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10th

Garrett Seeks Second Term

After completing her first term, state Sen. Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest) is seeking re-election based on her outstanding record of working towards initiatives in economic development, healthcare, education and the environment.

"Maintaining and improving education in Illinois would lead to new jobs," she said. "I continue to support education, workforce training and investment in technology. We cannot afford not to do that."

Garrett supports incentives to businesses that would stay or locate in Illinois. Providing adequate healthcare to all people is a priority for Garrett, who wants to keep the Medicaid system functional after cutbacks in recent years.

The Senator was involved in recent legislation that helps improve people's lives. She sponsored a bill to increase child care compensation to women who are transitioning off welfare and are in training programs and another to increase state safety regulation of bottled water.



State Sen. Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest)

Garrett is regularly available to her constituents by having frequent community meetings and holding Saturday hours in her district offices. Her office will always help anyone needing assistance in dealing with state agencies or services.



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Tenth News

July 2004 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 1, Edition 7

Interns Do Their Part to Elect Democrats

When 17-year-old Ben Struhl was growing up, he says his family was not very active in politics. But this is one family legacy Ben doesn't plan to continue. Interest in Democratic politics seems to come naturally to the aspiring political writer because, "It fits my system of beliefs."

Ben, who leads the New Trier High School Young Democrats Club, joins six other enthusiastic young activists as summer interns for the Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

"Our interns are fantastic," noted former state Rep. Lauren Beth Gash (D-Highland Park), and Chair of the Tenth Dems. "In a few short weeks they've already taken on tasks that will make a significant contribution toward the goal of electing Democrats in the district.... It really makes you feel good that there are such committed young people."

They're helping to plan communications projects, develop databases, clip articles, assist candidates with research and events, plus represent the Tenth Dems by walking in parades, canvassing and participating in phone banks, according to Intern Coordinator Marcia Burke.

You may notice that Ben, an aspiring political writer, and fellow intern Bruni Hirsch, have already begun writing for the newsletter. (See *Bush Stance on Gay Marriage—Extreme as Usual*, page 2, and *Young People Fear Renewed Draft*, page 3).

Bruni, who will be attending Tufts University in the fall, grew up with parents with a definite Democratic perspective. She has already been door to door, stuffed envelopes, plus helped

with a Barack Obama house party. She said her involvement with student government gave her a taste of what it's like to create change. As for the future, Bruni thinks becoming a campaign manager would be a

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Interns (from left) Matt Kriezelman, Buzz Maslow and David Margules had a chance to talk with state Sen. Barack Obama (D-Chicago), the keynote speaker at the Tenth Dems fundraiser in Highland Park on June 6.

Bush, Kirk Show Mean Streak

By Gregory Mysko, Tenth News Columnist

We all know people in our lives who have a mean streak and a nasty disposition. Two of them are President George W. Bush and our Congressman, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill). They share much in common, including a condescending disposition with a tendency to put people down. Kirk votes for the President's agenda 87 percent of the time

Bush is legendary with his demeaning nicknames. Kirk just throws out insults at public forums.

For example, environmental agencies recently discovered a high level of e-coli bacteria on Chicago beaches and implemented swimming bans. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley suggested Milwaukee was the source of the bacteria. Though there were no North Shore beaches affected by the same problems as Chicago, Kirk, who never misses an opportunity to make the news at another's expense, blamed "cheesehead sewer water from Milwaukee."

While calling people from Wisconsin "cheeseheads" may not rise to the level of an ethnic slur, it does demonstrate a certain meanness that has crept into Kirk's political dialog. To spout off that wisecrack in a discussion about bacteria on beaches is completely disrespectful but gets you on the news.

Another Kirk wisecrack in April was not reported in Chicago newspapers. But, it could rank as an ethnic insult and was reported in Roll Call, a Washington beltway insider newspaper covering Capitol Hill. During a House Appropriations Committee budget hearing dealing with ways Congress could cut its own budget, Kirk, a committee member, complained about the waste of having Capitol Police patrol with horses. He suggested cutting the recently created mounted unit.

"The only way to kill a new program is to kill it right at the start," Kirk said.

Other committee members corrected Kirk by pointing out that the Republican-controlled Senate created the mounted unit, not the House. Kirk quipped that one of the horses from the disbanded unit could be a gift to retiring Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colorado), the Senate's lone Native American.

"We could give one of the horses to him to ride off into the sunset with," Kirk said. Kirk must still believe in a worn out stereotype that all Native Americans ride horses. And he was referring to a fellow Republican!

It makes me wonder what Mark Kirk would say about the diverse groups that make up his Tenth Congressional District if he didn't need their votes.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer.

Bush Stance on Gay Marriage —Extreme as Usual

By Bruni Hirsch, Tenth Dems Intern

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 594,391 same sex couples living in the United States of America. Despite homosexual couples making up only 1% of all couples in the country, they still deserve the same rights as all other couples.

