

commentary

from other pens...

Grass-root approach energizes Democrats

A grass-roots political strategy perfected in the Virginia governor's race last year has energized Democrats' bid for rural voters and could play a prominent role in the 2004 presidential campaign.

That strategy calls for Democrats to do a better job of connecting with rural voters culturally, communicate a less threatening position on divisive issues like guns and emphasize how Democratic positions on issues like the economy and education help rural voters.

Mark Warner's unorthodox strategy of winning over voters of southwest Virginia caught the attention of Democrats around the country.

Warner, a millionaire businessman from the Midwest, made a conscious decision to appeal to voters in the mountainous portion of the state where Democrats had performed poorly in the past.

He sponsored a NASCAR pickup truck racing team, had a bluegrass ballad written about him and actively courted hunters and fishermen.

"I think that race is the prototype for Democrats running in 2002," said Michael Meehan, a senior adviser at the Democratic National Committee. "Many of our battlegrounds are in states that look (demographically) just like Virginia."

The two strategists key to Warner's Virginia strategy were his campaign manager, Steve Jarding, and his rural liaison, David "Mudcat" Saunders.

Jarding is a South Dakota native and veteran political strategist. Saunders is a self-described "hillbilly" from southwestern Virginia who earned his living as a developer while becoming increasingly active in politics.

Both Jarding and Saunders now work with the New American Optimists, a political action committee formed by North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. Edwards is considering a run for president in 2004.

Jarding and other Democrats say the party's problems in rural areas go back at least two decades when the late GOP strategist Lee Atwater came up with an effective strategy to win over rural Democrats by making the national Democratic Party seem culturally unacceptable.

"I never believed Atwater was on solid ground," said Jarding. "It's Democrats who end to support issues rural voters need to hear about, from education issues to economic issues."

Edwards, the son of a textile mill manager who spent his teen years in Robbins, N.C., says the rural emphasis is a natural fit for him.

"I grew up in a small town in North Carolina, these rural voters are the people I grew up with, I know what matters to them and I care about them," Edwards said in an interview.

Edwards, who is sponsoring a dirt track race car in Iowa, has a financial arrangement with a bluegrass band and an aggressive rural agenda that calls for improved education, access to technology and economic assistance. Jarding and Saunders "help provide vehicles to make sure these rural voters know the things I care about," Edwards said.

Jarding and Saunders are sharing what they learned in Virginia with Democrats in states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — which also happen to be the first three states scheduled to hold presidential preference contests in 2004.

"There's not 50 cents difference in a rural voter from South Carolina, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Iowa or Virginia," said Saunders, though some Democratic strategists don't agree.

"The value of the Warner campaign is the Jardings and the Mudcats of the world could test techniques and tell you what worked and what didn't work," said Dick Harpootlian, South Carolina Democratic chairman.

Democrats' efforts to reassure rural voters often focus on the divisive gun issue — from Missouri, where incumbent Sen. Jean Carnahan fired off a few rounds at a skeet shooting benefit; to Alaska, where gubernatorial candidate Fran Ulmer, now lieutenant governor, went gun shopping this summer with reporters watching.

There are a variety of issues that make the Democrats' rural efforts "a tough sell," said Ralph Reed, Georgia Republican chairman.

"If Republicans do our job and emphasize the differences between us and Democrats," said Reed, "we are going to do well among rural voters."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Will Lester covers politics and polling for *The Associated Press*.



Chain letters do not pay big money

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

I received an e-mail recently promising me money if I forward the message to others. I am supposed to add my name to a list and then send the e-mail to five or ten other people. I have never participated in something like this before, but my mother said she had received similar letters in the U.S. mail in the past. She never sent them on, even though they also promised several hundred dollars if she "continued the chain." Attorney General Stovall, do people ever get money for re-sending these letters?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Chain letters, whether through e-mail or the U.S. mail, that involve money or valuable items and promise big returns are illegal. If a person starts a chain letter, or sends one on to others, he or she is



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

breaking the law.

The Federal Trade Commission offers these tips about chain letters:

* You will likely receive little or no money back on your "investment." Despite the claims, a chain letter will never make you rich.

* Some chain letters try to win your confidence by claiming that they are endorsed by the government. This claim is false.

* If you have been a target of a chain e-mail scam, contact your Internet Service Provider and forward the e-mail to the FTC at uce@ftc.gov.

You can help eliminate chain letters. Simply break the chain.

Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and your call will be returned promptly.

Fingerprinting, finally

Wednesday wasn't just the first anniversary of Sept. 11. It was also the first day U.S. immigration officials began fingerprinting and photographing foreign visitors who may fit the profile of your average airplane-hijacking, landmark-destroying, embassy-bombing, leader-assassinating and civilian-murdering terrorist: Any citizen, a Justice Department spokesman told *The New York Times*, from the countries of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan and Libya.

Somehow the phrase "better late than never" fails to convey the full range of sputtering sentiment inspired by this latest INS moment. That is, there's no shrugging off the fuse-blowing fact that if Sept. 11, 2002 marked the initiation of this new tracking system, then no such system was in place during the 12 months since 19 Islamist terrorists massacred 3,025 Americans. If some 44,000 temporary visas were issued to citizens from these same terrorism-sponsoring nations in 2001 alone, you don't need a slide rule to figure out that one huge heap of fingerprints and photographs of potential terrorists has gone unamassed in the interim.

