," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at University of Virginia. "He probably went a little further to the left than most people thought he would. ... On the other hand, some liberals thought they were going to get someone that would shake up the system. People saw in Obama what they wanted to see."

Before the 9-12 Patriots meeting in Sussex started, Ritchie Barron approached a table and inspected a packet of greeting cards decorated with a picture of the 9-12 Project rally, promoted by radio commentator and Fox News host Glenn Beck.

"I was there, you know," said Barron, 46, of Lewes of the Sept. 12, 2009, event in Washington.

The man selling the merchandise -- Alex Garcia, one of the founding members of the Delaware 9-12 Patriots -- nodded his approval. As the materials on the table in front of Garcia explained, 9-12 stands for nine principles and 12 values that Beck espouses, a guiding force in Garcia's life since one spring day in 2009. Garcia and his wife, Teresa, had just spent an hour "yelling and screaming" while watching Beck's show on Fox News. The next day, they received a serendipitous call from friend Russ Murphy. He wanted to start a conservative grass-roots organization. The Garcias got on board and soon many others did, too.

The group holds five regular meetings per month throughout the state. The early gatherings often devolved into cathartic rants against the government, said Murphy, now the executive director.

"I figured beforehand there was a lot of anger and animosity out there, so I thought, 'Let's let the anger flow out there and vent,' " he said. "Then I said, 'OK, you've said everything you don't like -- the big government, the corporate greed. But we've been sitting back and doing nothing.' "

They aren't anymore. In about six months, they organized their disgruntled supporters into a political force and swept House Republican candidate Glen Urquhart and O'Donnell past more mild-mannered primary opponents. And despite O'Donnell trailing in the polls, her supporters still believe an agitated electorate can carry her to victory over Coons.

O'Donnell credited the passion of the 9-12 Patriots and other tea party groups with her primary victory over Republican favorite Mike Castle. At a GOP fundraising picnic shortly after her Sept. 14 victory, O'Donnell approached the Garcias and other 9-12 members to acknowledge their contribution.

"When I stepped up to run, if they hadn't laid the groundwork, there wouldn't have been a foundation," O'Donnell told them. "There wouldn't have been already a network of people giving the same message. So I think that's what's helped candidates like me, candidates like Glen Urquhart, just good candidates who are outside of the political scope."

Aside from her pledges to cut spending and taxes while still reducing the deficit, O'Donnell's appeal over Castle and Coons seemed simple to a fellow 9-12 Patriot seated near the Garcias at the picnic.

"She would come and talk to us when other candidates wouldn't," said Susan Cooksey, 53, of Frederica. "She listened. She came and talked. And she said what we wanted to hear."

"Aww," O'Donnell said appreciatively before adding, "Because I meant it! I didn't say what you wanted. I meant it."

Disappointed

Most people don't attend rallies. Most don't volunteer for "grass-roots movements," pledge unwavering loyalty to a political philosophy or pay much attention to politics on a daily basis.

Most people are more like 60-year-old Sandy Mercante, sitting on the front stoop of her Pike Creek home, enjoying a glass of wine with ice after a long day on her feet. Though she voted for Obama in 2008, she considers him "a disappointment."

"The bottom line is, everybody that's in there hasn't helped anybody," she said.

"It's all partisan politics," added her husband, Nick, 70. "It's gonna be the same no matter who's elected. Everybody voted for Obama because they were down on Bush, and surprise, he's worse."

The Mercantes own a hair salon on Kirkwood Highway and a modest two-story home with a small yard and a driveway -- much like the rest of the homes in their development. Mercante and the moderate, middle-class residents of her voting district swung big for Obama. They voted 850-655 in his favor, almost an exact flip-flop of the 2004 result, 801-646 in favor of Republican George W. Bush over Democrat John Kerry.

Now in 2010, even Democratic-leaning voters here like Jennifer Myers, 32, grimace when admitting their enthusiastic support of Obama in 2008.

"I'm not too happy about it now," she said.

David Wilson, a UD political scientist, wanted to see just how resonant this supposed anger could be among the general electorate, people like Myers and the Mercantes.

He created a poll that found, on the whole, Delawareans aren't especially angry. Conducted in the second half of September, the poll asked more than 900 state residents, "Today, are you personally angry at [fill in the blank], or not?" The pollsters went down a list, inserting various entities into the blank.

About 29 percent expressed anger, vaguely, at the federal government. The rest were nearly equal. President Obama: 22 percent. Democrats in Congress: 22 percent. Republicans in Congress: 23 percent.

Perhaps not surprisingly, likely O'Donnell supporters voiced the most anger, but even they weren't the majority, Wilson said. About 45 percent of those who prefer O'Donnell were angry at Obama, while only 8 percent of Coons backers were. And 36 percent of right-leaning voters were angry at the "federal government," compared with only 14 percent of left-leaning voters.

Still, a nationwide Newsweek poll earlier this month found 54 percent of voters "frustrated" and 68 percent merely "dissatisfied." However you term it, discontent of some kind has made an impact around the country, Sabato said.

"People are fundamentally unhappy because they are being squeezed economically," he said. "It isn't just unemployment. It's the bank and Wall Street crisis that shrank people's retirements. Their house might be in foreclosure. They don't know how they'll pay for their kids' college."

In Wilson's view, anger reached its highest potency in the primary season when a small group of conservative voters picked the Republican nominees. If Democrats lose big in November, they can blame voters' desire for something new, not anger, Wilson said.

"I think the difference now is the way it's being posed as a narrative," Wilson said. "Times are tough. We have two wars. We have big companies taking government money. I think the anger is something that's a great story. ... But I don't think it's substantively real. Just like 'hope' in the 2008 election. People didn't have hope. They just wanted something different. So all these things, when you peel back the onion, you see nothing has changed."

Welcome, Mr. President

Around 12:30 p.m. Friday on King Street in Wilmington, tension built as the presidential motorcade approached. About 50 members of the 9-12 Patriots held signs or wore shirts either supporting O'Donnell or criticizing Obama or Coons. At one point, a police officer asked a few people to move away from a crosswalk.

"No one wants to see that ugly sign anyway," said Ashley Jones, 24, who came to support "my president" during her lunch break.

Hours earlier, about half of the 9-12 Patriots boarded a bus in either Milford or Dover, paying \$15 per ticket to attend what they called a "Welcome to Delaware Rally," an opportunity to show the president their anger. The group included Murphy, the Garcias and Preston Clark, who packed an American flag and a little white cooler for his lunch. Before the commander in chief passed, Clark turned his back. Another man held a sign saying "LIAR."

The Garcias and others opted for a full-throated boo, their jeers mixing with cheers and applause. The president waved from behind tinted windows and saw the crowd for no more than a few seconds before he was driven past.

The crowd soon dispersed. And the 9-12 Patriots gathered their belongings, walked to the bus and rode home.

Christina Investigated For Discipline Bias (WILNJ)

By Nichole Dobo

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

The US Department of Education's office of civil rights is investigating whether black male students are punished disproportionately in the Christina School District, one of five districts nationwide under scrutiny for its discipline record.

Federal investigators are in the process of visiting all of Christina's schools and have requested detailed discipline data for at least the last two academic years.

Although the investigation began in the spring, Christina officials did not publicly confirm its existence until The News Journal called about this story.

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan first mentioned districts were being investigated at a conference in late September hosted by the US Department of Education's civil rights office and the US Department of Justice's civil rights division. The school districts under review are in Delaware, New York, North Carolina, Utah and Minnesota.

One of the other districts, the San Juan School District in rural Utah, is being investigated for alleged gender disparities without respect to race or ethnicity, according to a school official.

In Christina, the federal inquiry focuses on the treatment of black male students, spokeswoman Wendy Lapham said. District officials acknowledge a disparity exists among the discipline rates, which they are working to correct, she said, adding the district has been cooperating with the investigation.

Statewide, black students made up about 32 percent of the public school population last year, but they accounted for about 55 percent of students who were suspended or expelled, according to an analysis by The News Journal published in June that compared discipline statistics provided by the state to school enrollments.

The discipline rates for all students in Delaware are higher than the national average: 21,690 of the state's 126,801 students -- about 1 in 6 -- were suspended or expelled in the 2009-2010 school year, which is down slightly from the year before. Those numbers include in-school suspensions. Counting only expulsions and out-of-school suspensions, the number dips to 14,368 students, or about 1 in 9.

The national suspension rate for all students was 7.1 percent in 2006, according to the most recent report by the US Department of Education. During that same year, the Delaware rate was 12.8 percent.

The Christina School District had the highest rate among the state's 19 school districts in the 2008-2009 and the 2007-2008 school years. However, the district's numbers went down in almost every school in 2009-2010.

Lapham says the decrease is the result of an effort by the district to better train teachers, help students learn to deal with conflicts and the elimination of a zero-tolerance policy. The district wants to keep more children in the schools, she said. She said the district has been analyzing its data internally and has been "working to address any issues of disparity by working with teachers at the classroom level, increasing training for para-professionals, reviewing and discussing data at the school level and significantly reducing suspensions and expulsions."

