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Kerry Says “Thanks” To Illinois

by Diane Simpson-Bundy

“I’ve been a terrible godfather,” “Uncle Johnny” told Hollister Bundy after I announced proudly how my husband – his godson – and many other Illinois residents made frequent pilgrimages across state borders to help “deliver” Wisconsin and other battleground states in the 2004 presidential election.

Then Sen. John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) rubbed Hollister’s head, grabbed his former Yale roommate’s son by the shoulders, and sandwiched me between them. He was sharing a moment to reflect personally, as he tries to do when he gets the chance, on not being able to reach out and thank everyone enough for all they tried to do to thwart the dramatic shift to the right that this country has taken.

Will he or won’t he run in 2008? That was the question on the minds of the movers and the shakers among the Illinois and Chicago-area elite during the dinner party hosted by the senator on May 3 at the Casino Club in Chicago.

But this was neither a night for a fundraiser nor a night to rally political support.

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John and Teresa Heinz Kerry



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Tenth News

JUNE 2005 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 2, Edition 6



Dr. Richard Keller was recently visible in the national media due to the tragic murders of two young girls.

New Lake County Coroner Teaching Kids to Protect Their Lives

by Jane Goldenberg

Lake County Coroner for six months, Dr. Richard Keller is emphasizing public education to teach kids to protect their health and avoid for as long as possible an encounter with the coroner’s office, one of the busiest in the state after Cook County.

“We’re doing programs to convince people that some of the things they’re doing can lead to their deaths. I’ve been doing pre-prom events, where we get the (juniors and seniors) out and talk to them and demonstrate the dangers of driving drunk... We’ll have done eight or nine of them,” Keller said, who has also done many career days at schools.

“I use those as a soapbox to get into the evils of drugs and alcohol... all the way down to first graders,” he said. “I’ve done a program on violence and violence prevention (among kids and gangs) at a high school, the first time a coroner’s done that... I did a program on sexual assault. It was a trial run with La Casa, a sexual assault advocacy group.”

and have improved our capabilities in that regard over the past month or so,” he said, estimating they’ve been able to save about a third of their laboratory budget doing toxicology testing in-house rather than sending it to an outside lab.

Keller is also working to consolidate all drug-testing for the county in his office. “We’re the only office that has a toxicology lab in-house, other than Cook. We’ve been upgrading and updating that

“We test for poisons, drugs, both prescription and recreational. We also test for carbon monoxide in fire victims,” he said.

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If You Voted for Kerry, How Could You Vote for Kirk?

by John Hmurovic

Some people believe Congressman Mark Kirk is a moderate Republican, not at all a part of the right-wing conservative group that controls the White House and Congress. There must be a lot of those people in the 10th District, because while 53 percent of us voted for Democrat John Kerry in 2004, 64 percent voted for Republican Kirk.

To those of you who voted for Kirk and Kerry, do you really know what Kirk stands for? If you do, how can you believe in what John Kerry stood for and still vote for Mark Kirk?

Kirk recently voted with the Republican majority to end the estate tax. Many agreed that the tax needed to be reformed, and Democrats offered a compromise. The Democratic proposal would have exempted 99.7 percent of Americans from paying the tax. That wasn't good enough for Kirk. He wanted the wealthiest 0.3 percent to pass on their wealth tax-free to their children.

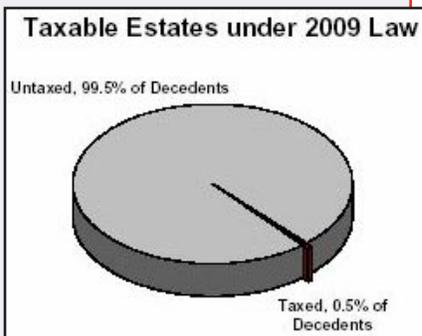
To protect the inheritances of the Paris Hiltons, who did nothing to earn their wealth except be born into it, Kirk added \$290 billion to the budget deficit by going along with other Republicans to end the estate tax. That was a few days after Kirk and the Republicans voted to cut off food stamp payments to 300,000 poor families, Medicaid funding to seven million poor elderly people in nursing homes, and day care funds for 300,000 poor children, because there wasn't enough money to pay for it. Most of these people did nothing to deserve their poverty, except be born into it. Kirk voted against them, and for the Paris Hiltons. Is that how you would have voted?

