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# Obama Lights the Way for Democrats

Now that Barack Obama has earned national political raves and has what is widely perceived as a cakewalk to the U.S Senate, he's become the perfect spokesman for why President Bush must go.

The Illinois state senator whom virtually nobody outside of Chicago had heard of 18 months ago has local Democrats eating from the palm of his hand as he excoriates the Bush administration's policies.

"We may be the first generation in a very long time to pass on a world to our children that is a little bit meaner and a little bit poorer than the one we



Young Tenth Dem, Claire Jones, 9, gets a hug from Senator Obama after the September 12 rally.

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# Tenth News

[www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)

October 2004

Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter

Volume 1, Edition 10

TO: My Employer  
FROM: Your Employee  
RE: A Day Off on November 2nd

I'd like to request a day off on Tuesday, November 2. I love my job, but there's something I love even more...I need the day off to help my country and protect the things that make it special.

I need the day off to work for the Democratic Party on election day. There's plenty for me to do. They may need me to stand at the Metra station to hand out literature for Barack Obama. I may need to knock on doors to make sure that Lee Goodman's supporters get to the polls. Maybe I'll travel to Wisconsin to help John Kerry win that crucial state. There are also candidates running for the state legislature and county offices that need my help.

In fact, they need your help, too. After you approve my request for a day off, why not put in one for yourself? And here's a number for you to call: 847-266-VOTE (8683). That's the number for the Tenth Dems. They can steer you to a candidate who can use your help on election day. Or, e-mail them at [volunteers@tenthdems.org](mailto:volunteers@tenthdems.org).

I know we'll be tired when we come back to work on November 3, but believe me, we will feel great, because we will have done the most patriotic thing any American can do...we will have stood up for what we believe in. That's what democracy is all about. That's patriotism!

## Using Fear to Win Voters is Working: But Wait!

*By Jane Goldenberg, Columnist*

Not so long ago, Bush, the elder, brought us the vision thing, that amorphous wish to appeal to the intangible, emotional gut of the voter. Now we've got the leadership thing – no laughing matter. Not, at least, when it comes to war and peace and our national security.

As we in the choir watched the poll numbers for the president rise following the pugilistic showcase at the Republican National Convention, no doubt, we all probably wondered how the American people could be so gullible. Do they actually believe him when he says we're winning in Iraq, and we will succeed in transplanting American-style freedom there?

It appeared so, according to the initial polls. But, maybe people don't really expect miracles; we probably don't envision Iraqis getting the same kind of protections laid out in our Bill of Rights. Maybe no one actually believes Iraq will be born again as a republic overnight or even in the 10 to 20 years Sen. John McCain says it may take.

Maybe it's just that people are more comfortable letting

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# Who is Mighty Kirk?

By Gregory Mysko, Columnist

What has happened to political reality in the last four years since George W. Bush has taken over the White House? It seems like Republicans have reinvented reality with their own version of Japanese cartoons. Our incumbent Republican Congressman, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), has proven that he is as much of a "Thoughtful Independent" as President George W. Bush is a "Compassionate Conservative." In this world of Republicanism, "up is down" and "might makes right."

Republican politics has entered a surreal world of animation where anything can be made up into a pretend reality. Take, for example, the Illinois GOP. They bring in a cartoon character from Maryland to run for U.S. Senate while ignoring the fine people in Illinois. That play might work well in Texas, but in Illinois, people are seeing through that veneer of nonsense. The people of Texas elected a cartoon character as their governor twice.

Kirk and his public relations team have been successfully turning bipartisan efforts into causes of which he alone is the "Champion." Just listen to the radio. For example, Kirk joined with Democrat Rahm Emanuel in sponsoring legislation for Lake Michigan protection. But if you listen to his radio ad, it is Kirk who is the "Champion." For that we shall name him "Mighty Kirk, Champion of Everything Bush." (But don't mention Iraq).

