

# THE FRONT LINE

## Fall line-up by Ray Haynes

**T**he fall lineup is relatively thin for conservatives. The legislative caucuses are still solidly conservative with Senator Dick Ackerman as senate leader and the overwhelming majority of GOP assemblymen firmly committed to conservative principles. Conservatives are likely to continue to control the policy direction of the legislative caucuses after November.

**T**he governor's office is more problematic. His legislative operation, headed by Richard Costigan, and his finance operation, headed by Donna Arduin, have a decided conservative tilt. But his agencies and departments have trouble seeing that the governor's interest is not served by pursuing the Gray Davis policies that brought him his recall. Some agency heads — Fred Aguiar, for instance — are long-time conservative heroes. Others, like Kim Belshe and Marybel Batjer, operate under the long-held conviction that belief in smaller government is an historical anachronism. They push the governor to increase spending in their agencies, and, in some ways, have pressed him into decisions that undermined his position in the budget

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negotiations. The governor would best serve himself by listening to Arduin on fiscal issues and leaving his agency heads to operate within the restrictions she places on them.

**A**s for the legislative elections, November offers conservatives slim pickings. Tricia Hunter and Steve Kuykendahl, not known for their commitment to the principles of family, freedom, and free enter-



prise, are bidding to return to the Legislature from San Diego and Long Beach respectively.

**H**unter, in her previous political life, made her name as The Republican Most Likely to Attack Her Fellow Republicans (if they are pro-life, the Party's most loyal activists). Kuykendahl is similarly challenged about recognizing his political friends. Make no mistake, their Democrat opponents (Lori Saldana against Hunter and Betty Karnette against Kuykendahl) are left-wing nutballs committed to

destroying California's future. But Hunter and Kuykendahl, should they return and resume their past political habits, should be expected to stir up more trouble than cooperation among their fellow Republicans.

**O**thers, like Bob Pohl in Santa Barbara, Steve Poizner in Palo Alto, and Alan Wapner in Ontario are not known for their conservative political activism. And little is so far known about Paul Betancourt in Fresno.

**O**n the brighter side, a solid conservative, Dean Gardner, is running for assembly in the Fresno-Bakersfield area and another, Gary Podesto, is running for senate in Stockton. Gardner would have won two years ago had he not been abandoned by assembly GOP leadership, and Podesto has been the popular mayor of Stockton for years now. (See *CPR's* in-depth look at Dean Gardner's race, this issue, page 23.)

**E**ach election offers a new opportunity to prove once again that a solid conservative can take out an incumbent Democrat. So it is time for conservatives to work. If these two seats move from "D" to "R," they should — but won't — end the eternal liberal chanting that conservatives can't win in California. More importantly, they will add critical pro-family, pro-freedom reinforcements to GOP ranks in Sacramento.

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# The Flynt Initiative

a  
hustler  
goes  
political

A VIRTUAL TUTORIAL ON  
POLITICAL SELF-SERVICE

BY STEPHEN FRANK

**R**egardless of one's political views, everyone would agree Larry Flynt makes for "interesting" political discussions. Publisher of Hustler magazine and owner of a card club in Gardena, Flynt is promoting Proposition 68, the so-called Gaming Revenue Act of 2004.

Prop. 68 would allow 11 card clubs (including Flynt's Hustler Casino) and five race tracks to split 30,000 slot machines. And then, *via* the fine print, Prop. 68 says no further gambling permits could ever be issued by the state of California. This is using the initiative process to serve self-interest with a vengeance.

Prop. 68's promoters say it will help education, law enforcement, and firefighting. Yet the California Police Chiefs Association, the California State Firefighters Association, the Cal-

ifornia School Boards Association, and more than 30 county sheriffs (among others) urge a "NO" vote on 68.

You don't often find Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senators Tom McClintock and Dennis Hollingsworth, Treasurer Phil Angelides, Controller Steve Westly, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell aligned on the same side of a political issue. But they are together in opposition to Prop. 68. Republicans and Democrats, labor and business leaders, conservatives and liberals are working together to defeat this initiative. Perhaps only Larry Flynt could turn so many natural opponents into allies.

Some interesting aspects of Prop. 68: It would allow gambling promoters to build Las Vegas-sized casinos in city and suburban neighborhoods in close proximity to hundreds of our state's schools, including some casinos that would be less than a half mile from elementary schools. The proposition's authors provided an exemption for these casinos from complying with local zoning laws or the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Pro-68 forces say the proposition is really about helping police and firefighters because in return for the billions they would rake in, the

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