



BY JEFF DUFOUR AND PATRICK GAVIN

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SPEAKEASY



“Are you a double-fisted drinker?” - Tricia Lott, wife of Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., to a hand-tied Yeas & Nays spy at Sunday’s “Christmas in Washington” holiday special at the National Building Museum

MO CARS, MO PROBLEMS

Gov.-elect gets crash course in transportation woes



Maryland Gov.-Elect **Martin O'Malley** was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Committee for Montgomery's annual legislative breakfast Monday morning. Unfortunately for both O'Malley and the community organization, he apparently got stuck in traffic and was nearly an hour late for the event.

One official was overheard saying, “This man’s going to fix the state’s transportation problems? He can’t even figure out when to leave to get to Montgomery County on time.” Meanwhile, organizers stalled and talked a little longer while

they waited for the future governor.

To make matters worse, O'Malley's mother lives in Montgomery. When he finally arrived, Committee president **Bonnie Cullison** teased him that this was a morning he should have just stayed with Mama.

FRAN'S SWEET SERENADE



Semi-private holiday caroling for Drescher

After her 11th-hour lobbying blitz on a gynecological cancer bill paid off last Friday, actress **Fran Drescher** was in the mood to celebrate.

The final vote was gavelled at 6:30, and by 8, she was popping the cork with three friends at Morton's in Georgetown.

A party in one of Morton's private rooms had a group of carolers coming in to entertain, said our source, but they stopped dead in their tracks when they saw Drescher. “It's the Nanny!” one of them exclaimed, referring to the campy sitcom in which Drescher starred.

Pretty soon, the whole front of the restaurant was being entertained by the carolers serenading her.

Meanwhile, another group at the bar hung out for two full hours to wait for Drescher's group to finish eating so they could say hi and get their picture taken with her.

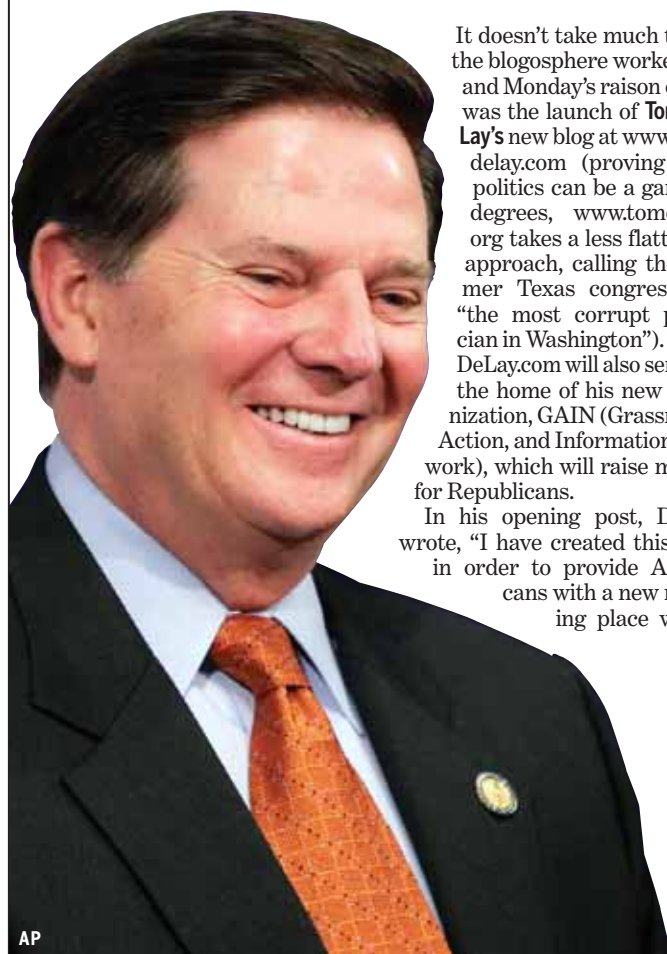
Drescher's efforts on behalf of the bill, which wasn't on the legislative radar screen even weeks ago, included dinner with Sen. **Arlen Specter**, R-Pa., and an all-out blitz on the office of Sen. **Tom Coburn**, R-Okla., an obstetrician by trade.