But maybe we should just be grateful that the immigration service has finally mastered the high-tech intricacies of inkpads and flash bulbs. Even so, it's less than reassuring to realize that U.S. policy still appears bent on giving a pass, for example, to Saudi nationals at the gate despite the fact that 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers came from — so quaintly named — "the kingdom." In other words, Saudi Arabia is not included on the new watch list: Why? And what of Egypt, home to the notorious Mohamed Atta (not to mention Al Qaeda capo Ayman Zawahiri)? Or, to name the respective motherlands of some of Atta's old terrorist mosque-mates, what of Lebanon, Morocco, United Arab Emirates and Yemen? One year after Sept. 11, there remains an official failure to ac-



diana west

• commentary

knowledge the pan-Islamic face of the murderous fanaticism arrayed against us by the very agency that constitutes our first line of defense at the border.

These policy blinkers may come partly from President Bush's oft-repeated avowals that Islam is a religion of peace and brotherly love. Worth noting, however, is that the president's ever-befuddling mantra, repeated as recently as Sept. 10, necessarily recalls the rough ride given reality in "The Emperor's New Clothes" when juxtaposed against the typical teachings of many mosques around the world. Last Friday's sermons broadcast over state-controlled TV stations, for example, in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Qatar (future home, it seems, to U.S. Central Command) respectively called on God to "destroy" Jews and Christians; to "humiliate infidelity and infidels" and "destroy the usurper, tyrant Jews;" and, not least, to "use your might to take revenge against the usurper Jews." ("Show them a black day," the imam concluded — happy face, clearly, not optional.)

The jihadist acts of terror against Jews and Christians inspired by such despicable hate-speech may not, as the president likes to say, represent the "true" face of Islam, but they certainly represent one face of Islam — one that must be recognized and, it would seem to follow, reflected in immigration practices for the foreseeable future. But no, there is a weird strain of what passes for strategic thinking in some circles that opposes such com-

mon sense.

While the government has been unforgivably slow in cranking up its tracking systems at the borders, it seems to have shown slightly more initiative when it comes to getting the visa system under control. According to *The New York Times*, the Bush administration "quietly" enacted a new visa policy three months ago that stripped visa-dispensing authority from consular offices and embassies abroad and gave it to Washington. Here, visa applications from every male between 16 and 45 from 26 countries across the Middle East and parts of Southeast Asia must now be reviewed by the FBI and CIA. The backlog, naturally, is immense — reportedly amounting to more than 100,000 applications, many for student visas — which suits me fine. Given, as they say, recent events, why expedite the process?

Here is where logic fails. "Don't we want to encourage more of these guys to get degrees in the U.S.?" asks U.S. Ambassador to Singapore Franklin L. Lavin, voicing an objection to tighter visa controls that is common in the foreign policy establishment — and downright bizarre given how many of "these guys" have proven to be terrorists infiltrating the West on student visas. This new policy, he adds, "is certainly not creating good will." Indeed, according to the *Times* report, it's "creating widespread hostility in the very countries and populations — Muslim men — from which the Bush administration most wants to gain support."

Well, pardon us for finally doing some little thing to slow the flow of potential mass-killers into this country. The real question is, isn't this still a time to do more?

Diana West is a columnist and editorial writer for *The Washington Times*. She can be contacted via dwest@washingtontimes.com.

The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association
The Associated Press

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com



Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page
Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor
Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor
Doug Stephens, Sports Editor
Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor
Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales
Skilar Boland, Adv. Production Sheila Smith, Office Manager



Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight
Betty Morris Mary Jo Tapparo Lana Westfahl

nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansas.com)

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnadv@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$25; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$79. Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. By mail daily in Kansas, Colorado: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

Incorporating:

The Sherman County Herald
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company

Goal is reduce minor's beer use

To the Editor:

The ultimate goal of the Beer and Cereal Malt Beverage Keg Registration Act recently signed into law by the State of Kansas is to reduce access to large quantities of beer by minors. Effective July 1, 2002, the law discourages individuals from illegally providing kegs to underage individuals.

The new law requires all containers of four or more gallons of beer or cereal malt beverage to have affixed a state issued tag which corresponds to a Keg Registration Form listing the purchaser of the keg and his or her driver's license number. If law enforcement officers find the keg at an underage drinking party, they will be able to trace it back to the purchaser.

Since beer kegs are often a source of alcohol at these parties, the law holds the purchasers accountable if the beer is accessible to minors. The purchaser could also be liable if a minor drinking alcohol at the keg party were involved in a car wreck resulting in injury or death.

Not only is unlawful to possess an untagged keg or to remove or alter a tag, but also untagged kegs may be confiscated as contraband by law enforcement officials. The minimum fine for those offenses is \$200 and potential confinement of up to six months. In addition, a retailer who sells an



from our readers

• to the editor

untagged keg or fails to follow the registration procedures may be fined up to \$1,000 and lose his or her liquor license.

After the sale, retailers must retain the Keg Registration Form until the keg container is returned with the tag affixed. If the tag is no longer affixed or the container is not returned, the form must be retained for at least six months.

These forms are to be made available to any law enforcement officer for the purpose of investigating violations of laws prohibiting furnishing to minors or possession or consumption of beer or cereal malt beverage by those under the age of 21.

For more information about the new Keg Registration Law, call the Regional prevention Center(s): Colby 785-462-8152 or Goodland 785-899-3848.

Cris Lovington
Regional Center Director

berry's world