Zero tolerance -- sometimes

In 2009, a 6-year-old boy brought a Boy Scout tool to a Christina school to eat his pudding at lunch. Under the district's zero-tolerance policy, Zachary Christie faced a punishment of suspension or expulsion. The policy did not allow educators to make a punishment judgment call based on the context of the incident or age of the child.

But after public outcry and widespread media attention, the school board in 2009 decided to amend its policy as it pertained to kindergarten and first-grade students. Then in spring 2010, it eliminated the zero-tolerance policy.

Parents and officials like New Castle County Councilman Jea Street point to that outcome when they complain about Christina's high rate of punishment among black males. The 6-year-old was white.

Parent Wanda Stanley said she read about the boy's case with interest because she was dealing with the effects of Christina's zero tolerance policy that year. Her 11-year-old daughter was expelled after a box cutter fell out of her jacket pocket at Pulaski Elementary School in Wilmington. The girl did not know how the box cutter got in her pocket and had no intention of hurting anyone, her mother says. Police were notified by the school but did not file any criminal charges.

School officials told her there was no room for debate about the expulsion because of the zero-tolerance policy, Stanley says. This was confusing, she said, because she read in the newspaper that another child was not going to be punished after "powerful people" intervened. From her perspective, she saw a white boy who went unpunished while her black daughter was put out of school.

"I am hurt because I know my daughter is totally innocent and I don't want this to follow my daughter through her schooling," Stanley said.

The district's board of education and the state board of education ruled that the expulsion was justified.

A complaint against the school board is pending before the state Human Relations Commission. It alleges the district discriminated against Stanley's daughter on the basis of age and race. The district is appealing to have the case thrown out, but the commission declined to dismiss the case in a Sept. 28 order, which means a hearing is likely.

Stanley says she is devoted to making sure her daughter's case is heard because she believes there is a fundamental unfairness in the district. She wonders what happens to children who don't have a parent who is willing or able to fight their child's suspension or expulsion.

"You just cannot sit still when things are not right for your children," she said.

Robert Charles of Wilmington, the parent of an 11-year-old boy who was expelled when he was 9, agrees. Charles said his son was being bullied and wound up getting caught with a knife in his school bag at Bancroft Elementary School. The boy said the knife was not his and his father said he believes him.

The boy wound up getting expelled under the zero-tolerance policy.

"There was no discussion about the circumstances," Charles said. "It was like, 'Boom. We have a zero-tolerance policy and he's gone.'"

The boy wound up not attending school anywhere for the remainder of his fourth-grade year. He's now in the sixth grade in the Christina district.

Charles believes there was a racial bias when the zero-tolerance policy was applied. Again, it was based on an account that a white student who committed a similar infraction wound up not getting expulsion.

"Seems like when one group gets accused of something, they get expelled without an investigation and if another group does something, it gets looked into and being expelled isn't automatic."

Charles said his son is struggling in sixth grade, in part because of the part of fourth grade he missed.

"But he'll be OK," Charles said. "To me, education is the key. That's how I raise him."

District taking steps

Studies show that minorities are punished at higher rates than their peers, but there's not evidence that these children misbehave more, said Dan Losen, a former teacher who now works for The Civil Rights Project at UCLA. The federal government under President George W. Bush did not investigate many schools for these issues, which are now getting attention under a new administration, he said.

Typically, reviews from the office of civil rights are used to help districts find solutions and to monitor progress, Losen said, because "the preference has historically been to enter into a joint problem-solving approach rather than issuing violations."

It's important for children to remain in school -- especially those who are at risk because they do not have a home life that has afforded them the opportunity to learn how to behave in a school setting, Losen said. When children are removed from school they miss class time and are sent back to the home setting, compounding the problem.

"Our job as public educators is: Those kids need help so they can succeed in school," Losen said. "How is suspending them and sending them to the dysfunctional home going to help? The school's job is to take kids as they receive them."

From 1978 until 1996, the state was under court order to publicly report discipline numbers in Delaware schools that showed how many minority students were being punished. When the court order expired, the state stopped providing the information, Street says. The state Department of Education lists discipline data on its website, but it does not break down the figures in a way that shows race, ethnicity or gender. That information was supplied to The News Journal in May following a request.

Helen Spacht, principal at Christina's Wilson Elementary, said programs like the district's Day of Caring help reinforce the importance of kindness and how to treat others with respect. The school is certified under the Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" program, a distinction that means the school has undergone training for staff and students on diversity issues. Also, teachers have been meeting to share ideas and literature on better classroom and bullying management, she said.

"It's really changing the strategies and how they work with students," she said.

But the district has not made enough progress in dealing with these issues, said Street, who organized a rally in April to protest both Christina and the Capital School District for escalating discipline rates. That was the same month district officials received word they would face a review from the office of civil rights, information that was not shared by the district at the time.

"The fact is that [office of civil rights] is once again going to have to do what local officials refuse to do," Street said. "Nobody would listen to me when I claimed Christina was discriminating when it changed policy to accommodate one child and knew full well that the same policy had been used overzealously for others."

Renowned Delaware Money Manager David Baldt Faces Insider-Trading Charges From '08 (WILNJ)

By Jonathan Starkey

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

As markets panicked in the fall of 2008, David Baldt was engaged in a debate inside the Philadelphia offices of British investment firm Schroders.

Baldt, a high-flying money manager who owns a home in Centreville, had watched as investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed into history's largest bankruptcy on Sept. 15, sending the stock market into its largest sell-off since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

That same week, the Bush administration pumped \$85 billion into insurance conglomerate AIG and proposed infusing banks with \$700 billion to prevent a domino string of failures. Frenzied investors rushed to pull money from stocks, bonds and money-market funds.

Investors in Baldt's municipal bonds clamored for their money. One investor sought to redeem more than \$20 million, and higher-ups pressed Baldt to aggressively sell securities to meet rising redemption requests. Baldt resisted, arguing that a hasty sell-off would leave remaining investors in the lurch.

After one such meeting on Sept. 17, Baldt returned to his office to a message from one of his daughters. Rattled by the week's events, she sought her father's advice about savings she had invested in one of Baldt's funds.

"Well, you should own what you could live with, and if owning a Treasury makes you sleep better at night, just temporarily take haven in Treasury bills," Baldt offered, according to a recording of the call supplied to the SEC by Schroders. Baldt suggested his daughter relay the advice to other family members.

That call, and another that followed in early October, could cost Baldt his career.

Out of work for a year

Baldt faces federal charges of insider trading for allegedly misusing nonpublic information to warn his family to protect their savings during the worst of America's financial meltdown. He'll represent himself at a hearing in Philadelphia on Monday.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission slapped Baldt with an 11-page administrative proceeding in May. It recounts the events of mid-September and early October 2008, including Baldt's debates with management, and his conversations with his daughter, who is referred to only as "Family Member A."

Reached last week at his Centreville home -- for which records show he paid \$995,000 in 2006 -- Baldt said he could not comment on details of the case but was looking forward to telling his side of the story.

"I'm anxious to have my day in court, when the truth can be told," Baldt said.

Depending on the outcome of this week's hearing, Baldt could be barred from working in the securities industry, and he could face steep fines.

The ordeal has already taken a sledgehammer to his professional life. He has not worked for the past year and has resigned board posts across northern Delaware to avoid involving the likes of the University of Delaware and the Delaware Art Museum.

A spokesman for the university said Baldt took a leave of absence in May from an investment committee that oversees the school's \$1 billion endowment. He had sat on the committee since 1997, when the fund was valued at \$664 million.

Baldt left the museum's board in May so "he wouldn't embarrass the museum in any way," said Danielle Rice, executive director there. The museum, still one of Delaware's premier cultural institutions, counts many of Delaware's most revered families among its founders and earliest supporters, including the Bancrofts and the du Ponts. Louisa d'Andelot du Pont Copeland and others chartered the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts in 1912 to exhibit the work of illustrator Howard Pyle, establishing a foundation for the museum.

"As anyone who knows [Baldt] will tell you, he is a deeply religious, spiritual person," Rice said. "So all of us were quite taken aback when we heard of the proceedings against him."

Gerret van S. Copeland, Louisa's grandson, who chairs the museum's board, said he found Baldt to be "very astute, very careful in his analysis of things."

That would hardly surprise people who have trusted Baldt with their money over the years -- many of them in positions of social and professional esteem in Delaware.

R.R.M. "Ruly" Carpenter III, a one-time owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, said he's known Baldt for 30 years. For much of that time, Baldt managed some of his personal investments, Carpenter said.

"He's always done an excellent job of managing my bond portfolio," said Carpenter, a trustee at the University of Delaware, where he has often bumped into Baldt at basketball and football games. "He always performed well and was very low-key. When he spoke about bonds, and what to do and what not to do, it was well-advised to listen."

