from other pens...

# Despite election, Dem chair seems OK

Terry McAuliffe led the Democratic National Committee through a midterm election campaign in which his party lost control of the Senate, lost ground in the House and fell short of its goals for governor-

Some might think his job's in jeopardy. Not so.

His specialty is raising money, and under the new finance rules, Democrats need all the help they can get coping with regulations meant to put the clamps on megabuck political contributions.

"It would be wrong to blame Terry McAuliffe" for the Nov. 5 election's outcome, said South Carolina Democratic Chairman Dick Harpootlian. "He was not the message man, he was the mechanics man and he did his job great."

When Republicans lost governorships in New Jersey and Virginia a year ago, Republican national Chairman Jim Gilmore quit under pressure, both because of the election and internal tensions in the party.

There certainly has been grousing from political analysts and party veterans about the Democratic leadership, namely McAuliffe's overly optimistic predictions, his lack of experience as a political leader, even his claim that Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was the national party's No. 1 target.

But that criticism hasn't been coming from prominent elected officials within the party.

As a past fund-raiser for Rep. Dick Gephardt and former President Clinton, McAuliffe has powerful allies in the party. When Boston got the 2004 Democratic convention this week, he strengthened ties with Massachusetts Sens. Ted Kennedy and John Kerry.

Following last week's election, Gephardt stepped down as House Democratic leader after trying four times unsuccessfully to reclaim the House for Democrats, possibly to run for the presidency. That may have satisfied any immediate desire for a change in Democratic leadership, some observers said.

And McAuliffe, a 45-year-old businessman from Syracuse, N.Y., is now intent on taking advantage of his pet project for the past two years - developing records and fund-raising systems that will keep Democrats afloat under the new campaign finance laws. Those laws bar the national party committees from accepting unlimited corporate and union donations known as "soft money."

McAuliffe made his name by his skill at raising soft money, which helped equalize the Republicans' natural advantage in fund raising.

'We're now going through the country doing an analysis of who turned out, who didn't turn out," McAuliffe said in an interview this week.

McAuliffe also recounted the work on fund raising and voter files he's done for the party — a favorite topic.

He notes the party has updated its voter files and e-mail lists to compete with the GOP for limited individual contributions known as hard money. The party has tripled its direct mail fund-raising base to 1.2 million in the past two years, and updated voter files, to correct information about 27 million voters.

"There is a sense he has begun the process of converting the party from soft to hard money," said political analyst Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution. "It would be risky to change leadership at this critical point."

The DNC tripled the amount of money it contributed to state parties for the 2002 campaign from \$4.4 million four years ago to \$15 million, McAuliffe said. The DNC raised \$140 million in the cycle, compared with \$98 million in 1998.

The chairman's work at raising money and helping state campaigns has earned him plenty of allies, but a few are grumbling about campaign choices, especially in New York, where Democrat Carl McCall failed in a run for governor.

"South Carolina has been a state ignored by the DNC until this cycle," said South Carolina's Harpootlian. "Terry McAuliffe delivered on every promise he made.

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

# The Goodland Daily News

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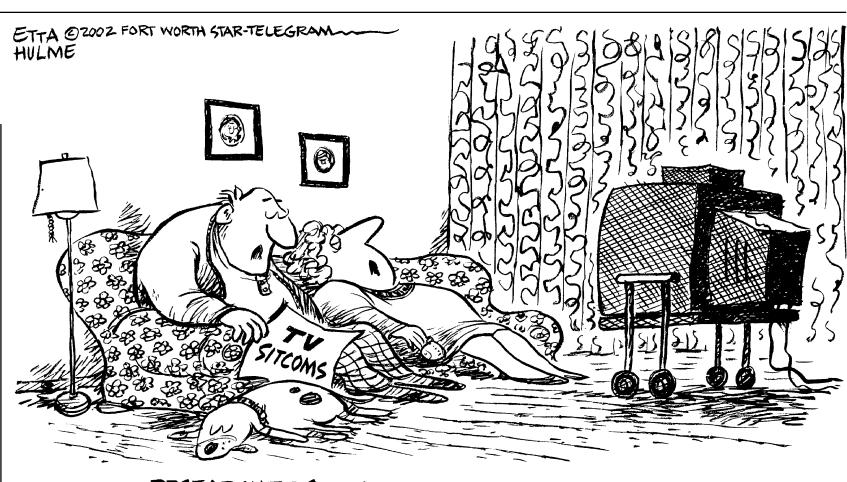
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RESEARCHERS DISCOVER A SAFE INCAPACITATING AGENT WHICH PUTS PEOPLE TO SLEEP QUICKLY~

## Life seems to be passing too quickly more sense (but how about "Cement Mixer. Putty.

I don't know about you, but for me, all too quickly, life is passing away.

Oh, I'm not in immediate danger of dying, but after all, we're all dying.

People are always talking about senior citizens: some are happy to be seniors ("considering the alternative," they say) and others are complaining about those who have aged (some well, some not so well).