I would have thought the recent Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling, which grants marriage licenses to applicants of the same sex, would have led to a trend in increasing rights to homosexual couples across the nation. However, President Bush has behaved in an urgent, irrational and reactionary manner.

On February 24, 2004, Bush asked Congress to promptly pass, and send to the states for ratification, an amendment to our constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Personally, I believe this request is

... the President seeks an amendment that would be one more way the government would be interfering with citizens' everyday lives.

unfathomable as an amendment, and it would be regressive for our country rather than progressive as it would take away personal freedom by inserting discrimination in the Constitution.

"The Republican opposition to same sex marriage continues a long tradition of intolerance, and is bigotry of no lesser form than their previous and continuing racism against Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans," said Ben Struhl, a 10th Dems intern.

Rather than follow the Republican platform calling for "small" national

government and more states' rights, the President seeks an amendment that would be one more way the government would be interfering with citizens' everyday lives.

Unlike the President, Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry supports civil unions, which would give gay and lesbian couples similar rights as married couples, and leaving the decision to legalize same sex marriage to each state to decide.

Unfortunately, Democrats are being forced to take a defensive role against a Republican backed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage rather than expanding domestic benefits for gay partners.

Amending the constitution is not an easy process. Let's hope the President is unable to succeed.

Bruni Hirsch, a recent New Trier High School graduate, is working as an intern for the Tenth Dems this summer. These are her opinions. Bruni will be a freshman at Tufts University this fall.

Interns, continued from page 1

fascinating option.

Brandon "Buzz" Maslov, who graduated from Vernon Hills High School as valedictorian and will be attending the University of Illinois, said he became interested in politics while taking Advanced Placement U.S. History. Matthew Kriezelman, who will be a senior at the University of Maryland, also caught the political bug in an accelerated class – political science during the 2000 election year.

David Margules, of Vernon Hills, another intern, will be attending George Washington University in the political town of Washington, D.C., in the fall, and Donald Pinkus, an incoming junior at Deerfield High School, also has an interest in politics. The newest member of the group is Natalie Green, who will enter her senior year at New Trier High School.

This talented and eager group is ready to take on the work necessary to help to create as many Democratic victories as possible in November. Certainly, we can keep them busy.

Note: Applications for fall internships will be accepted beginning in August.

Goodman's Fahrenheit 9/11 Event Scores a Huge Success



Lee Goodman greets voters outside the theater Sunday before the screening of "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Goodman encourages the crowd of moviegoers to work tirelessly to defeat Kirk and the President.



More than 150 supporters of Lee Goodman joined the Tenth District Congressional candidate June 27 as part of the record breaking crowds nationwide who flocked to see Michael Moore's new film, "Fahrenheit 9/11," in Highland Park.

After the movie, Goodman told the group the facts exposed in the picture are just some of the reasons he should replace Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), who has been an enthusiastic proponent of President Bush's policies.

Young People Fear Renewed Draft

By Ben Strubl, Tenth Dems Intern

Of all the actions which the American Government can legally take against me, the draft is one of the most frightening to comprehend. When I turn 18 next summer, the Army will could draft me and send me out to Iraq or any other place it pleases against my will. While many insist that the threat of a draft is slim, the issue has nevertheless re-emerged as an important one to all sorts of people my age. Despite the headline on the Selective Service website that emphatically states, "Selective Service is not getting ready to conduct a draft for the U.S. Armed Forces," it is becoming increasingly clear to me the possibility and the personal consequences of such a draft, and the effects of it could be far greater than generally imagined.

To many my age, the draft is vague and abstract. Perhaps they heard of it from their parents, some of whom may have been in the lottery or even served in Vietnam, but it isn't a pressing or serious thought. Many don't even entertain the possibility, stating that it would be politically unfeasible. Yet, generally, the more one begins to think about the draft, the more one begins to fear it. To me, the thought is so unimaginable that it frightens me immensely. Could my friends or I be forced overseas, never to be seen again in the quagmire that is Iraq? Will Vietnam repeat itself, even if we all recognize that Vietnam is repeating itself? These are questions I ask myself, with no easy answer.

While the draft is completely uncertain, it is imperative to realize that it can happen, and it will almost definitely affect all of us. One overlooked news story of last year was the reorganization of the Selective Service Board (a euphemistic name for the draft board). That means the board is active again and ready, if so ordered, to begin a draft. The objection always arises, "Who will have the political clout to start a draft? Such a move will be suicide!" What these people don't realize is that if Bush gets re-

ected, this option is no more suicide than any other he takes, for the simple reason that there will no longer be anything to protect politically. Bush will be serving his last possible term, and Dick Cheney will not possibly be able to continue for him. In

To me, the thought is so unimaginable that it frightens me immensely. Could my friends or I be forced overseas, never to be seen again in the quagmire that is Iraq? Will Vietnam repeat itself, even if we all recognize that Vietnam is repeating itself?

fact, if Bush and Cheney win this year, they won't give a damn what happens in 2008. They can do whatever they please, and if congress remains in Republican hands, nothing will likely stand in the way of the Administration's reinstating the draft.