Baldt has also managed investments for the state of Delaware, the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington and the New Castle County pension fund, which sought to cut ties with Schroders after Baldt left the company. The county finally traded Schroders in for another manager this past summer, after liquidating its account. Schroders still handles more than \$360 million for the state, according to the treasurer's office.

Outperforming others

In 1971, Baldt graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in international relations. He turned down a job working in intelligence at the National Security Agency to work for Delaware Trust Co., where he remained for 16 years, developing a reputation as an all-star municipal bond picker.

Baldt, who directed fixed-income investments at Delaware Trust, regularly outperformed the competition throughout the early 1980s, earning 18 percent versus an industry average of 11.7 percent. From 1982 to 1985, Baldt tripled Delaware Trust's bond assets, to \$900 million.

"It's pretty amazing, the performance he's had," Ronald G. Crampton, who studied bond performance for investment firm John Nuveen & Co., told The News Journal for a profile of Baldt in 1985.

Later, Baldt managed bond portfolios for Morgan Grenfell -- where he worked in 1997, the year he was recognized as "Fund Manager of the Year" by investment research firm Morningstar -- and Deutsche Asset Management. Schroders plucked him from Deutsche in 2003 to run a new bond business in Philadelphia.

After Baldt's Sept. 17 conversation with his daughter, she redeemed \$150,000 from the fund, according to the SEC, and Baldt's debate with management about how to manage the sell-off continued. Ultimately overruled, Baldt's team moved forward, selling securities to raise cash, as directed.

On Oct. 3, after learning that an outside broker had expressed concern about Schroders' position, Baldt penned an e-mail to members of the firm's management, writing that the "massive sale lists that we have recently undertaken" were leading the dealer community to question whether "we are in trouble." That day, Baldt had another conversation with his daughter -- "Family Member A" -- during which he urged her to "consider [her] inclination to sell."

"I'd go the full route," Baldt advised, according to the SEC. His daughter redeemed \$50,000 on the next trading day, and the same amount the day after. Overall, she redeemed \$250,000. Other family members in October redeemed \$100,000 but failed to redeem another \$3 million in shares.

Amy Greer, a securities lawyer who from 2003 to 2008 was the SEC's head trial lawyer in Philadelphia, said government lawyers must prove that Baldt intended to disclose nonpublic information that would encourage his family to sell.

Early on, Greer said that Baldt seemed to be offering his family “pretty bland advice” in advising them to seek safety in Treasury bills, Greer said.

“It’s not uncommon for investment professionals to tell investors that they should only invest to their comfort level,” she said.

Greer added, however, that Baldt may have gone too far in the Oct. 3 conversation with his daughter, saying he seemed to be “promoting” the idea to sell.

“That’s part of the problem,” Greer said. “This is what this case is.”

Internal investigation

In October of 2008, Schroders moved to liquidate two municipal bond funds Baldt managed, by which time they had apparently adopted Baldt’s caution. In an Oct. 14 letter to shareholders, the firm wrote, “Recently, management of the funds has become concerned that a large amount of redemptions in a short period of time could force the Funds to sell portfolio securities at unfavorable prices, to the disadvantage of all of the Funds’ shareholders.”

Baldt left the firm in October but remained in an advisory role until May of 2009, Schroders said. In a statement, the firm said it had detected Baldt’s actions, launched an internal investigation and ultimately turned its evidence over to the SEC.

“[Schroders] has no tolerance for the activities alleged in the SEC’s administrative action against David Baldt,” the firm said.

Schroders said it was only working to “preserve shareholder value ... following the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the near-collapse of AIG and the dramatic efforts of governments around the world to respond to the unprecedented financial crisis.”

Today, the broader economy has regained some footing. The Dow Jones industrial average is up 69 percent from its bottom on March 9, 2009, and AIG recently announced a plan to pay back its government bailout funds. Baldt, however, remains embroiled in the high drama of America’s financial meltdown, with his professional life at stake. The SEC’s case against Baldt is a civil one, but if he’s found guilty, he could be suspended from working in the securities industry, or even barred.

Greer, the securities lawyer, said it can be more difficult for prosecutors to establish intent in cases such as Baldt’s, in which the defendant did not trade shares for their own personal gain using inside information.

Last year, for instance, the SEC lost a similar insider-trading case it filed against Frederick Anton, a Pennsylvania businessman. The SEC alleged that Anton, then the chairman of Blue Ball, Pa.-based workers’ compensation insurer PMA Capital Corp., provided inside information to a former employee in 2003, leading the employee, David Johnson, to sell shares he owned in the company. Johnson even testified against Anton, but a judge found his testimony unconvincing, and ruled there was no proof that Anton actually possessed information that the SEC claimed he used to tip Johnson.

In Baldt’s case, the question of why he would divulge insider information could seem clear -- because the case involves protecting his family’s savings -- but prosecutors still face challenges, Greer said.

“They have to have that fraudulent intent,” Greer said. “So, what was the person thinking? Why would they do this? That becomes more difficult [when there is no personal gain], though not impossible.”

Phillies Get No Magic From Halladay In Game 1 (WILNJ)

By David Hale

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

PHILADELPHIA -- Roy Halladay is steady. That's his whole persona. An even keel, all the time.

The buildup to Saturday night's start, however, was tough to ignore. The hype was ubiquitous. There was Halladay, fresh off the second no-hitter in postseason history. The Giants countered with Tim Lincecum, who was nearly as sharp in pitching a two-hit shutout against Atlanta last week.

Two former Cy Young Award winners, two of the best pitchers baseball has to offer, and Game 1 of the National League Championship Series on the line.

And yet, for all the hype, Halladay never let it soak in. It had been more than a week since his last start, and Halladay deftly avoided the drama.

By the sixth inning, however, the stoic pitcher finally showed he was human.

A 90-mph cutter appeared to hit the inside corner for what would have been strike three on Pat Burrell. Halladay wanted that pitch. He needed it.

But he didn't get it, and the frustration was evident.

His next pitch was a fastball that caught too much of the plate, and Burrell sent it deep into left field for an RBI double that proved to be the difference in a pitching matchup that never quite lived up to the hype. The Giants won 4-3, taking a one-game lead in the best-of-seven NLCS.

"You find out what you're made of," said Halladay, who followed his no-hitter by allowing eight hits and four runs in seven innings against the Giants. "You never obviously expect it to be easy. You grind it out and make adjustments next time out. I think if you can't handle failure at this point, you're in the wrong business."

Failure isn't something Halladay or Lincecum had experienced much of this season, and their playoff debuts set a lofty standard.

"The way this series was built up, if anyone got a hit it was going to be a miracle," closer Brad Lidge said.

But the hits came. Both starters allowed two homers. Lincecum allowed six hits and walked three. Halladay's efforts were undercut by Burrell's long fly ball that nearly found Raul Ibanez's glove.

Burrell's hit was the final blow. The first came from a far more unlikely source.

Five months ago, Cody Ross was in the lineup for the Marlins when Halladay tossed a perfect game.

Three months later, Ross was on waivers. The Giants weren't particularly interested, but they didn't want to see their division rival Padres get him, either. So Ross earned a roster spot, even if he wasn't playing regularly.

Two weeks ago, Ross wasn't the Giants' right fielder. But Jose Guillen was struggling, and manager Bruce Bochy decided to roll the dice with Ross, leaving Guillen off the postseason roster.

And so it was that Ross came to bat against Halladay in the bottom of the third. It had been 12 innings since Halladay had last allowed a hit, three weeks since he last allowed a run.

Superman had his kryptonite. Halladay had Ross.

The Giants' right fielder sent a fastball over the left-field wall for a solo homer to give San Francisco a 1-0 lead. Two innings later, he provided a replay, his second homer in as many at-bats.

"The first pitch to Ross I didn't think was that bad," Halladay said. "The second one, I left the ball over the plate. In the sixth, a couple pitches there cost me. At this point, if you make a couple mistakes they end up costing you."

The sixth is when Burrell did his damage, when a chink was finally visible in Halladay's armor.

The last time Burrell belted an extra-base hit in the postseason at Citizens Bank Park, it was a double off J.P. Howell in the seventh inning of Game 5 of the 2008 World Series. He left for pinch runner Eric Bruntlett, who eventually came around to score the winning run that sent the Phillies to their first World Series title in 28 years.

Burrell's double Saturday night put a significant dent in this year's quest for another championship. Ibanez -- the man the Phillies chose to replace Burrell after the '08 season -- gave chase, climbed the wall and nearly corralled it before the ball bounced free and Burrell cruised into second base with an RBI double.

"I thought he hit it better than that, actually," Ibanez said. "I thought it was going to go up off the top of the wall. By the time I jumped against the wall to get a little leverage and get a little height, the ball was lower than I thought."

Juan Uribe followed with a single that scored Burrell to take a 4-1 lead.

The Phillies battled back on the strength of a two-run homer by Jayson Werth in the bottom of the sixth, but that's where the rally ended.

Jimmy Rollins struck out twice with runners on base, including once to end the eighth. Ross Gload and Shane Victorino each struck out with a runner on first in the ninth. Brian Wilson recorded a four-out save.

