

Michael Wissot Focuses on Consensus in Assembly Bid

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Senior Editor

"This is by far the nicest campaign event we've ever attended," quipped Jonathan Tee, aide to Republican State Insurance Commissioner candidate Gary Mendoza. "He's missed a good one."

Tee was talking about the Pacific Palisades Republican Club's candidate panel and light buffet hosted by Peter and Cynthia Olmstead at their Riviera home Thursday.

Responding to club president Curt Baer's invitation, four candidates addressed the group of some 50 Republicans, while keynote speaker Bruce Herschensohn, 1992 U.S. senatorial candidate/Conservative news commentator reviewed Republican politics in the 30 years since Watergate.

State assembly candidate Michael Wissot joined Katherine Smith, candidate for Superintendent of Public Education; John Conlon, State Treasurer candidate; and Mark Anthony Isles, candidate for the inner-city Assembly District 52 in the presentation.

A Tarzana native, Wissot graduated from James Madison University in Virginia, and earned an MBA from the University of Arizona and a master's in international manage-



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ment from Thunderbird, the American Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix.

As a staff member for Sen. John McCain in Washington, D. C., in 1997, Wissot covered several key legislative issues on domestic commerce, including the moratorium on Internet taxation, deregulation of the telecommunication/cable industry and the curbing of corruption in professional boxing. While working on his own graduate degrees back in Arizona, he worked for McCain's

reelection campaign and presidential run.

Over the last two years, he has run an Internet company specializing in information-based services for dental professionals and patients. Wissot, 27, is unmarried and lives in Woodland Hills.

Introducing himself as the multi-issue candidate, Wissot explained his motivation for challenging Democratic incumbent Fran Pavley in the Assembly District 41, which runs from Santa Monica up through the Santa Monica Mountains to southwest San Fernando Valley, Port Hueneme and parts of Oxnard.

"Our area is not well represented," he said. "Fran Pavley has spent 85 percent of her time on environmental policies. The difference in this race is that it isn't about politics, it's about a one-dimensional candidate versus one who is covering all the issues."

Wissot, who is fluent in Spanish, is also serious about widening the reach of the Republican party to include more of the Hispanic population.

He offers the following perspective on a number of key California issues.

- Education: Create smaller neighborhood school districts which can make budgetary decisions. Create an educational envi-

ronment that rewards quality teachers and provides economic incentives for talented prospects to join the profession.

- Transportation: Dedicate all gasoline sales tax revenue to transportation projects. Create a fast-track process that commits local and state funds to specific plans. Build new Diamond lanes on congested freeways, rather than stealing from the existing set of lanes. Evaluate and implement effective transportation strategies that have reduced freeway congestion in other cities. Resurface mediocre roads before they require even larger and more costly reconstruction.

- Environment: Environmental policies are often proposed as a zero-sum game. Work to find a balance between nature and people who inhabit the environment. Government can offer tax incentives for environmental responsibility. Imposing excessive government regulations does not solve the problem. Business can allow public agencies to rank quality-assurance standards for public goods and services. Issue tradable pollution permits to insure that only a specific level of pollution (i.e. CO2 emissions) will be attained at the lowest cost to society, but establish flexibility for government to buy back pollution credits for meeting updated standards.