

## GOVERNOR ARNOLD

### As Davis faces recall, Schwarzenegger poised to take California governorship

Republicans and Democrats alike can't help but be intrigued by the California gubernatorial picture. Democratic Gov. Gray Davis — after only seven months in office — is facing a recall at the hands of California constituents already displeased with his term. And as interesting as this turn of events is, one GOP candidate potentially vying for the governorship is perhaps even more interesting: "Terminator 3" star Arnold Schwarzenegger. The idea of Schwarzenegger as California governor is somewhat scary, not because the actor isn't qualified, but because his qualifications pose a legitimate threat to Davis. Schwarzenegger has said many times in recent months that he would run for governor "if the state needs me." The state needs anyone but Davis.

Many already know that Schwarzenegger has flirted with the idea of being California governor before, years ago, at the time of Davis' first term. He wasn't ready then, as a column I wrote stated, but he is now. Times change and so do people — some grow and mature while others lose touch. As a man and a politician, Schwarzenegger has grown. Conversely, Davis has only lost touch, as is evident by the recent tripling of various California vehicle taxes and increased efforts by others to get signatures for his recall. It is this recall that has given Schwarzenegger his window of opportunity — one he is poised to take advantage of.

The recall effort, which only started gaining momentum in May, must produce 897,158 valid signatures by Sept. 2 to force an election next year, according to The Associated Press. Last month, there were reportedly only 18,590 signatures submitted. As of June 16 — the most recent statistics available — that number grew to 376,008.



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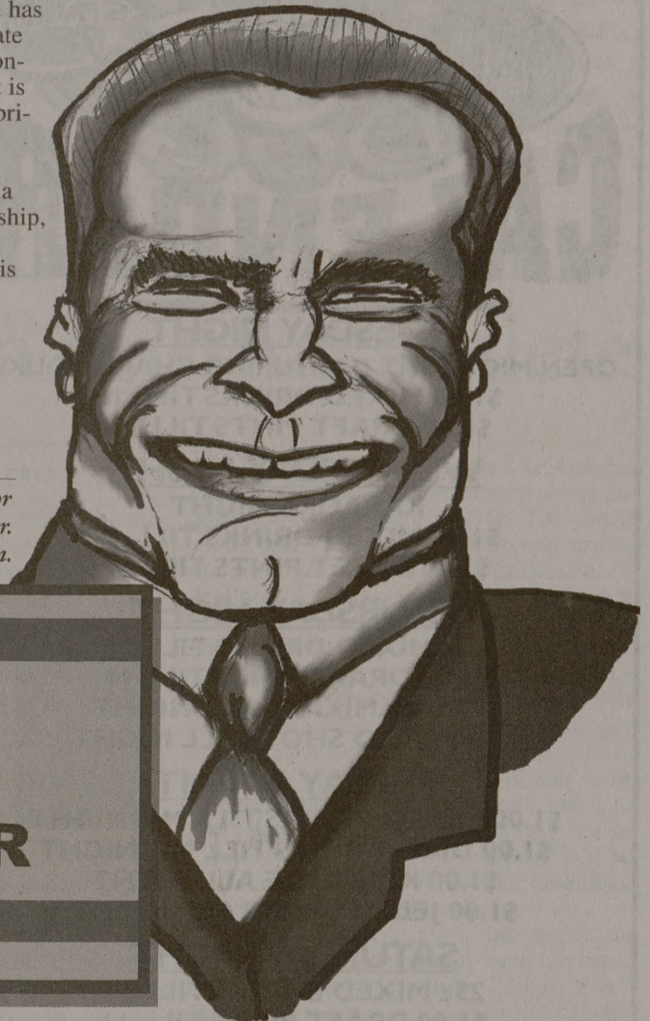
Dave Gilliard, who is overseeing the petition drive, told Sacramento's Mercury News on Tuesday that the campaign recently turned in a total of 625,000 signatures with another 240,000 ready to hand over. If the campaign can submit enough valid signatures by July 16, according to the AP, it could force a special election this fall instead of next year. Because an election next fall coinciding with the state's primary election would encourage an increased Democratic voter turnout, it would be in the GOP's best interests to act swiftly. In either case, Davis' job is in real jeopardy — that much is inarguable.