Former 10th District Congressman John Porter (R-Ill.) was respected for being a true centrist. His voting record reflected a common sense pattern that was neither liberal nor conservative. Mighty Kirk has taken the same "Independent" mantle upon himself. But Mighty Kirk is being deceptive, since his voting record is 87% in line with that of the right-wing leadership of the Republican Party. Judging by the list of his campaign contributors, Mighty Kirk is a "Champion of Special Interests." A PAC controlled by House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), a fervently outspoken right wing leader of the Republican Party, donated \$20,000 to one of Mighty Kirk's earlier campaigns. That should be an insight into where Mighty Kirk himself truly stands.

Democratic challenger Lee Goodman has more in common with John Porter than Mighty Kirk ever had. Kirk proudly voted with the Republican right-wing to pass the current Medicare legislation that can be accurately portrayed as pharmaceutical industry corporate welfare that does not relieve financial burdens on seniors.

Unlike the legendary Porter, Mighty Kirk is the "Champion of the Budget Deficit." He followed along with DeLay to vote in tax cuts skewed towards the wealthiest Americans, which contributed to these large deficits.

"If I was still there, I would have voted no on the tax cuts," said Porter. "I think the messages from the White House may be good politics, but I don't think, frankly, they are good policy."

Democrat Lee Goodman would never have voted for those tax cuts either. Goodman would vote to bring genuine tax relief to the middle class while eliminating the tax cuts on the very top of the income bracket. He is a fiscal conservative unlike Mighty Kirk.

On the question of the Bush Iraq War, there is no question where Goodman and Kirk stand. Lee Goodman was an opponent of this misadventure from the very beginning. Mark Kirk has beaten the drums for war on behalf of George Bush.

Just as in other races on November 2, there will be serious choices to be made and the decision for most thinking people should be easy. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) over the "Good Grief Cowboy," state Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) over that cartoon character from Maryland and Goodman over the "Champion Mighty Kirk."

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

# Obama *continued from page 1*

inherited, and that's un-American, and that's unacceptable," he warns a crowd of about 400 North Shore Democrats at a recent rally sponsored by the New Trier, Northfield, Palatine and Wheeling Democratic organizations and the Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

In a political season full of vitriolic partial truths, Obama stands as a beacon for integrity. Proclaiming his own idealistic political philosophy firmly grounded in his belief that all Americans share a set of core values, he says, "Our government should be as decent as our people."

After being introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin, he reminds the room full of political activists of ideals that drew them all to the political arena. Noting that all Americans are connected, that every child matters, a common refrain in his standard stump speech, Obama adds a little inside-politics humor.



*Sen. Dick Durbin warmly introduces Barack Obama at the September 12 rally.*

He continues with the notion that "all of us are threatened when one of us is threatened with injustice" – and the applause is effusive – "or John Ashcroft" and laughter erupts.

It doesn't take long, however, before Obama points out the contrast between him and the Bush administration.

"If we don't stand up for the values we care about, they're going to get trampled, and that's what's been happening during the three years of this administration."



*The Renaissance Hotel Conference Center was packed to overflowing with enthusiastic Democrats.*

*Continued on page 4*

# Walk It, Drop It, Phone It, Mail It!

- Maps:  
Cook County Clerk 312-603-0906  
Lake County Clerk: 847-377-2400
- Voter Lists/Literature:  
847-266-VOTE (8683)  
info@tenthdems.org
- Training Material Packets:  
Diane, 847-735-8505
- Candidate Signs:  
Ross, 847-751-3371

## Sample Script

Hi! I'm \_\_\_\_\_, your neighbor on \_\_\_\_\_ Street. I'm also the Democratic Precinct Committeeperson for our precinct. (or assisting your Committeeman...)

*(Small talk here. People frequently comment they didn't even know they had a precinct person, etc.)*

I'm just stopping by today to see if I can help you with anything so that you're totally prepared to vote on November 2.

Is there anyone who will be unable to vote in person on the 2nd, and may need an absentee ballot?

*(If yes, the packet contains information on absentee voting.)*

Do you have any other questions I might be able to help with?

*(You can always say, "I don't know, but I'll get back to you.")*

May I leave this Voter Guide with you? It lists all the Democratic candidates for Federal, State and local offices. Would you like to be on our email list for notification of events? Would you consider a sign in your yard?