Drescher also told our source that the first lady's office called her in the hopes that she'd come back to town for the bill-signing ceremony when it's announced.

Dena Levitz and Michael Neibauer contributed to this page.

HAMMERING 'THE HAMMER'

Some don't delay in attacking TomDeLay.com



It doesn't take much to get the blogosphere worked up, and Monday's *raison d'être* was the launch of **Tom DeLay's** new blog at www.tomdelay.com (proving that politics can be a game of degrees, www.tomdelay.org takes a less flattering approach, calling the former Texas congressman “the most corrupt politician in Washington”). TomDeLay.com will also serve as the home of his new organization, GAIN (Grassroots, Action, and Information Network), which will raise money for Republicans.

In his opening post, DeLay wrote, “I have created this blog in order to provide Americans with a new meeting place where

such opinions and viewpoints might be better shared, discussed and debated; a place where conservative Americans might really speak truth to power and to one another.”

Naturally, the blog evoked passion from both sides of the political aisle — at press time, TomDeLay.com was the fourth most popular link on the Internet, according to BlogsNow.com, which tracks Web site popularity.

Yeas & Nays asked around to find out what liberal bloggers thought of DeLay throwing his hat into their ring.

“Nobody will be able to articulate their true moral underpinnings of the extreme right wing better than Hot Tub Tom. I wish him all the best and look forward to seeing his name in the headlines surrounding this matter as the year unfolds. Does it have any promise? Oh yeah. It promises to deliver us endless fodder for filling column inches on our blogs.” - **Jane Hamsher**, firedoglake.com.

“Celebrity blogging rarely works out. People like Tom DeLay generally don't have the inclination to blog regularly. I imagine we won't be talking very much about

his blog six months from now.” - **Judd Legum**, Think Progress, www.thinkprogress.org.

“The conservative blogosphere exists to spread misinformation, smear Democrats and liberals, and intimidate journalists. I'm sure TomDeLay.com will fit right in.” - **Bill Scher**, LiberalOasis, www.liberaloasis.com.

“Its promise is in enabling merciless mockery.” - **Ezra Klein**, ezraklein.typepad.com.

“Yawn.” - **Kevin Drum**, Political Animal, www.washingtonmonth.com.

But fear not, conservatives: You can find plenty of positive comments on DeLay's blog. After all, “He already pulled comments from the blog,” **Markos Moulitsas Zúniga**, of DailyKos.com, pointed out to us.

Indeed, after TomDeLay.com was flooded with such lovely anti-DeLay comments as “burn in hell,” “silly criminal” and “you have killed 500,000 of us,” the Web site was scrubbed of nearly all anti-DeLay comments — an ethical faux pas in the minds of many bloggers.

“That speaks to his ‘street cred’ more than anything else,” Moulitsas told us.

PLATFORM DIVING

D.C. lets groups party on

Should Brookland resident **Dennis Moore** be successful in establishing the D.C. Independent Party, he'll have some interesting company.

Among the 37 other officially recognized parties in the city: the American Peoples Party, the Black People's Party, the Black Political Party, the D.C. Anti-Statehood Party (self-loathers, we guess), Independent Husband Liberation party, the Love Party, the Queer Party, the Theocratic Party and,

our favorite, the Cocktail Party (we're not kidding).

It's awfully tough to find out information about most of them. As a rule, they lack anything so sophisticated as a Web site. But we did discover that the Citizens Party is a now defunct national environmental party. The head of the Workers Party USA just wrote a book called “Only the Peoples Can Stop the Wars” [sic]. And the Communist Party USA — we'll let that one speak for itself.



Never announce on an empty stomach

Before you launch a presidential run, you may want to eat something first. Only hours before word hit the airwaves that Rep. **Dennis Kucinich** was planning another presidential run, the Ohio Democratic congressman spent a curiously long amount of time — almost a half hour, according to our Yeas & Nays spy — on his cell phone outside one of his favorite Capitol Hill restaurants, Taverna the Greek Islands. He appeared very straight-faced and paced back and forth as he spoke.

After a good meal, was he determining whether he had the stomach for another campaign?