"I think definitely you want to swing the bats better for sure," said Ibanez, whose fly ball stranded Ryan Howard at second after a leadoff double in the second. "But at the same time, you've got to stay after it and come back and keep fighting."

The loss was the first for the Phillies in the opening game of a postseason series since 2007, when the Rockies swept three games in the division series.

"Usually, it's the other way around. We win Game 1 and find a way to lose Game 2," Rollins said. "Now we've got to find a way to win Game 2."

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIALS

Voters Rightly Angered At The System's Failures (WILNJ)

[Wilmington News Journal](#), October 17, 2010

The theme of this year's election is anger. That still seems to astound some people. But this late in the game, it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone paying attention to the world around him.

People who disdain politics often think the news media and the political campaign staffs manufacture and manipulate the public with their coverage and political advertising. In reality, the news reflects what is going on in the world, however imperfectly. And the campaign ads, however inglorious, are inspired by research into what people think, admire and fear.

Anger is this year's theme because many voters are angry.

Unemployment is high and will be for some time. Housing values have declined even for those who can still pay their mortgages. Healthcare expenses keep rising. And savings and investments are down, 401(k) accounts took big hits, and many private-sector pension plans have either disappeared or are shrinking rapidly.

The government's multi-billion dollar bailouts seem to have benefitted only Wall Street fat cats and public employees who still have comfortable health benefits and pensions.

Why shouldn't taxpayers be angry?

Meanwhile, the political establishments seemed unable to do anything about it. So thanks to modern communications technology, some on the right copied and improved upon the campaign tactics of the Obama campaign and turned the Republican Party upside down with the tea party movement.

We saw that here in Delaware with Christine O'Donnell's victory over party stalwart Mike Castle in the Republican primary.

But anger won't last. Even the most vocal candidate has to settle down when the election is won. It has happened before in American history. Voters have turned to the ballot before to vent their frustration and anger. From those votes have come many long-term, positive reforms.

If we're lucky, it will this time, too.

BIDEN IN THE NEWS

Biden: GOP On Deficits Is Like An Arsonist Becoming Fire Marshal (HILL)

By Bridget Johnson

[The Hill](#), October 16, 2010

Vice President Joe **Biden** said at a fundraiser Friday night that Republicans have "zero, zero, zero" credibility on reducing the deficit, and such talk from the GOP was "like making an arsonist the fire marshal."

Biden headlined the Milwaukee event for incumbent Rep. Steve Kagen (D-Wisc.), who's in a tight re-election race with Republican Reid Ribble, and state Sen. Julie Lassa, who's running for the seat being left open by David Obey's retirement.

According to the White House pool report, **Biden**, as well as the two candidates, joined the chorus of Democrats accusing the right of using outside groups and anonymous donors to propel campaigns.

"Why do you think the Chamber of Commerce will not tell us who is contributing to them? ... Follow the money! Follow the money!" **Biden** said.

Biden said the administration has been tasked with digging the country out of a "godawful" hole created by Republicans, and lambasted the right for criticizing government spending.

"These guys are not for real ... They have zero, zero, zero credibility on deficits," he said. "The last guy to balance a budget was William Jefferson Clinton ... These guys talking about deficits is like making an arsonist the fire marshal."

Biden warned that Democrats needed to not let voter anger carry away the election.

"If we let this remain a referendum on their anger, we will lose ... When you're angry you don't want to focus on the alternative," he said. "You only want to focus on your pain and your anger. And shame on us, shame on us if we let them do it and not remind them of what the alternative is and the progress we've made."

Vice President Joe Biden Scheduled To Campaign For Harry Reid On Wednesday (RGJ)

[Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#), October 17, 2010

Vice President Joe **Biden** is coming to Reno Wednesday to stage a campaign rally for Sen. Harry Reid.

The Democrats are scheduled to appear at the Old Gymnasium at the University of Nevada, Reno at 900 N. Virginia St. The doors open at 8 a.m.

People who want to attend are asked to RSVP at Reid's Web site at <http://www.harryreid.com/page/s/oct20reno>.

Biden To Campaign Wednesday For Reid In Reno (AP)

[Associated Press](#), October 16, 2010

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Vice President Joe **Biden** will join Sen. Harry Reid at a rally Wednesday at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Organizers say doors will open at 8 a.m. at the Virginia Street Gymnasium on the campus.

Biden also joined Reid for a fundraising breakfast and speech in Reno in October 2009.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to hold a rally on Friday in Las Vegas.

Reid is locked in a tight race with Republican Sharron Angle.

Lincoln In Lonely Uphill Race In Arkansas (NYT)

By Mark Leibovich

[New York Times](#), October 17, 2010

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. -- Senator Blanche Lincoln, the incumbent Democrat -- a double-whammy of a handicap this year -- was hanging around the Pope County Courthouse here, looking for someone, anyone, to talk to.

"Hi, I'm Blanche Lincoln," the two-term senator said, popping her head into an office populated by two people, one of whom barely looked up while the other politely declared herself a supporter of Mrs. Lincoln's Republican opponent, Representative John Boozman.

"I'd love to come around here for one of y'all's office Christmas parties," Mrs. Lincoln told the county judge, Jim Ed Gibson, before heading up a flight of stairs and down a dark hallway.

It has come to this for the chairwoman of a powerful Senate committee, a former up-and-comer in her party and onetime favorite daughter in a state whose political royalty includes President Bill Clinton and former Senators J. William Fulbright and Dale Bumpers.

Late on Thursday afternoon, the 80-year-old courthouse was largely abandoned, which could aptly describe the predicament of Mrs. Lincoln, the 50-year-old Arkansan who became the youngest woman ever elected to the Senate 12 years ago and the first to lead the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

She appears abandoned by voters, who have favored Mr. Boozman by double digits in nearly every poll in recent months. She has been forsaken by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which has essentially written off her race and apportioned almost no money to it, and she has been dismissed by pundits, handicappers and operatives who are focused instead on a cluster of tossup Senate races in states -- like Colorado, Illinois, Nevada and West Virginia -- that absolutely do not include this one.

"It might not be a total wipeout for Lincoln," said Jennifer Duffy, the senior editor of the Cook Political Report, charitably. "But it's going to be bad for her."

Mrs. Lincoln, whose come-from-behind defeat of Lt. Gov. Bill Halter in a Democratic primary runoff brought her fleeting hope in June, now finds herself very much on the wrong side of the triage that takes place in the final weeks of a Congressional campaign. This is particularly true in a midterm election in which both parties are engaged in a national chess game, deciding which races are winnable or within reach and deserving of their vast but finite means.

This beyond-hope fate befalls dozens of candidates in every national election cycle. But what is striking -- and oddly poignant -- about Mrs. Lincoln is the degree to which such a formidable incumbent who is, in large part, well respected by her colleagues and well liked by many of her constituents, finds herself as seemingly left for dead.

"To be honest with you, I'd rather do it on my own," Mrs. Lincoln said in an interview after an impromptu meet-and-greet session on Thursday night at the Russellville Whirlwinds junior high school football game.

She is largely getting her wish, doing it on her own, with a few exceptions. Mr. Clinton, for one, comes back here periodically and has campaigned twice with Mrs. Lincoln in the last six weeks, most recently on Wednesday night at a rally in Jonesboro.

Mr. Clinton is the rare national Democrat who is popular here these days -- President Obama, who lost this state to Senator John McCain in 2008, is box-office poison at this point. Vice President Joseph R. **Biden** Jr. held a fund-raiser for Mrs. Lincoln last month, but it was in Boston -- the city in Massachusetts, not the township in northwest Arkansas.

As with many incumbent Democrats, Mrs. Lincoln has been stung by association with the president's agenda. She takes strenuous pains to distance herself from the White House, trumpet her centrist credentials and assert her independence from her Democratic colleagues.

"Look, as far as the Democratic caucus in the Senate goes, I've spent my share of time in the time-out chair over there," Mrs. Lincoln said, noting her opposition to cap-and-trade energy measures and her support for lowering estate taxes, both of which put her at odds with most of her Democratic colleagues.

But by and large, Mrs. Lincoln's support for such divisive White House-driven legislation as last year's economic stimulus bill and especially this year's healthcare overhaul -- which she voted for only after equivocating, upsetting both liberals and conservatives -- has put her in a seemingly inescapable box.

"She can be tough, but she is wishy-washy by nature," said Max Brantley, a longtime political columnist here who is the editor of the left-leaning Arkansas Times. "This is no year for that on things like healthcare. She made the worst of a bad situation by temporizing and creating a drama in which she became the star last vote."

In a dogged procession that routinely totals six or seven campaign stops a day, Mrs. Lincoln speaks often about her family, especially her young twin boys. She also mentions her chairmanship of the agriculture committee, a position that affords obvious advantage to a rural state and would be a political asset in a normal year.

But Mrs. Lincoln is one of several examples of a powerful veteran lawmaker whose growing influence in Washington belies declining home-state electoral prospects.