And you should know that if the draft comes, it will probably affect you, too. Legal and military experts agree that in the event of a draft there will be a definite probability that two prior ways of escaping the draft will be cut off. First, there will be no college deferments, only postponements. The draft board says, "Under the current draft law, a college student can have his induction postponed only until the end of the current semester. A senior can be postponed until the end of the academic year." It's a definite—no student deferments. Further, there is a strong possibility women will also be drafted. On this subject the draft board says, "The Selective Service System, if given the mission and additional funding, is capable of registering and drafting women with its existing infrastructure." Also, be sure to note that if you have an M.D. you can be drafted at any time until you're 65. The draft will no longer be for poor young males who aren't going to college—it will be for everyone.

I don't have all the answers, but I have one. If the draft does come, I'm not serving in Iraq. Many of my friends feel the same way. Nobody wants to die for something that they know is completely wrong. That's why this election is so important to many people I know, including me. Either we win, or we face the chance of having to leave this country for who knows how long. Maybe forever.

Ben Strubl, a senior at New Trier High School, is working this summer as an intern for the Tenth Congressional District Democrats. These are his opinions.

Event with Obama Excites Crowd, Raises Money



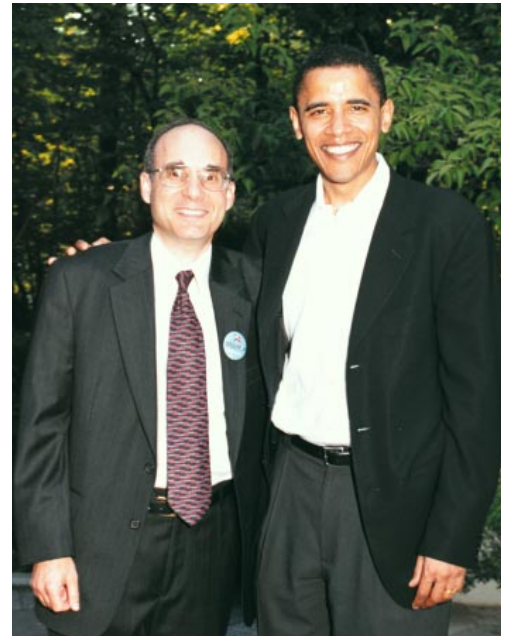
Lake County Circuit Court Clerk candidate Margo Nelson visits with Tenth Dems Executive Committee member and Democratic National Convention Delegate Ellen Beth Gill before Obama's speech.

It takes time to build a political organization. So it was a surprise when about 200 people showed up in Highland Park June 6 to give their support to the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats, a group which has been in existence for just a few months.

"When we first decided to have a fundraiser," said Lauren Beth Gash, the chair of the group, which is known as Tenth Dems, "we were hoping we could at least get fifty people." They even organized a phone campaign to try to reach that minimum goal. But after just a few hours, plans for more phone calling were abruptly cancelled. It was obvious that the fundraiser was in danger of being attended by far more people than they could accommodate.

The better than expected turnout could be attributed in large part to the guest speaker. State Senator Barack Obama (D-Chicago) had agreed to show his support for the work of Tenth Dems by taking time from his busy schedule to come to the event. Numerous other candidates also attended, including Tenth Congressional District candidate Lee Goodman and Eighth Congressional District candidate Melissa Bean, but Obama was the star attraction.

Nice weather made it possible for the crowd of about 200 to spill out of the Highland Park home of Tom and Donna Stone, the hosts for the event, and onto their patio. Because the group was so large, people had to gather outside to hear Obama speak.



Before his speech, Obama had the opportunity to visit with Tenth District Congressional Candidate Lee Goodman.

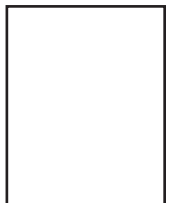


Tom and Donna Stone, the gracious hosts for the Tenth Dems fundraiser, take a moment together during the busy evening.

Tenth Dems Attend Rainbow/PUSH Event



Tenth Dems Executive Committee members (from left) Nancie Blatt, Chair Lauren Beth Gash, Sharon Narrod and Carol Jones meet the Rev. Jesse Jackson June 15 at a Rainbow/PUSH event at the Lake County Federation of Teachers Headquarters in Gurnee. The event was held to encourage suburban involvement in working for racial unity.



HELP WANTED: Volunteers representing Democrats needed to sit at tables for street fairs and sidewalk sales. To volunteer call: 847-266-VOTE.