So I thought I'd offer the following thoughts by an unknown author to all:

"Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we are supposed to take responsibility for all we have done and not blame others. But, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music,

The pride out of appearance,

The romance out of marriage, The responsibility out of parenthood,

The togetherness out of the family,

Iorna commentary

The learning out of education, The service out of patriotism,

The religion out of school, The Golden Rule from rulers,

The nativity scene out of cities, The civility out of behavior,

The refinement out of language, The dedication out of employment,

The prudence out of spending, or The ambition out of achievement,

And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal rela-

tionships and interactions with others!!!" Well, as I read all those things, it seems pretty obvious they were written by a Senior Citizen. We

world safe for democracy (even when we now don't bother to vote), lived sensible and wonderfully-tolerant lives (but hold a grudge against some minister we had as young adults), and that we have terrific inter-personal relationship skills, but I wonder Maybe we could hear the words to our favorite

Putty" and "Sh-boom, Sh-boom"?), that we kept the

Maybe we were loyal to our jobs, but employers our ages are now laying off thousands.

We may have had a greater sense of patriotism. but maybe we downplayed America by giving our children too many material things.

We may have (as a group) tolerated more in our marriages and shied away from divorce more than the younger people.

people and some that seem pretty angry at something or other. Maybe they're just jealous of the lifestyles the

But I know some pretty crusty, cantankerous old

young people insist on having. Who knows? Maybe they're just angry that life went by so fast.

## I confess: I am a big phony for only an extra dollar a month. If you want only

jim

"aging" people would like to think our music made

Everyday it seems that the telephone company comes up with some new service designed specifically to get more money out of me. They know I'll buy anything — Call Waiting, Caller ID, Call Forwarding, Conference Calling, Automatic Redial and Speed Dialing — I've got it all.

And I wonder, how did I ever live without them? Oh yeah, I forgot, I've never made a conference call in my life. I've never forwarded a call to any-service, their CEO can buy an even bigger man-to make sure your bell is working. Add \$2 a month one. Haven't got a clue as to how I would go about it. Somebody's Caller ID would probably block it apartment he can live in for free for the rest of his anyway. But it's a great comfort to know I could forward a call if I wanted to. I could have used the Automatic Redial last month when I called my sister, but I forgot I had it. It turns out she had Automatic Missed Call and got back to me right away, so it all worked out in the end.

The phone company says a lot of these services are free. My basic bill is \$24 a month. It used to be \$18. But the extras are free. Or \$6 a month, depending on whose normal acceptable accounting practices you use. If they can get 200 million customers to spend another 75 cents a month for some new

Goodland has a new problem so it seems, The

The present trash system between Sherman

Sherman County should not take over the trash

Would anyone think Sherman County should

collection in Goodland. Why? These are two dif-

take over the snow removal and street repair in

From the information I have gathered from a

County and Goodland is working fine.

ferent local governments.



## mullen • the village idiot

sion and get his company to pay for a Manhattan lower your bill. Which one will happen first do you With that much money out there, they're work-

ing on new services even as you read this. Soon you'll be offered things like:

"Caller Drop." Unlike Call Waiting, there is no annoying beep while you're on the phone. It electronically hangs up on whomever you are talking to and lets the next caller through. You don't have to say, "I'll get back to you," or "Let me take this call." It gets rid of the first call automatically City should keep trash system

possible time, ask for Caller Drop Extra. -"Just Checking." Phone hasn't rung in quite a while? Why worry that it may not be working, that you may be missing important calls. For pennies a day (150 of them), they will automatically ring your phone at random times up to 10 times each 24 hours

your most important calls dropped and at the worst

to block "Just Checking" between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. — Who Needs Enemies With Friends Like This life even after he's left the company. Or they could Plan. Give the phone company the names of five people you really don't like and they'll have their most obnoxious telemarketer call them three times a day for a solid month. Be sure to tell them what time your "friends" eat dinner and what time they'll usually be in bed so they can make sure to call them at the most inconvenient time. For an extra monthly charge, they'll give their phone number to both major political parties and the local public television station and tell them your "friends" have made phone contributions before.

> - "Wrong Number Speed Dialing." Stop wasting your time dialing random wrong numbers. Dial \*55 and let the phone company dial a wrong number for you. It's easy, it's simple and best yet, use Wrong Number Speed Dialing during off-peak hours and you'll get the biggest savings. Use it often and save.

Jim Mullen is the author of "It Takes A Village Idiot: A Memoir of Life After the City" (Simon and Schuster, 2001). He also contributes regularly to Entertainment Weekly, where he can be reached as jim\_mullen@ew.com

#### Goodland trash issue has many citizens aroused. readers The two city commissioners who say "We aren't in the trash business," are quite wrong. They should step aside and let someone qualified fill the

to the editor

from our

the landfill on their own without the tipping fee from Goodland and with the tipping fee from other close by counties, would do quite well. Sherman County commissioners should not

sign a very complicated agreement with future headaches, just to solve Goodland's feud.

We have one, maybe two County Commissioners that will stand firm.

Lloyd Harden

Goodland



### berry's world