"I've worked hard to get to places that are useful to you," Mrs. Lincoln said, almost pleadingly, at a Democratic women's luncheon at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock on Friday. "And I'm not doing it for me. I'm doing it for you."

Like pretty much every underdog politician in America, Mrs. Lincoln insists that she is going to win, that momentum is shifting toward her and that she hates polls (except, presumably, the internal ones her campaign officials let slip that have her within single digits of Mr. Boozman, not the 19.7 percent average deficit of recent polls compiled by RealClearPolitics).

She wears brightly colored scarves to match a determinedly sunny disposition on the stump. Everything was either “wonderful” or “great” Thursday on a tour of a community services agency in Russellville. For the most part, she is greeted warmly, even by people who do not support her. There is no visible sign of the dreaded “voter rage” that supposedly defines today’s political mood.

As she meandered through the state fairgrounds in Little Rock late Friday, Mrs. Lincoln conveyed serenity and a hint of nostalgia. The seventh-generation Arkansan had changed into jeans and a white sweater with the collar turned up, ate fistfuls of popcorn and contemplated making a bid on a goat in a livestock auction.

“My husband would hit the ceiling,” concluded Mrs. Lincoln, whose family owned a rice and soybean farm in Helena, Ark., with a couple of pigs (“not show pigs”) out in the pecan orchard.

She resisted the deep-fried Twinkie stand and headed into the Hall of Industry, where she stopped by a booth to get her handwriting analyzed.

A few feet away, Bruce Todd of Franklin, Wis., tried to entice Mrs. Lincoln into filling out a raffle ticket that could yield her a “fantastic vacation cruise” in the Bahamas.

“No, thank you,” she said at first, before succumbing to Mr. Todd’s last-chance sales pitch. “I guarantee you might win,” he promised.

Biz Solidly In Boxer’s Corner (VARIETY)

By Ted Johnson

[Variety](#), October 16, 2010

One candidate seeking to return to Washington has raised more money from Hollywood than any other: Barbara Boxer.

That’s no surprise, as her entertainment connections run deep and she’s been holding entertainment-centric fund-raisers for this race for years now.

What is a bit curious is how little industry support has gone to Boxer’s Republican challenger, Carly Fiorina.

Fiorina has not collected contributions from entertainment industry figures even at the same level as her fellow Silicon Valley veteran, Meg Whitman, running as a Republican in a tight race for governor against Democrat Jerry Brown.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Boxer has raised \$712,712 from showbiz sources for her re-election bid, compared with less than \$39,000 for Fiorina.

The caveat is that the figures were based on campaign finance reports as of June 30. The latest figures were due on Oct. 15, and the CRP usually takes several more days to conduct a new analysis; Fiorina is expected to have added to her showbiz pot.

But it’s very doubtful that the dynamics will change much.

Boxer has been on a fund-raising tear through Hollywood, with barely a week going by when she hasn’t held a significant event, often with the support of studio moguls. On Oct. 17, she was due to appear at a fund-raiser at the Malibu home of

Universal Studios' Ron Meyer and his wife, Kelly, with singer-songwriter Jackson Browne providing an acoustic performance. Co-chairs include Warner Bros.' Alan Horn and his wife Cindy, as well as Steven and Dayna Bochco and Pierce Brosnan and his wife Keely. In July, Fox's Tom Rothman and his wife Jessica hosted a fund-raiser for Boxer, with Vice President Joseph **Biden** adding to the draw.

On Oct. 22, President Obama will raise money for her at a reception at USC, having been to Los Angeles in April on her behalf, followed several days later by first lady Michelle Obama, appearing at an event at the Wilshire Ebell in Hancock Park.

Industry money is even being raised for producer Robert Greenwald's independent effort to produce anti-Fiorina viral videos through his Brave New Films; the latest is a project called "Carly Fiorina Is a Job Killer," featuring interviews with former Hewlett Packard employees.

Hollywood's leftward tilt makes it difficult for any Republican to make significant fund-raising inroads, and the fact that the race has been so close may have triggered among the industry's donors a greater sense of urgency to contribute to Boxer. She has a slight lead in recent polls, but this is also a very volatile year.

The Fiorina campaign sees the gulf between her Hollywood support and that of Boxer as easy to explain. "Barbara Boxer is a career politician who has been stockpiling funds for six years, while Carly is a political outsider," says Andrea Saul, a spokeswoman for the campaign, while also arguing that Boxer has been "bad for the entertainment business" by "pressing for job-killing legislation, more than a trillion dollars in tax hikes and more government intrusion into our lives while limiting our film, music and television shows' global reach and exposing them to more piracy by opposing free trade."

Rose Kapolczynski, Boxer's campaign manager, says Boxer "is pleased to have earned the support of industry leaders, many of whom are Californians who support her on a wide variety of issues. Senator Boxer recognizes that entertainment is a critical economic engine for California, and she has worked hard on causes important to the industry, including halting runaway production and cracking down on overseas piracy."

Others attribute the gap in support to a matter of contacts and, certainly among Boxer's supporters, personality. Fiorina doesn't have as strong ties to the industry as Whitman, relationships that can sometimes help in winning over converts who normally side with Democrats. Whitman, who had a brief tenure at Disney and even interviewed for the top job there in 2005, courted donors from the first stages of her campaign, winning early support of such figures as Terry Semel, Harry Sloan and even Michael Lynton, the latter of whom was a bundler for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential bid. Fiorina launched her bid later. In May, Semel, Sloan and attorney Bruce Ramer held a meet-and-greet for a Senate candidate in the GOP primary, but it was for Tom Campbell, not Fiorina.

Certainly another difference is in the way Whitman and Fiorina have campaigned: Whitman has tacked to the center as Nov. 2 approaches, calling for a one-year suspension of the state's global warming law but opposing Prop 23, which is more likely to delay it far longer. Fiorina, by contrast, supports Prop 23, as well as offshore oil drilling.

"I think it was a matter of opportunity," says Sam Haskell, a longtime supporter of Republican candidates and chairman of the Miss America Organization. "Whitman, because of her job at eBay, dealt with entertainment executives and then drew on her contacts. She knows everybody. Fiorina does not."

There's also competition, given that there are only so many GOP donors in Hollywood, and as the campaign progresses, Fiorina is competing with candidates across the country for a smaller pool. "At a certain point you have to make the decision, 'Where is the most likely place where you are going to get

the most money?” notes producer Craig Haffner, who has long been active in supporting Republican and conservative candidates. “To a certain extent, that is just the pragmatic business of politics.”

Schauer, Walberg Disagree On NAFTA (JCP)

By Chris Gautz

[Jackson \(MI\) Citizen Patriot](#), October 17, 2010

This has been a key issue for Mark Schauer. Upon entering Congress, Schauer co-sponsored a bill to repeal NAFTA, while Tim Walberg wants to keep it in place.

Walberg said NAFTA has had a positive impact nationally and led to 500,000 new jobs in the US in its first 10 years.

Schauer has spent much of his two years in Washington talking about the need for fair trade and being tougher on China.

He helped a Jackson company, Full Spectrum Solutions, with issues it was having with China and the stimulus, and got the attention of Vice President Joe **Biden**.

This year he wrote a bill that would stop tax dollars from being spent on products the government buys that are made in China. He also voted against the “Cash for Caulkers” bill, which provides rebates to people who make energy-efficiency upgrades to their homes. Schauer said it would spend tax dollars on goods made in China.

Walberg said he introduced legislation while in office to create a trade prosecutor’s office to go after China, Mexico and other countries that manipulate their currency and violate trade agreements. That bill wasn’t given a hearing by Democrats.

Schauer maintains that 68,300 Michigan jobs have been shipped to China because of policies Walberg supports.

That number comes from a report from the liberal Economic Policy Institute, although it represents jobs the group says were lost from 2001 through 2008. Walberg served in Congress in 2007 and 2008.

Schauer also accuses Walberg of wanting to protect tax breaks and loopholes for companies that send jobs overseas. Factcheck.org has called this a “false tax attack.”

Heck, Herrera Sprint For The Hill (VACOL)

By Zachary Kaufman

[Vancouver \(WA\) Columbian](#), October 17, 2010

Who will represent Southwest Washington in Congress for the next two years?

As voters mark their ballots for the Nov. 2 election over the next two weeks, that’s still an open question.

The race between Democratic businessman Denny Heck and Republican state Rep. Jaime Herrera for the open 3rd Congressional District seat gained drama and momentum last week as the candidates debated face-to-face for the first time, new TV attack ads filled the airwaves and at least one poll showed the contest too close to call.

Washington’s 3rd District race is still ranked a toss-up by national political pundits. A poll commissioned by the Capitol Hill newspaper The Hill showed Heck closing the gap with Herrera, with 15 percent of voters in the district still undecided. Another poll, commissioned by KING-TV, released Thursday, showed Herrera maintaining an 11-point lead and only 6 percent undecided.

