



LODI ROTARY



SERVICE Above Self

STRIPPINGS

JUNE 1, 2006

THE HONORABLE RICHARD POMBO

ROTARY YEAR
2005-2006

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Today: The Honorable Richard Pombo Congressman from the 11th District. I can write this with a great deal of pride when I tell you Richard Pombo is my kind of guy. He is proof that a farmer from Tracy can go to Washington, D.C. and teach some of those genius/dullard/politicians what it is like to try to make a living in the face of continuous opposition from mediocre minds who think they are saving the planet by exercising their rights to be not only wrong about some things, but utterly wrong and be stupid enough to be proud of it. It is commonly called the Gore Syndrome and is often used for the purpose of creating self-aggrandizement as they indulge in the opposite of what they say you should do and, among other things, burn enough fossil fuels in one week of chasing fame and fortune to run your car for a lifetime and your ego for even longer.

By the way, Gore, who was essentially broke as a Veep, is now making millions as an erstwhile, latter day Don Quixote in his liberal-backed role as the savior of the masses as he mows down farmers to save the rats living on their property. (I apologize for that last sentence; it actually sounds like something an environmentalist would say about Pombo if you simply exchange some of the roles.) In fact, Gore used 439,500 pounds of fuel to attend a summit lately and, rather than walk, used a limo caravan to travel 500 yards at the Cannes Film Festival. (Gad, I love this muck-raking, its fun when it's probably true.) Compared to that, the complaints about Pombo and his family driving an RV through Yellowstone National Park and spending literally dozens of tax-payer dollars in the process sorta fades in comparison.

Pombo has been a Rotary favorite in this town ever since the first time John Talbot brought him to a meeting when he was the most

boyish looking Congressman in U.S. history, not John...Richard.

The reason he is so popular with farmers is that he makes sense...a characteristic seldom true for an aspiring politician. Excuse me, but I have to laugh when guys like Biden are actually serious about making a bid for the presidency.

Well, anyway, Richard Pombo will be here to tell you what is happening. He will most likely win his seat again, but that isn't because the opposition isn't using every trick in the book. Guess truth still beats chicanery in most cases.

Next week ain't been booked as we speak. Mike is diligently working on getting the runner up in the Miss Galt contest. He wasn't going to make an effort until he found out she won the bathing suit contest and her ambition was to stop world hunger.

What is downright chilling is the fact this year is all but over. 11 Months have slipped by since Mark Chandler took the gavel. If there is any real proof to the saying time passes faster as we get older, this year is substantial evidence. Mike Smith will be breathing easier a year from now as well. He has been a rock this year serving double duty every so often. Good Job Award goes to Mark and Mike; M&M. (Sounds like a couple of radio talk show hosts.)

Tom Stokes' dad went to heaven about two weeks ago. Tom is a doting son to both his parents and will miss his dad. Often times, children emulate their parents and Tom picked the right parents because his dad was a continuous source of pride and a great role model for his children and their children. Tom is one of those sons dads love to have. He is a wonderfully successful son and a great inspiration to not only his children but to those of us who have learned to love and admire him as well. You have our sincere sympathy, Tom, and along with that, we share the feeling of peace and joy you must have in your heart, knowing that your dad lived long and wonderfully well and that his great reward is now coming to pass.

Last week the Uptown/Lowdown Jazz Band was here to entertain us once again. As Steve Martin would say, "Them guys is good!"

The music was up to their usual standard. They were truly entertaining when they unpacked those bass saxophones. You know that these guys have the only band in the country with two such instruments and the music they produce is unique and wonderful to say the least.

I guess that means they are unique like every other jazz band.