*(If they are eager to help, pass along Tenth Dems contact information and we will find a job for them)*

Thanks so much for your time. Bye.

For the past several months, precinct committeemen and grassroots workers have been chanting this mantra in preparation for election season. Hundreds of these dedicated workers have been trained by The Tenth Congressional District Democrats in basic precinct work and are now hitting the road. They are looking for volunteers to walk with them, take a block, or take the lead in a precinct that has no committeeman. If you have missed the training or want a refresher, here's the crash course:

## Walk It:

If you are a Precinct Committeeman (PC) or a grassroots worker (or are ready to become either one) you can help motivate the voters in your precinct to get to the polls, and be informed, on November 2. *How?* Go for a walk! You might want to walk with your PC in your neighborhood, or even help a neighboring precinct. You will find our Training Materials Packet a valuable tool to get you off and walking. Call Diane at 847.735.8505 for the packet.

Once you identify your PC, offer to take a block or work the whole precinct together. If your precinct is vacant, fill the role yourself. Precinct maps are available from the County Clerks' Offices (Sidebar). Here are the basics to walking:

- Dress comfortably (especially your shoes!) and bring a bottle of water. A hat is practical and a great place to put your political buttons (many styles are available from Tenth Dems at ddpbuttons@aol.com).
- Fill a bag with any campaign literature you want to distribute. See sidebar on how to get literature.
- Bring a clipboard. Your Precinct Committeeman or Tenth Dems can get you your voter list. Use the list to coordinate which houses should be or have been approached, any requests or questions you may be asked, if your neighbor wants a candidate's sign, needs a ride to the polls, absentee ballot, etc. You can gather all these requests and promise to get back to your neighbor. They will be so impressed when you do!
- Ring the doorbell and step back. Try not to crowd the door when the homeowner answers it. Be polite. Be prepared to say your *schpiel* in a few seconds and pause for reaction. A sample script is on the sidebar. Take it from there. (Tip: try to relate to the homeowner on a personal level if possible, i.e. "I love your landscaping!" or "I have a dog as well.")
- If the homeowner wants to debate, be polite and move on. The idea is to build relationships where you can, don't waste time where you can't, and encourage Democrats to vote.
- The deadline for Voter Registration is October 5th, but you can encourage voters to register for the next election at their local library or on-line.

## Drop It:

- If no one is at home, leave literature inside the screen door or in a newspaper receptacle, but not in or on the mailbox. (That's illegal.) Be careful to keep literature from blowing away. We don't want to be accused of littering!

## Phone It:

- If you can't walk it, phone it. It's always best to see your neighbors face to face, but calling at an appropriate time can also be effective. We have a sample script in our Training Materials Packet. The main thing is to be polite, identify yourself as a neighbor ("I live in the ranch house on the corner" ) and encourage your neighbor to vote Democratic. Offer candidate literature or our web site (tenthdems.org has almost everything they need).
- Be sure to keep track of your calls and coordinate with your PC so your neighbors aren't getting too many calls.
- Follow through. Pass information and questions on to the PC or to Tenth Dems. If they ask for literature, drop it off in a timely manner. If they give their e-mail or volunteer to help, please get that information back to us quickly.

## Mail It:

- Too tired to walk and too shy to call? Mail it. This will cost you a few stamps, but you can still get the message out. We supply sample postcards in our Training Materials Packet that take 23 cent stamps. Or mail literature packets and target Democrats in your precinct, but beware, those envelopes can cost a lot to mail and you might enjoy meeting your neighbors face to face for a lot less money.

The most important part of our "walk it, drop it, phone it, mail it" chant, is DO IT! There are a few weeks left of beautiful weather, so get out there and meet your neighbors. It will renew your faith in your fellow man, get your blood flowing, drop unwanted pounds, build muscles, introduce you to new friends, and will make the difference in the most important election of your lifetime!