The contest to succeed Democratic Rep. Brian Baird is on the national radar this year for one reason: If 40 of the 435 House seats change from Republican to Democrat as a result of the election, the

With two weeks to go, the safest conclusion is that the outcome of the race remains unpredictable.

Awash in money

The major political parties have invested heavily in the 3rd District race. According to the Federal Election Commission, the National Republican Campaign Committee has spent about \$625,000 on TV ads and other media targeting Heck to date, and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has spent a comparable amount -- about \$640,000 -- targeting Herrera.

The DCCC is on track to spend at least \$1 million on the race by Election Day, according to spokesman Andy Stone. Joanna Burgos of the NRCC said the Republican campaign committee will spend more than \$900,000 on the race.

In addition, independent GOP-affiliated groups not associated with the Herrera campaign have poured buckets of cash into the race on her behalf. The American Future Fund has spent \$872,000 for attacks on Heck that began the day after the primary. Another group, Americans for Prosperity, which is backed by the billionaire Koch Brothers and is not required to reveal its corporate donors, has spent \$282,000 attacking Heck.

The latest reports to the FEC by the candidates' own campaigns, due Friday, show Herrera has nearly \$514,000 in the bank. Heck has \$411,000 on hand.

Herrera raised \$613,910 from July 29-Sept. 30, compared to the \$550,000 raised by Heck during that same period, according to numbers provided by both candidates' campaigns Friday.

Quarterly reports for the three months ending June 30 showed that as of that date Heck had raised about \$1 million, including \$350,000 he donated to his own campaign. Herrera had raised \$411,000.

It's not clear how effective the blizzard of TV ads funded by all that cash has been. In fact, the media blitz may be turning voters off.

GOP-backed ads typically link Heck, who has never served in Congress, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whom he has never met, and refer to Heck's "Democrat friends" in Congress. They play up the fact that Heck has said he would have voted for both the health reform bill and the stimulus, without mentioning that he has stated clear reservations about both bills.

The new 1970s "leisure suit" ad from the Herrera campaign that began running Friday details Heck's support for state spending increases while he served in the Legislature in the 1970s and 1980s.

Heck, meanwhile, has accused Herrera of supporting privatization of Social Security, a political third-rail position. Herrera indicated at an event early in the campaign that she favored privatization, but she has since corrected that statement. Her campaign website states, "I have never supported privatizing Social Security."

One recent anti-Herrera ad paid for by the DCCC illustrates how political ads can backfire. The ad accused Herrera of using the state treasury as her "personal piggybank" for spending a few hundred dollars of state money on business cards and protective covers for her office furniture. That gave the Herrera campaign an opening to raise Heck's spending record in the Legislature three decades ago.

Debates

Heck and Herrera debated three times last week, in Lacey and Longview before live audiences Wednesday and in a taped debate at the Portland studio of KGW-TV on Friday. The KGW-TV debate, which aired Saturday on the station's "Straight Talk" public affairs program, gave Clark County voters their first and likely their only chance to appraise the candidates side-by-side. The contrasts between them came across clearly in the debates.

Heck described in detail his plan for growing middle-class jobs in Southwest Washington through a combination of federal tax breaks, legislation to get credit flowing to small businesses, and investments in manufacturing and green energy.

Herrera called for repealing health reform and declared that the stimulus had done next to nothing to create new jobs. The answer to the region's stubbornly high unemployment rate, she says, lies in sharply reducing federal spending and burdensome federal regulations on businesses. At the same time, she favors a permanent extension of the Bush administration tax cuts, which would cost an estimated \$700 billion over 10 years.

Each candidate has spent a fair amount of time campaigning in Clark County since the primary.

Heck, who lives in Olympia, has held 18 official campaign events in the county since mid-August, according to his campaign. He's visited several times during his just-completed five-week "Let's Get to Work" tour, stopping at a wind energy startup company, meeting with credit union officials, touring vocational programs at Clark College and checking in with businesses at the Port of Camas-Washougal to get ideas about how to get the economy moving again.

Vice President Joe **Biden** campaigned for Heck Oct. 8 at a fundraiser in Seattle.

Herrera, who lives in Camas, has taken part in about two dozen campaign events in Clark County since the primary, according to her campaign spokesman, though she's been less visible than Heck. She has made at least two fundraising trips to Washington, D.C., since she entered the race. In late September, US Rep Pete Sessions, R-Texas, hosted a fundraiser for her in Camas.

In a year when Democrats are out of favor, both candidates have calibrated their campaigns to match the national mood.

Heck, who has strong connections with establishment Democrats in Seattle and Olympia, has cultivated an outsider's perspective on Beltway politics that allows him to be critical of the current Congress and neutral on the Obama administration's record.

Herrera has name familiarity, a fresh face, and the Republican Party's momentum in an election year that will be one for the history books.

State Department Condemns East Jerusalem Building (JERP)

By Tovah Lazaroff, Melanie Lidman

[Jerusalem Post](#), October 17, 2010

The US, Russia and France have condemned Israel's plan to build 238 homes in two east Jerusalem Jewish neighborhoods, saying it runs counter to the peace process.

Russia and France have asked the government to reconsider the decision.

The government, however, has stood firmly behind the Ministry of Construction and Housing's publication on Thursday of tenders for 80 new homes in Ramot and 158 in Pisgat Ze'ev.

The Palestinian Authority has said that building in the settlements and in east Jerusalem must stop for the peace process to continue, while Israel has insisted that there is no reason why talks cannot move forward despite such building.

"In no way is this construction antithetical to a historic peace agreement with the Palestinians," a government official told The Jerusalem Post on Saturday night.

The tenders are for construction in neighborhoods that every peace plan for the past 20 years has stated would remain part of Israel in a finalstatus agreement, the official said.

Although Israel froze new construction in West Bank settlements from November 26, 2009 through September 26 of this year, it has refused to consider a similar measure in east Jerusalem.

Continued construction in all parts of Jerusalem, has been a consistent government policy, about which “we have been frank and above board,” the official said.

“There is no policy change here. Even when there was a moratorium, it never included Jerusalem, the official said.

The US was informed of the new construction before Thursday’s publication of the tenders, which were included in a list of 4,000 new homes to be built nationwide.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters on Friday that in response the US told Israel, “We felt this was contrary to what we were trying to do, to get direct negotiations resumed.” He added that the US was “disappointed.”

The State Department and Israel have long been at odds over east Jerusalem construction, with Israel insisting that it has a right to build in the city which is its eternal capital.

Israeli and US officials held telephone conversations about the new construction over the weekend.

Meanwhile, US Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-New York), who chairs the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, issued a strong statement in defense of Israel on Friday, taking to task those who have equated the capital with West Bank settlements.

“Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It is not a settlement,” Ackerman told the press.

It has been “the singular geographic center of the hopes and aspirations of the Jewish people for three millennia,” he said.

“Construction in Jerusalem is not a justification for a crisis, a showdown, a meltdown or even a hissy fit,” Ackerman said.

“Ramot and Pisgat Ze’ev are going to be part of Israel in any conceivable final-status deal, and to pretend otherwise is pointless,” he said.

“Those who earlier complained about the inadequacy of Israel’s unilateral and uncompensated settlement freeze, who chose to waste those 10 months instead of diving aggressively into direct talks on peace, cannot reasonably now turn around and complain that the end of the freeze and the resumption of Israeli construction in Jerusalem... is either a shock or an insurmountable obstacle to peace,” Ackerman said.

Such construction “is neither a show of bad faith, nor a justification for avoiding negotiations aimed at achieving a final-status agreement.

“The legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians are not going to be achieved by violence and they’re not going to be achieved by the equivalent of holding their breath until their lips turn blue,” he said.

“Direct negotiations are sole pathway to their goal, and the sooner they recognize this fact, the better,” he said.

Thursday’s announcement marked the first time since March that east Jerusalem tenders have been published.

According to Hagit Ofran of Peace Now, tenders for 377 housing units were published for the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Neveh Ya’acov on March 10, tenders for 48 were published for Pisgat Ze’ev on January 7, and another 150 in that same neighborhood on December 31, 2009.

Separately, in a move that deeply angered the US, the Interior Ministry’s District Committee for Planning and Construction in March approved a plan to build 1,600 homes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo, during a visit by US Vice President Joseph **Biden**. The announcement

of the Ramat Shlomo plan caught the Prime Minister's Office by surprise, and new mechanisms have since been put in place to ensure that the prime minister is kept abreast of east Jerusalem construction. No tenders have been issued yet for the Ramat Shlomo plan.

Right-wing politicians and activists have complained that a de facto freeze exists in east Jerusalem, an allegation that has been denied by the Prime Minister's Office and the Jerusalem Municipality.

According to Deputy Mayor Kobi Kahlon, the head of the Jerusalem Local Planning and Building Committee, the 238 new homes for Ramot and Pisgat Ze'ev are in projects that were begun in 2003 or even earlier.

It will be two to three years before construction begins on the projects, he said.

