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# FORUM - a place for your OPINIONS!

## Demo or Deco???

By Bug Deakin

After many moons of building awareness of the inherent value in most old barn structures and passing out countless business cards and underbidding all the demolition firms, I still am confronted with the ubiquitous excavator and the redwood munched in a dumpster scenario! Alas and alack! On July third I had a call from Janis Kelley, my intrepid office manager of that time, in tears over these three lovely chicken barns on Bodega Avenue in Petaluma. I had spoken to the real estate agent over a year beforehand, given them a bid of \$5,000 to remove the footprint of the three shacks and not heard back from them. It seems the new owners were in a hurry to take them down so they hired a demolition company with two excavators and three dumpsters for \$27,000 smackers. Now they have done nothing with the land since then. Does this make any sense? Am I missing something here?

Secondly, there was this wonderful barn by the church in Sebastopol, just past the martial arts studio in the progressively green town of Sebastopol, owned by the city . . . I had passed along my card, brochure and interest a number of times to the city officials and expressed great interest in the 1" X 20" wide planks and old growth redwood framing materials but gosh, gee whiz, if it wasn't reported in a dumpster the other day!! Posturing green is one thing but actually going the extra mile to do something about it is another . . . I catch myself not taking an extra two steps to recycle sometimes and go back and get it . . . but not all the time!

If by any chance, you see, hear of, catch wind of, or scent a rumor of a building in need of Deakin-struction, please call the salvage police!

Michael "Bug" Deakin  
707.762.6277

## The "ole trash Ralph"

By Vesta Copestakes

One of my favorite politically Progressive friends recently got on my case because I made a comment about his support for Green Party candidate for president, Cynthia McKinney. Cynthia could be a perfectly wonderful human being and totally qualified for the job, but I fear a divided Progressive vote could land another War Lord in the White House.

My dear friend took my comment as anti-Ralph Nader, so I felt impelled to explain my stance – and I thought – well – I'll present this perspective to other Progressives as well...

On the subject of Ralph Nader pulling enough votes from Al Gore to put Bush in the White House (statistics aside since this is not a numbers issue to me)

– leaders have to know when making a point can be counter-productive to their long-term goals. They need the wisdom to know when to charge forward and when to back down. It's my opinion that Nader made poor choices in this regard. I believe that he would have given everyone on the Progressive side a huge benefit by joining forces with Gores' supporters – showing unity among Progressives. The number of votes, percentages, etc. speak nothing of the power of leaders to unite divided factions. When Nader stayed in the election to the bitter end, all he did was enhance the division. That's poor leadership in my mind.

If there's anything we know from history, it's "United we stand – divided we fall." What the Republicans presented in these presidential elections, was unity. I've always been proud of Liberals for our broad spectrum of philosophy. There's a lot of freedom, respect for differing opinions, and inspiring discussions where there is no right or wrong – just an honest appreciation for another's perspective. There comes a time when these relatively minor differences need to be put aside so we can unite with force for the over-all Liberal philosophy of life we hold dear.

If there's anything that unites the factions of Progressives and Liberals, it's our love and respect for the environment, our love and respect for freedom, and our love and respect for human kind.

We are the ones who have the value systems that live by the Ten Commandments to Love They Neighbor as Thyself.

We are the ones who take Thall Shalt Not Kill seriously.

We are the ones who believe that our responsibility as human beings is to love, cherish and care for the blessing of life on this earth, from the bird in the sky to our brethren in every country on the face of the planet.

Our belief system doesn't leave room for invading foreign countries, overthrowing other people's governments, killing innocents in the name of whatever public relations campaign title we choose.

Our Liberal president left office with a budget surplus – not easily accomplished after the Conservative president he followed left the biggest deficit in our country's history. Now that we have been in the hands of Conservatives once again, we are burdened with an even bigger deficit that weakens our economy for generations to come. Our once proud country lowers our head in shame for the transgressions our government has burdened the planet. This government has shown no regard for human life, or for the life of the planet itself.

It's imperative that people who care about each other and life on earth, get together – unite our votes to shift power towards people who hold similar values

to our own. We can't be picky about small details when our whole future is at stake. Who cares what party a candidate is from? Why is it important to have a multi-party system *right now*? Until we are one-person one-vote we are stuck with political parties and the electoral college. Our power is in using the system we have to effect change. Our responsibility is to make sure that we use it well. Right now, it's not a matter of principle...it's a matter of survival.

## 'Tanner-Abercrombie- English bill'

By Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey

"Four and a half years after the invasion of Iraq the American public is fed up with the Administration's policy, and is demanding that the Congress stand up to him and force him to bring our troops home. Regrettably today's vote is a day late, and a buck short in that regard, and will do nothing to remove our brave young men and women from the President's quagmire.

"If we have learned one lesson in the run-up and the execution of the war it is that we cannot trust this President. That's why as a coequal branch of government the Congress must use our constitutional powers, and the power of the purse, to take control of the war and force the President to bring our brave young men and women home.

"Unfortunately, this bill misses an opportunity to hold the President accountable by simply calling for a 'status report,' on the existence of any redeployment plans, a loophole that would allow the occupation indefinitely. We should instead be forcing him to submit time bound redeployment plans which would fully fund the safe and orderly redeployment of all of our troops and military contractors from Iraq by a date certain.

"With almost four thousand of our young men and women dead, and just under 28,000 wounded, we are far past the time for 'status reports,' such as those outlined in this bill, and we cannot allow the continuation of this occupation indefinitely. The American public is counting on the Congress to stand up to the President and end this war, and this bill just doesn't do it."

*"As is demonstrated by a  
wealth of historical examples,  
every form of fanaticism,  
every dogma and every type of  
compulsive one-sidedness is  
finally overthrown by precisely  
those elements which it has  
itself repressed, suppressed,  
or ignored." - Erich Neumann,  
"Depth Psychology and a New Ethic"*