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*More than half of all Americans are pro-choice, want stronger environmental laws, are appalled that assault weapons are back on the street — and 54% now believe the war is wrong. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO CONVINCE THEM OF ANY OF THIS — YOU JUST HAVE TO GIVE THEM A RAY OF HOPE AND A RIDE TO THE POLLS. CAN YOU DO THAT? WILL YOU DO THAT?*

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*- Michael Moore*

# Obama *continued from page 2*

In a 20-minute speech in which he never mentioned his opponent by name, Obama briefly ran through some of his legislative accomplishments before spending the bulk of his time promoting the big themes of his candidacy: affordable health care, a good education available to all, good jobs that pay decent wages, responsible stewardship of our environment, plus his usual criticism of the current U.S. policy in Iraq.

Critical of Bush's international policies, Obama said Bush's disdain for international treaties and his pursuit of war in Iraq has frayed relationships with our allies and shortchanged our domestic needs.

"We haven't spent the money here (for Homeland Security) because we've been spending it on this misbegotten plan in Iraq," he said.

Met with frequent applause, his speech finished with a call for the worker bees in the room to retain a "sense of hope, especially in the midst of negative campaigning."

As Obama stepped off the podium to mingle with the crowd, he was met with adoration, respect and pride, as well as dozens of cameras flashing. With a broad smile, Obama listened to the energized group thronging around him and patiently posed for photos.

Clearly, this man who is the odds on favorite to be our next senator from Illinois not only knows how to talk the talk, but can walk the walk.

# Using Fear *continued from page 1*

the current president (whomever that may be) finish what he began; we want to trust him when he says all is well because the alternative really scares us.

Emotion is the only way to explain some of the poll numbers that don't add up to a consistent, rational voter response.

Fortunately, Kerry has finally made a forceful case about the war in Iraq. In a succinct, to-the-point sentence, Kerry couldn't have been clearer: "We have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure." Even the New York Times editorial page led with a sigh-of-relief message the next day, concluding that maybe the real campaign had begun.

Whether the new Kerry charge can turn public opinion remains to be seen—though it would take some kind of rhetorical magic for the president to keep the public's attention distracted from the increasingly bad news—beheadings, bombings, rising U.S. casualties—coming out of Iraq. As the first debate illustrated, Kerry's not going to let up about it.

Still, he has a long way to go. In a New York Times/CBS News poll conducted in mid-September, Bush led Kerry on the candidate's "ability to deal wisely with an international crisis" by almost 20 points, 51 percent to 32 percent. Repeating the message that we are winning the war on terrorism in prime time has had its intended effect.

The only thing that has changed on the ground in Iraq or in the war on terror, which the President and his stalwart supporters have wrapped together in a spider's web of scare tactics – besides more people dying, is the ratcheting up of rhetoric. But how often can the public hear variations of "the world is a better place without Saddam Hussein" without asking for more details?

Why don't we see through this?

It's the war thing. As veteran war correspondent Chris Hedges writes in his book, "War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning," war preempts other issues. "War makes the world understandable, a black and white tableau of them and us. It suspends thought, especially self-critical thought," he writes. Hedges reminds us that in George Orwell's "1984," a totalitarian regime used constant war to distract the repressed masses. Of course, Orwell's reference was the former Soviet Union.

We need to change the subject once again. We need to point out that preemptive war is a dangerous and destabilizing foreign policy that doesn't work and, more practically speaking, we cannot afford to pursue.

John Kerry is beginning to talk about this, but so must we. Unfortunately, we can't just take it all back. Whoever becomes our next president and the one after that, as well, must work to ensure a stable Iraq that can withstand pressure from Islamic extremists who will be looking to squeeze into power if chaos overtakes order. Remember Afghanistan and its years under Soviet occupiers.

We cannot afford any more preemptive wars; we cannot take another year of George W. Bush. We who understand the stakes must spread the word and send a powerful message on November 2.

## Plant a Sign!

Contact **Ross Nickow** at **847.751.3371** for candidate signs. He will be gathering signs from as many candidates as he can but will need some help in the coming weeks. Volunteers needed to distribute.



### HELP WANTED:

- Walkers
- Phone bankers
- Sign deliverers
- Office help

To Volunteer Call  
**847.266.VOTE (8683)**