Kahlon denied that there was any political motivation behind the approvals, noting that the growing neighborhoods had asked for the new buildings years ago.

"We're still going along with the status quo, like we've been doing for 40 years," Kahlon told the Post. These Jerusalem neighborhoods "are not settlements," he said.

Kahlon noted that almost everyone agrees that Ramot and Pisgat Ze'ev will remain a part of Israel in any peace agreement "Published tender" means that a construction project has passed the government's lengthy approval process, and after a contractor is chosen, the project will be released back to the municipality for the final building permit, which enables contractors to begin construction. The list of published tenders is significant because it is one of the last steps in the approval process where the government can control what buildings are built in what areas. After the tender is published, the final approval rests with the municipality.

PM's Office: Construction Plans In East Jerusalem Are Nothing New (HAAR)

[Ha'aretz](#), October 17, 2010

The Prime Minister's Office responded Saturday to the criticism by the United States and France regarding Israel's plans to build 238 new housing units in East Jerusalem, saying that announcements on renewal of construction in Jerusalem are nothing new.

Israel announced Friday its approval of tenders for 238 new housing units in areas of Jerusalem east of the Green Line, which triggered statements by both the US and France saying they were "disappointed" by the announcement.

"We have already said in the past that there is no longer a settlement freeze in Jerusalem," the PMO said. "Regarding the relationship with the United States, they received notification of the plan before we announced it."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office also noted that even though the White House did not approve of the plans for further settlement construction, opposition to the settlements has been a US policy for 40 years already.

Over the weekend, sources in Netanyahu's office said that as opposed to the time Israel announced new building plans during US Vice President Joseph **Biden's** visit and caused an international uproar, this time Netanyahu was well aware of the plans and approved them before the announcement was made.

On Friday, the United States expressed disappointment over reports that Israel had approved tenders for construction of nearly 240 new housing units in East Jerusalem.

"We were disappointed by the announcement of new tenders in East Jerusalem yesterday. It is contrary to our efforts to resume direct negotiations between the parties," US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said during a press conference in Washington.

On Saturday, France also condemned Israel's construction plans, saying that "France is deeply disappointed" by the decision and urged the Israeli government to reconsider.

Earlier Saturday, Egypt said that Israel's building permits for 238 new housing units in East Jerusalem are a sign that direct peace talks could collapse. On Friday, the Arab League said it may ask the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state if Israel goes ahead with building settlements.

Also on Saturday, the Organization of the Islamic Conference condemned Israel for renewing settlement construction in East Jerusalem and urged the international community to put an end to what it called "Israeli arrogance."

Bill Clinton Back Out Campaigning "For Everybody That Helped Hillary Run For President" Against Obama (TEL)

By Toby Harnden

[London Telegraph](#), October 17, 2010

Fear and loathing in the American body politic is not confined to the anti-tax Tea Party. Across the spectrum of the Democratic party, every hue is feeling it too.

With a fortnight to go to the midterms, moderate "Blue Dog" Democrats are in big trouble. The party's left-wing "Yellow Dogs" are up in arms about being taken for granted by the White House "hippy bashers". Even black bloggers are warning President Barack Obama they won't be "pimped" for him.

In this febrile climate within the party, there is one Democratic figure whose soothing tones can help calm things down – the Big Dog himself, former President Bill Clinton. I caught up with him in Española, New Mexico, site of the first European colony in America, last week and he was on vintage form.

Gone was the red-faced, finger-wagging Bill who I saw in South Carolina in early 2008, when he exploded with anger at being accused of racism by Obama allies as the Democratic nomination slipped from his wife Hillary's grasp. Instead, Española saw Chilled Bill, a man vindicated by events and who knows he was right to warn of Obama's shortcomings.

The event, for which nearly 4,000 people crammed into the town square, was for Diane Denish, the Democratic candidate for governor. Behind in the polls, she had supported Hillary against Obama in 2008 and Bill was back to repay the debt.

Bill, hoarse-voiced but with a glint in his eye, explained that this was his 80th event. He made crystal clear just who he was representing on the campaign trail – and it wasn't Obama. "I planned to do about one stop for everybody that helped Hillary run for president because she's one of only two members of the president's cabinet who cannot participate in politics," he said.

As Secretary of State, he reminded people, is not permitted to campaign. "Then I got out here and started stirring around and realised that a lot of people were mad and even more confused and I didn't want it on my conscience so I just loaded up and started strolling around."

The Clintons are undoubtedly an unusual couple. Bill's past indiscretions are legendary and their jobs – he is now a globe-trotting philanthropist – mean that these days they see each other less often than the average American goes to the dentist.

Yet they remain together (who would have thought the Gore marriage would unravel first?) and are a remarkable political tag team.

Bill's energetic reappearance on the campaign trail comes just as rumours, some of them eagerly fuelled by the Clinton camp, swirl that Hillary might replace the hapless Joe **Biden** as Obama's vice-

presidential running mate in 2012 or even challenge the President for the Democratic nomination if his popularity continues to slide.

Neither option makes much sense for Hillary, whose performance as Secretary of State, in which she has been supportive of the US military and sought to stiffen Obama's spine in Afghanistan, has won admirers even on the Right.

Becoming vice-president would tie her to Obama on domestic policy. Through political good fortune (not to mention calculation), she has been out of that arena for the past two years, meaning that there are no Clinton fingerprints on unpopular healthcare, bail-out or stimulus legislation.

Hillary has been loyal to Obama – it would have been politically foolish to appear otherwise – but her discrete job means she can remain distant from most of what he does.

It just so happens that Hillary will be out of town on November 2nd, when Democrats expect a pummeling at the polls. She'll be on the other side of the globe, in fact, on a tour including stops in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

The message is unmistakable: "Nothing to do with me!" Challenging Obama in 2012, even if he is in dire straits, would be incredibly risky. To seek to oust the first black president would split the Democrats in two and almost guarantee a Republican victory even if Hillary won the nomination. It's a non-starter.

But 2016 is different. No one takes her denials of wanting to run again at face value and aides are quietly putting it about that she still has her eyes on the White House. Her former chief strategist Mark Penn recently polled her popularity compared to Obama's.

Bill's stump speeches are helping lay the foundations of a 2016 campaign. His presence on the campaign trail, often in parts of the country where Obama is not so popular, reinforces the 2008 argument that the Clintons (in terms of power politics, it is fruitless to view them separately) can reach places Obama cannot.

It also shows that the wounds of the epic Obama-Clinton battle of 2008 have not healed. Conspicuous by his absence from Española was Bill Richardson, the current New Mexico governor, who was publicly branded a "Judas" by James Carville, the Clinton consigliere, for endorsing Obama. Richardson was never even mentioned by Denish or the former President.

After trying something new and shiny in the person of Obama and being disappointed, many Democrats are now indulging in Clinton nostalgia. "We Miss the Thrill of Bill" read one prominent sign in Española.

"He let me hug him!" exclaimed Loyda Martinez, 57, after the event. "And he hugged me back! A lot of these politicians, you can barely touch their hands. Bill has a way of connecting with the ordinary person that Obama does not." Bill's past foibles are viewed as endearing. "He like the ladies!" laughed one man as Bill posed for pictures beside a platinum blonde.

I chatted to Bill Clinton briefly as he worked the rope line. Having garnered some unwelcome headlines in 2008, he was sticking very firmly to the script this time.

"She's already answered that," he said, when I asked him if there really was any chance she might replace **Biden** in 2012. He turned and added: "I'll tell you what, she likes being Secretary of State and she's doing a great job."

So might she run in 2016? The Big Dog of the Democratic party paused, appeared to be about to hold forth and then seemed to hold himself in check. "She speaks for herself on these things," he said, flashing me a big grin.

Hillary Clinton To Run For US President's Office In 2016? (PTI)

[Press Trust of India](#), October 17, 2010

Speculation is rife that Hillary Clinton may run for the US president's office in 2016, as her husband Bill is back on the campaign trail -- offering thanks to those who backed her in 2008 against Barack Obama, a media report said.

According to Britain's 'The Daily Telegraph', former President Bill Clinton has been laying the foundations for the Secretary of State's another try in 2016, by campaigning for Democratic politicians who helped his wife Hillary run for the president's office against President Obama two years back.

In fact, Bill, now a globe-trotting philanthropist, went to Espanola, New Mexico, the site of the first European colony in America, last week to campaign for Diane Denish, the Democratic candidate for the governor.

Denish had supported Hillary against Obama in 2008 and Bill was back to repay the debt; he made crystal clear who he was representing on the campaign trail -- and it wasn't Obama, the report said.

"I planned to do about one stop for everybody that helped Hillary run for president because she's one of only two members of the president's cabinet who cannot participate in politics," he told a gathering of 4,000 people.

As Secretary of State, he reminded people, is not permitted to campaign. "Then I got out here and started stirring around and realised that a lot of people were mad and even more confused and I didn't want it on my conscience so I just loaded up and started strolling around," Bill said.