But what about Schwarzenegger the politician? His main strengths fall into the realm of education, specifically programs for latchkey kids and the poor. Schwarzenegger has spent the past 10 years heading the National Inner-City Games Foundation, a non-profit group that "provides free after-school and summer activities to low-income children," according to the AP. This group alone "reaches 250,000 kids in 15 cities year-round," according to Parade.

Schwarzenegger even authored Proposition 49 in 2002, requiring state grants for all California middle and elementary schools' after-school programs. Passing with 56 percent of the vote, the proposition is now law. Schwarzenegger has political ties through his wife Maria Shriver, a renowned journalist and member of the Kennedy family. He also works with well-known political adviser George Gorton and, according to the AP, has spent recent months "having discussions with political insiders and potential supporters." The headline on the cover of this month's Esquire, which features Schwarzenegger, says, "The Next Governor of California. Really."

Celebrities have traditionally fared well in politics. Ronald Reagan, a former actor, was one of this country's greatest presidents. Former wrestler Jesse Ventura was once governor of Minnesota. Actor Clint Eastwood has been mayor of Carmel, Calif., and the late singer Sonny Bono was a Republican congressman from California. So if the past is any indication of things to come, a celebrity will do well in politics, especially in California.

In any event, the citizens of California are not pleased with their current leadership, this much is inarguable, and Schwarzenegger represents change. Davis has called the efforts to recall him "sour grapes by a bunch of losers." If all goes well, by next March, America will see what a loser Davis is.



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### ARNOLD FOR GOVERNOR

## Bush's competition in 2004 is legitimate

The run up to the 2004 presidential election is reminiscent of the 1992 election when everyone was asking who would be the Democratic candidate to get defeated by George Bush, Sr. Nobody expected a young governor from Arkansas to come out of nowhere, defeat Bush, stay in office for two terms and then oversee the largest economic expansion in history, but it happened.

Like 1992, the Democratic field is once again crowded with candidates, many of whom might have no chance of being elected in mainstream America. Americans are living in fear, and the Republican party has successfully sold Americans on the fact that its the only party that can guarantee military and national security.

But, there are two Democratic candidates who the Bush team will not be able to tout as soft on security and inept on military matters — a strategy Republicans used in 2002 and one they will most likely use in 2004. Senator John Kerry and General Wesley Clark, of Massachusetts and Arkansas respectively, would have a firm grasp on military and security concerns if they were to grab the Democratic Party nomination. Neither of these men have easily recognizable names, but neither did Bill Clinton in 1992. What makes these men extraordinary is their history of military service and work with security matters.

To date, Kerry is the only one officially in the race for the presidency. Kerry is a decorated Vietnam veteran and an author of multiple books on international crime and terrorism. He enlisted in the Navy for Vietnam after graduating from Yale, while President George W. Bush wasn't fulfilling his national guard duty obligations and Vice President Dick Cheney proclaims, "I had other priorities in the '60s than military service," according to abcnews.com.

While in service, Kerry won three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star. But he is more than just a military man. He has a compassionate record as a senator and has worked hard to bring about change to help working class Americans. Kerry voted for the war in Iraq but spoke out vehemently against Bush's failed diplomacy. And he will also be able to compete with Bush in fundraising. With a personal fortune of more than \$100 million and his wife's fortune of more than \$500 million, Kerry might fare a little better



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than most in competing with the Republican money machine.

Like Kerry, Clark also served in Vietnam after graduating number one in his class from West Point and then going to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

But unlike Kerry, Clark stayed in the military and served as a four-star General, Supreme NATO Commander and won the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, a Silver Star and a Purple Heart followed by a list of other awards.

Clark has still not announced his bid to run for office and was not a declared Democrat until a few years back. Clark is still untainted by the partisan bickering of Washington and still speaks from the heart and not solely from political ambitions. He speaks of running for president because he feels the country is headed in the wrong direction. The public response to his campaign has been huge and a Web site, www.draftwesleyclark.com, has been set up to help his run with thousands of encouraging responses.

What we find in these two candidates are the Bush administration's worst nightmares.

