



Your **ROTOSCOPE** for **Thursday, August 27, 2009**

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

CONGRESSMAN DAVE DREIER REPORTS

DAVE DREIER WAS FIRST ELECTED to Congress in 1980, after ten years as a student, then administrator, on the Claremont McKenna campus, and after losing his first run in 1978 when he was only 25. A native of Kansas City, Dave continues to manage family investments there. He did not become San Marino's representative until after the 1990 Census brought redistricting, a crazy-quilt of Gerrymandering that added a finger (some would say gave a finger) to Dreier's 26th District, moving San Marino from Adam Schiff's representation of these parts of Richard Nixon's old 12th Congressional, that covered all around here. Dreier's district has been safe Republican, and he has built both a campaign cash surplus and a growing power in the Republican party. He has served in both the minority and majority, chiefly on the Rules Committee which he chaired from 1999 to 2006. Rules sets the terms for debate and limits the amendments that can be offered. As chair for eight years, Dave's committee produced hundreds of rules, and he lost only two on the floor. He was top lieutenant of Speaker Dennis Hastert during that period, keeping bills moving on to the Senate and White House.

DAVE'S POLICY AGENDA includes free trade, high-tech development, and San Gabriel Valley water. His votes are mostly conservative, though toward the center on cultural issues. He was a strong advocate of normalizing trade with China, of increasing the number of H1-B (technical worker) visas, and various trade-promotion bills. He's also playing a major role in Republican party politics. He serves on the Republican steering committee, was parliamentarian at the national conventions, supporting George W. Bush early in the 2000 race. He'd gotten to know Bush when they sat together as Republican congressional candidates in 1978. Both lost, but they stayed friends. In one appearance I would love to have seen, Dreier in white tie and tails escorted a Secretary of State to dine and dance with Queen Elizabeth in the White House. (I don't know if any of them really danced, but at least David was there if needed.)

NOW DAVE IS BACK on the minority side once again, though he works in friendly cooperation with Adam Schiff on local issues. Dave's 26th covers lots of coyote-country mountaintops, stretching into economically-impacted parts of San Bernardino County and the upper Mohave, running along the foothills west through Rancho Cucamonga, then up-and-over Pasadena to La Canada and down-and-under Pasadena to San Marino.

YOU'RE WELL AWARE OF the piles of serious issues on the plate of Congress right now: health care, war, reforms, economies, taxation, budget, environment, energy, and so much more. You're also aware of the threats and angers facing our Senators and representatives as they come home this vacation recess to report, only to face shouting crowds, silly issues such as from the birthers, and even warnings of revolution and death from vicious voices. We are fortunate in the sanctuary of San Marino Rotary – our Fellowship Hall at Community Church – to have fellowship with our bright, personable, opinionated Member of Congress, to hear his views and offer our own, with what we presume will be honesty and civility. Do bring a guest – but a polite one, please!

MEETING BILL GATES' FATHER

A FEW YEARS AGO IN SEATTLE, Winifred and I had the delightful experience of dinner with a quiet, gentle Rotarian who toured us around the Art Museum that he kept crediting to his wife, modestly ignoring his own influence on her – and on his son, Bill Gates, Jr. You can meet Bill Gates' father for yourself, in several pages that he wrote for The Rotarian Magazine's July issue. If you missed it, please do dig it out of the pile before it gets to the trash – it's a fascinating story from a proud father who reveres Rotary.

AS HEAD OF THE GATES FOUNDATION, Senior Gates has made Rotary his indispensable partner, thinking big, coming up with audacious goals, then committing enormous resources to achieving them. But read his comments for yourself, including ideas on how to raise money for charities, what it's like to parent a unique child, and if Bill misbehaved as a youngster. (There are some great pictures of the family and little Billy, too.)

AUGUST /SEPTEMBER 2009

AUGUST

27 **Noon** **Congressman David Dreier reports to us from Washington**

SEPTEMBER

3 **Noon** **Titan Football preview**

10 **Noon** **Story of champion jockey Laffit Pincay, Jr.**

17 **NO NOON MEETING – "ON THE TOWN" at Huntington Drive restaurants**

24 **Noon** **Clearing land mines from Cambodia**

THE ROTOSCOPE

For the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, U.S.A.

August 27: Dave Dreier



SAY WHAT?

PRESIDENT EMILE WAS PUZZLED ENOUGH by the French words we put in his mouth last week. The column to the right will blow him away. This guide may help him, though I'm sure it's old to you:

- UG2BK You got to be kidding
- GBTW. Get back to work
- NMP Not my problem
- PIR Parent in room
- GFTD. Gone for the day
- FYEO. For your eyes only
- BI5 Back in five minutes
- DEGT Don't even go there
- BIL Boss is listening
- PAW. Parents are watching
- 99 Parents are no longer watching
- PCM Please call me
- IMS. I am sorry
- TOY. Thinking of you
- KUTGW. Keep up the good work
- CID Consider it done
- FWIW. For what it's worth
- HAND Have a nice day
- IAT I am tired
- NRN No response necessary
- 4COL. For crying out loud

NOTES FROM CLUB BOARD MEETING

PRESIDENT EMILE CALLED HIS BOARD to order at 4 p.m. one workday last week. Two other members arrived on time, if a twenty-minute-late-grace is still on time. One drifted in at five; two at 5:30. As a result, not much was decided, which means it must have been a highly successful meeting. One of the first arrivals twittered these notes as the meeting progressed. All are his quotes (since Emile's board is all-male, I can safely use the masculine pronoun):

"EB STARTING TO TALK. Says KUTGU. Asks program status. NMP. Prog chair absent. IAT already. 4COL, talk of dues, raise dues. DEGT. Boring. TOY. FWIW, hot room. Treas rept. LOL My proj lost \$. IMS. Toilet break. BI5. Oct pgm 2 me. CID. Adjourn 6. GFTD."

TEENS ARE USING these IM codes all the time, and parents better be savvy to some messages they see, such as "IWSN, GNOC, HBU?" With "POS" (parents over shoulder), they'd better recognize "I want sex now; get naked on camera, how about you?" There are hundreds, nay, thousands, listed teen codes you can find at www.NetLingo.com – though you'd be much more comfortable not knowing.

IT SEEMS A WOMBAT – "Waste of money, brains, and time" – for us elderly Rotarians to study the codes. But they're coming to business e-mails in steadily increasing numbers, and have already filled social e-mails with "IMO", "OMG", "BFF", and "LOL" that you'd really better learn to recognize. Especially the "LOL" – no, it is *not* "Lots of Love," as one poor old lady learned to much pain when she had sent an email with "deep sympathy to you on the loss of your husband. LOL." (That's "lots of *laughs*," if you really don't know as of yet.)

MY GRANDFATHER WORKED IN PURCHASING for U.S. Steel in Chicago around 1900. In his papers, I found his book of cable codes, fifty or so pages of random words ("BUGGY") and their cable translation ("Send 100 units COD") to save overseas cable costs. Things haven't changed. SWDYT? TTYL. IAT. TTFN. C2U. ("Ta Ta For Now; Ciao to you.")

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EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

**Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes.
That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.**