



Saturday, October 21, 2006

I'm a moderate Republican and a moderate Muslim

I came to this great land, seeking the American dream, 22 years ago. Now, many years after I first stepped on American soil, I am honored to be a candidate running for a public office in a very influential city. I did not imagine that I would be the subject of misrepresentation and unfair stereotyping. And I never dreamed that I would be the recipient of hate telephone calls threatening my life.

I have been falsely labeled an "extremist" and "not representing the mainstream." Register Opinion columnist Steven Greenhut criticizes me for supporting an anti-war politician, attending a "left-wing anti-war rally," and for not having any political platform ["A sillier season than most," Commentary, Oct. 15]. The one thing that Greenhut said that I can agree with is that my views on the war in the Middle East have nothing to do with Anaheim politics. Then why is he bringing it up?

To make things clear, I choose moderation as a way of life. I'm a moderate Republican and a moderate Muslim, and a moderate man in general.

Greenhut claims that I made a statement regarding an Egyptian "dowry". I have not seen nor read the Egyptian doctor's story, and honestly I don't remember answering any questions regarding that issue. I do remember that when my own parents divorced and my father pulled out the old dowry contract, I was the first to convince him to give my mother half of the house and to make sure that she lived comfortably.

My support of Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney was based solely on her stand against the war. I was invited to a fund-raiser and I admired her courage. I'm someone who cannot justify the killing of innocent people for any cause or at any price.

Now to bring everything back to local politics, I am an experienced and successful business leader who has brought many small businesses to the city of Anaheim. I've worked in the city of Anaheim for 12 years.

I support incentives for small businesses, manufacturers, high-tech companies, and major

investors to come to Anaheim providing them the means to create opportunities for good paying jobs with benefits. I will encourage affordable housing developers to create attractive, affordable housing for hardworking residents to be able to live and work in Anaheim, rather than to commute for hours, so that they will be able to spend more time with their families. This will help strengthen families and create a healthier and better community in general.

I will stand fast against the use of eminent domain for the purpose of commercial development. I am a financial conservative who will fight any new taxes and I am a social moderate who understands the need for community policing programs in support of keeping families together and strong.

Bill Dalati

Anaheim

candidate for Anaheim City Council

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