They both eclipse Bush on military matters. Kerry has a voting record to back the compassion that Bush espouses in rhetoric only, and Clark has the ability to speak to people like a concerned citizen and not a political opportunist. Neither of them could do much worse than the Bush administration on the economy. The strategy in the 2002 election of using the war and national security matters to win in the elections will not be an easy sell when you are going up against two decorated veterans.

Kerry and Clark are a dream team for America considering the questionable situations with Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Homeland Security and all the other issues that are scaring Americans.

The Republican party may already be exploiting the tragedy of Sept. 11 by choosing to hold its convention in New York City very close to the anniversary. It will, however, be hard for the Bush administration to play on Americans' fears and run a campaign intended to make the competitors look weak on the military when the competitors are a four-star general or a Vietnam veteran with three Purple Hearts.

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## Forces deployed too late for peace in Bunia

A few days ago, France led the deployment of a multinational force of 1,400 troops to impose



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peace in Bunia, the capital of Ituri, in the northeastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This was done at the behest of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and with the blessings of the U.N. Security Council. Unfortunately, such a move is trivial and comes much too late to instill peace.

The fighting in Bunia first began May 7. The day before, the United Nations replaced a peacekeeping force of 6,000 with only 700 Uruguayan soldiers. This gave the warring Hema and Lendu tribes — comprised of children and men armed with machetes, spears and guns — the perfect opportunity to charge into the power vacuum. The resulting battle developed into a grotesque massacre of 500 Bunia civilians.

In the streets of the city, the Hema and Lendu militias fought anyone they could find. Both tribes hacked entire families to death. Many victims were tortured, some were even cannibalized — their hearts, kidneys or sexual organs removed to be worn or eaten by their murderers. 20,000 townspeople sought sanctuary at the U.N. compound nearby, while nearly 250,000 people escaped to the countryside.

People all over the world were outraged by the inaction of the 700 Uruguayan peacekeepers. However, they could not have done much to prevent the slaughter. This was the first time many of the troops had even heard combat fire, and since fighting broke out seven have had nervous breakdowns and been hospitalized. Also, their U.N. mandate was patheti-

cally narrow: the Uruguayan troops were there to protect U.N. workers and buildings. They were told not to intervene in any local fighting.

The new French-led force will do better than the Uruguayan one in preventing future massacres in the city of Bunia. However, the force does nothing to ease Congo's desperate situation, one that is not confined to Bunia or even the region of Ituri. This effort is a soft attempt to resolve a severe problem. The U.N. force will be there for only three months. It is mandated only to protect civilians, and cannot disarm the two warring Hema and Lendu tribes or venture outside the town.

**"In the streets of the city, the Hema and Lendu militias fought anyone they could find. Both tribes hacked entire families to death."**

As quoted by The Guardian, a British newspaper, a report by the International Crisis Group testifies that, "This intervention, on the face of it, is totally insufficient to meet the needs of Ituri's pacification."

The Guardian also obtained a French military paper used to brief the troops before they left. The document explicitly states that the force "will have a negligible impact on tribal conflict" and that "France has no specific interest in the area except solidarity with the international community." The

briefing paper also maintains that the troops departure date is "firmly established" — Sept. 1, 2003.

By not disarming the militias and then leaving in three months, this French-led force is just sentencing the people of Bunia to death at a later date. Nothing will prevent the Hema and Lendu militias from battling for the town again when the U.N. peacekeepers leave. Meanwhile, since the U.N. troops are confined to Bunia, they cannot prevent the Hema and Lendu from massacring civilians in other towns.

Bunia is just the tip of the iceberg. The only reason that the French-led force is in that town is due to its proximity to a U.N. compound. It does nothing for the Ituri region where more than 50,000 people have been killed since 1999. And it does nothing for the 3.3 million people who have died in Congo during that same period of time.

Imagine 3.3 million people dead — twice the population of Houston. This is the most recent estimate by the International Rescue Committee. In terms of deaths, the amount is equivalent to Saddam Hussein's gassing the Kurds 330 times! The problem is so large that sending only 1,400 troops to a country five times the size of Iraq will accomplish nothing significant at all.

The United Nations needs to be more serious about bringing stability to Congo. It needs to commit more funds and troops and pressure Congo's government to actively prevent the butchery of its citizens. Its current attempt is only inaction in the guise of action, and that is worse than no action at all.

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