Bill's energetic reappearance on the campaign trail comes just as rumours, some of them eagerly fuelled by the Clinton camp, swirl that Hillary might replace the hapless Joe **Biden** as Obama's vice-presidential running mate in 2012 or even challenge the President for the Democratic nomination if his popularity continues to slide.

Jill Biden: Vice Prez Means No Privacy (NYPOST)

[New York Post](#), October 17, 2010

Jill **Biden**, wife of Vice President Joe **Biden**, says privacy and romantic dinners go out the window when you become Mrs. VP. "Joe and I went to dinner, just the two of us, and 14 people came up to the table," **Biden**, a schoolteacher and professor, tells the latest issue of *Self*. "That's part of his job, and he loves it, but you can't really have an intimate discussion under those circumstances. So now when he says, 'Let's go out to dinner,' if I want time alone together, I'll say, 'Let's not. Let's stay home.' "

Hoffman, Alan L.

17 Oct 2010 12:41:29

To: hbiden@senecaga.com

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Fw: Vice Presidential News Clips for Sunday, October 17, 2010

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"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

14 Oct 2012 10:23:04

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, hurricane5155,

[personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:08:58 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECOVERED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

08 Nov 2012 00:58:36

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], [personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Valerie Owens, jack owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Ted Kaufman [person Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 09:37:49 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

05 Oct 2012 14:40:06

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, hurricane5155,

[personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:49:27 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

20 Jul 2012 12:49:33

To: "Hallie Biden" [personal email address]

Cc: [personal email address], "ValerieBiden Owens, Hunter Biden,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "jackowens [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 11:39:56 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

[personal email address]

10 Oct 2012 13:07:26

To: "Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

Cc: Hallie Biden [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, hurricane5155,

[personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 09:54:46 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

21 Dec 2012 00:31:55

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, [personal email address], [personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Valerie Owens, jack owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Ted Kaufman [person Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 09:44:28 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

10 Oct 2012 02:27:25

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, hurricane5155,

[personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email add
Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 09:51:22 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

24 Jul 2012 13:59:08

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, Valerie Biden Owens, [personal email address], [personal email address], "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Ted Kaufman [pers Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:
Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:54:17 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

[personal email address]

02 Jul 2012 12:44:17

To: "Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

Cc: Hallie Biden [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, Valerie Biden Owens,

Kathleen Biden [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Donilon Mike [personal email address], "Smith, Michele, Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Smith, Michele

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 11:26:07 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

CONTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Person, Fran

07 May 2010 19:52:05

To: hbiden@rosemontseneca.com

Cc:

Bcc: hbiden@rosemontseneca.com

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Thu Mar 07 11:51:21 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Valerie Owens

24 Oct 2012 18:41:24

To: "Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

Cc: [personal email address], "Hunter Biden,

Ashley Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], "Howard Krein [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], "Missy Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Bcc:

Re: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Fri, Mar 08 14:23:43 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

RECEIVED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Wed, 16 Nov 2011 10:24:09 -0500
From: Camille Cooper <camillecooper@protect.org>
To: "Beaub (Contact)" <beaub@comcast.net>, Alexander Snyder-Mackler
FOIA-6 "Beaub (Contact)" </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group
/cn=recipients/cn=beaub">
Cc: "McSweeney, Terrell P." <terrell_p._mcsweeney@ovp.eop.gov>, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com,
"Beeton, Jonathan" <jonathan.beeton@mail.house.gov>, "Rayder, Ian" <ian.rayder@mail.house.gov>,
"McSweeney, Terrell P." </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group
/cn=recipients/cn=terrellp.mcsweeney66666560">
Subject: The New Republic piece: Biden was Right

I'll try to make a little more hay with this.

<http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/97364/biden-cops-rape>

--

Camille Cooper
Director Legislative Affairs
PROTECT
www.protect.org
828-318-6382
www.protect.org/childrescuepetition
www.facebook.com/protectnow

Camille Cooper

16 Nov 2011 15:24:09

To: Beaub (Contact), (Contact), "Alexander Snyder-Mackler [P6/b(6)]", "Beaub (Contact)

Cc: McSweeny, Terrell P., hbiden@rosemontseneca.com", "Beeton, Jonathan, Rayder, Ian, McSweeny, Terrell P.

Bcc:

The New Republic piece: Biden was Right

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Feb 26 14:32:32 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

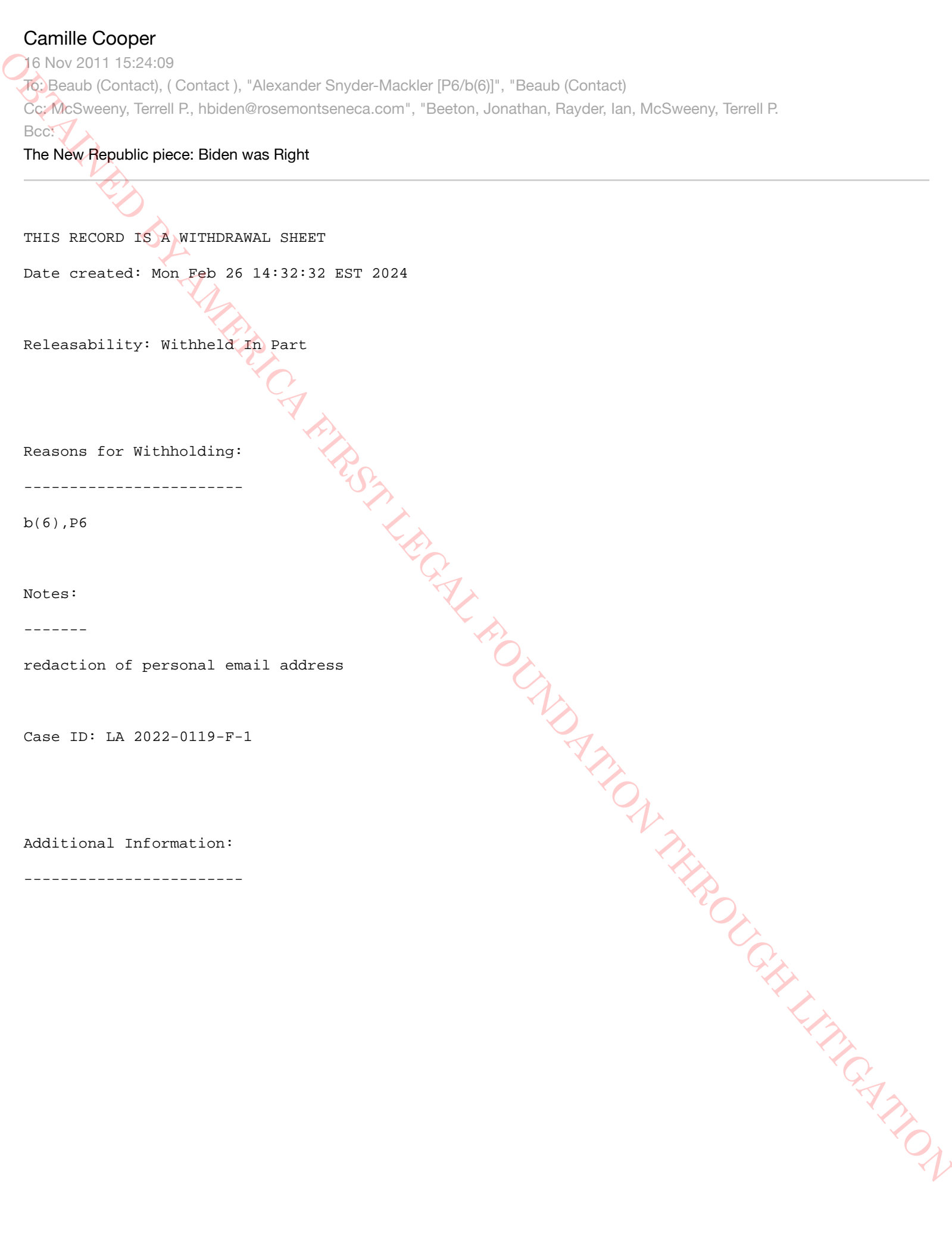
b(6),P6

Notes:

redaction of personal email address

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:



"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

02 Nov 2012 18:34:24

To: [personal email address], "Hunter Biden, Ashley Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], "Howard Krein [personal email address], "jack owens [personal email address], "Valerie Biden Owens, Missy Owens [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], "Ron Olivere [personal email address], "Ted Kaufman [personal email address], "Mike Donilon [persc Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy, Chung, Kathy

Cc:

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Fri Mar 08 14:35:49 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

"Molly Magarik" [personal email address]

05 Sep 2012 19:57:44

To: Hallie Biden' [personal email address], "Hunter Biden,

hurricane5155@gmail.com", "Kathleen Biden [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], [personal email address], "Cuffe Owens [personal email address], "Casey Owens [personal email address], Alexander Snyder-Mackler [personal email address], "Michele Gioffre Smith [personal email address], "Chung, Kathy

Cc:

Bcc:

[personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Mar 12 10:31:31 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2022-0119-F-1

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION