

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)
This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

Local Representation

When I went the grocery store last week, I was greeted at the door by a woman seeking signatures to place a political candidate on the upcoming congressional election ballot. I asked, "Where is this candidate from?" The campaign worker replied, "Our candidate is seeking the Democratic party nomination for congress. She is a Berkley professor from the Bay area." I commented, "I would really like someone from here represent the people of this community, not someone who isn't local."

The response I got next made me laugh. The woman replied, "Well her father was a logger, and she well qualified to represent the whole First District." I thought to myself--- a political progressive Berkley professor from San Rafael, just doesn't have a clue about rural communities North of the Sonoma County line. Moreover, another academic without some years of real life and real world experience is the last person I would vote for to help economic recovery in a depressed rural area.

What reads good in a college paper is a long way from negotiating a business contract, navigating the ever-expanding litany of government regulations, and meeting the extensive list of employee requirements to bring large scale employment back into this state. What sounds great in a written business plan put into a classroom exercise is a long way from practical applications of big organization real life decisions. A person can study and read and think about all kinds of things, but leadership is learned from the university of hard knocks not political activism studied in academia.

I walked into the store barely holding back a large belly laugh. Her response --- her father was a logger"---proved my point. The choices for congressional representation for our North Coast region clearly shows that our area has been totally disenfranchised by redistricting. We are not going to see a person elected in the first congressional district who understands the North Coast. The eventually elected congressional representative will be part of the status quo of "in the tank" California politicians. The progressive political machine is well oiled with individuals seeking power, by perpetuating the politics of

over regulation and special interests. It's all about power, retaining control in selected groups, and not about fixing the problems of our local area, our state, or our nation.

I went to this perspective candidate's web site to research her platform. The site recited the same political philosophy that has continued to plunge this area into a deteriorating economic whirlpool. There was nothing innovative or new. I found the site particularly interesting because it did not list specific accomplishments. It outlined a general background in small business development, but didn't elaborate.

Over the next few months we'll see a lot of appeals for money. We will hear words about how the candidates will represent the interests of all citizens. We will see all kinds of advertising about how the election will make a difference. We will listen to persuasive debates about the issues impacting our lives. When the election smoke clears another person will more than likely take office, and immediately begin campaigning for re-election as an incumbent. By the way.... I didn't sign the ballot petition!

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