Kirk's vote on the estate tax was not a strange break from his usual pattern. Look at his vote on the Republican plan to make it harder for the poor to file for bankruptcy. Credit card giant MBNA spends \$5 million a year on lobbying Congress, not to mention what it contributes to individual candidates. And it was just one of many credit card, banking, and other corporate interests that lobbied for passage of this bill.

Filing for bankruptcy allows people to get a fresh start. Most people who fall into bankruptcy are not gamblers who lost everything in a wild night in a casino. They are single mothers in low-paying jobs, ordinary Americans who suddenly became ill and lost everything to medical bills. The bankruptcy bill makes it difficult for them to get a fresh start. Mark Kirk voted against these people, and in favor of the credit card companies. Is that how you wanted Kirk to vote?

Congressman Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts) said that "for most of the 20th century... (Americans) looked out for each other. We provided food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, assistance to the unemployed, and health care to the sick. But the Republican leadership wants to turn that system upside down. They believe the wealthy should be exempt from paying taxes and the poor should fend for themselves."

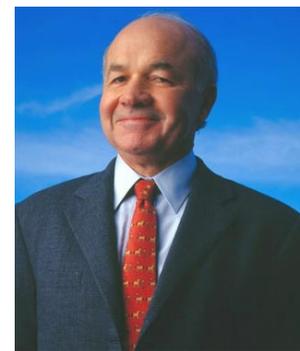
This is the kind of government Mark Kirk votes for. Is it what you believe in?



Enron Movie Sparks Discussion

by Ellen Gill

Enron CEO Jeff Skilling ducked questions from Fortune reporter, Bethany McLean. Enron traders smirked at their handiwork in the California energy crisis, yelling "burn baby burn" at television news reports of California wildfires. Enron supporter, Arnold Schwarzenegger, manipulated the situation to become governor of California. These were scenes from the documentary *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, the



ENRON: The Smartest Guys in the Room, now playing at Renaissance Theatre, Highland Park



Lauren Beth Gash displays some of the newest buttons available from Tenth Dems. To purchase buttons contact us at DDPButtons@aol.com.

feature presentation at Tenth Dems movie night in Highland Park on May 1st. After the viewing, Tenth Dems members and supporters moved to a restaurant across the street for a discussion.

Tenth Dems Administrative Committee member, Ross Nickow, led the discussion, pointing out that while most view the Enron story as one of numbers manipulation,

writer/director Alex Gibney made the documentary a human story. Gibney believes that Enron executives did not set out to create a fraudulent scheme, but lost their way amid greed, arrogance and fear. Many in our viewing group commented on the obscene greed of Enron executives and traders, and the insidious relationships between Enron executives, the energy industry, Schwarzenegger, Cheney and Bush, and expressed shock in how Enron executives were able to get away with the harm they caused to California and the rest of the country for so long.

Remarkable to the audience was the willingness of others, such as Enron's accountants, lawyers, and business partners to go along

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Ross Nickow leads the discussion at Michael's in Highland Park, after the movie.

Air America Radio Returns to Chicago

by Sheldon Drobny



Anyone who read my book, *Road To Air America*, or saw the HBO special, *Left of the Dial*, knows the struggle we had to get Air America Radio started. After we sold the network in November, 2003, Anita and I had to come back and help save it in May of 2004.

The network premiered on March 31, 2004 in the top three radio markets of LA, NYC, and Chicago. A few weeks later, financial difficulties caused by previous management took us off the air in Chicago and LA. We finally got back on the air in Chicago on 850 AM on May 5, 2005 after many months of trying to find a station here. We now have 55 affiliates and are on every major radio market. This is quite an accomplishment for a fledgling network which was predicted to fail because of the accepted paradigm that there was no liberal radio audience or that liberals were too boring and nuanced to be entertaining. This was a fiction created not only by the Right, but also by the mainstream media.

It is most gratifying to now have us on the air in my home city. I have had dozens of inquiries in the last year about when we will be back in Chicago. I used to respond to these inquiries by telling people "I don't know" or, "buy an XM Satellite receiver." I am very glad that I will not have to deal with that any more. So I hope all of you will listen and enjoy Air America Radio in Chicago. Perhaps in the near future, we will be able to get on a 24-hour radio station with a stronger signal, but the important thing is that Air America Radio is on the air in Chicago. Enjoy it!

Shelly Drobny is a 10th District resident, living in Highland Park.

The Air America Radio Day

by Neesa Sweet

Sometime around November of last year, in the days leading up to the election, I realized I never left my computer. That's because Air America, the liberal talk radio network, streamed through my computer speakers instead of over the airwaves--and there was information there that I just wasn't getting anywhere else. I eventually put XM in the car, but I'm thrilled that Air America, or most of it, is back on the air in Chicago on WCPT AM 850. So here are a few thoughts from an Air America addict on the various shows:

Morning Sediton, Sunrise-8AM : **Marc Maron** is a comic, writer, cultural critic and late-night TV presence, whose one man show, "The Jerusalem Syndrome," ran off-Broadway and became a book. Mark Riley is a veteran New York radio personality known for details and wit.



Together they talk politics and interview authors, musicians, comedians directors, actors and others about current happenings with a liberal bent.



The Jerry Springer Show, 8:00 AM-11:00 AM: Springer returns to his serious political roots with an informed and intelligent show which will surprise anyone who's seen him on TV in recent years. His show actually supplanted the original Air America morning programming. He usually has a particular topic-a commission report or news item-and carries on knowledgeable conversations with callers.

The Al Franken Show, 11 AM-2 PM: Al and co-host Katherine Lanpher mix fact and comedy, commentary and interviews. They've developed silly bits like the "Oy, oy, oy Show," and their banter is amusing, yet the main reason to listen is three hours grounded in solid information about politics and public policy. They interview bloggers, authors, politicians and even a celebrity or two. Katherine, a former star of Minnesota Public Radio, keeps Al on track.



Ed Schultz, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM: Ed is a popular liberal host from Minnesota who is not a part of Air America but who shares the same liberal point of view and whose show is growing nationally. When you listen, you feel like you're hearing a progressive Rush Limbaugh.

Randi Rhodes, 5:00 PM-Sunset: A liberal talk pioneer, Randi's show in south Florida earned loyalty and ratings. She presents complicated ideas simply, as she shares her daily trials. Whether discussing Abu Ghraib, John Bolton or distinctions between traditional conservatives and neo-cons, she has an ability to connect policy and everyday life. She frequently references her own experience in the Air Force which adds credibility. She was voted Most Outstanding Woman in the Air Force in 1979 and has won the American Women in Radio and Television award for Best Entertainment Programming.



WCPT will air several other shows on the weekend hosted by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Mike Papantonio, former WLS radio host Mike Malloy, political activist David Bender, singer-songwriter, and Grammy Award-winner, Steve Earle and The Lionel Show. WCPT will also have top-of-the-hour newscasts as well as local traffic and weather reports during the morning and afternoon drive times.



ENRON *Continued from page 2*

with the scheme. If you operated a generator in California during the energy crisis, would you shut down the works based on a phone request from an Enron trader? Why so many did is unimaginable. The results even reached Illinois in the form of exorbitant natural gas prices.

One of the discussion participants pointed out that Enron was a product of the Reagan Administration, which ended regulation of the energy industry. Reagan enthusiasts represented "big government" as bad, but good government can protect people. Tenth Dems member, George Rosenblit, pointed out that the energy policy that fed Enron also damaged environmental programs to the delight of Bush campaign contributors.

All of this sparked grassroots energy among the group and many asked how they could become involved in efforts to elect more Democrats. The Tenth Dems reminded their guests that future Enrons can be prevented if we work together to educate our neighbors on the issues and ask them to care and become involved in our community.

Barbara Vahlkamp reads last month's issue of Tenth News prior to the start of the discussion at the Tenth Dems movie night.

Regarding the Draft

by Ron Weiner

You're not going to like this, but I am in favor of a military draft!

I know. Serious consideration of the "D" word is apt to cause a surge in the pulse and raise hackles of anyone who values peace, any parent, any anti-war activist, anyone who believes we were frightened, lied to, or manipulated (and I consider myself to be in all of these categories) into this unforgivable and unnecessary war.

In so doing, it has stretched our armed forces to the point where they are tired, drained and depleted, in both a combat-ready as well as in a moral sense. This bumptious Band of Bushies has placed our forces in what our military leaders consider to be a state of overall un-readiness should we be forced to deal with a major emergency at home (where, from its establishment, the National Guard was meant to be used) or abroad if the national defense so warrants.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a retired Naval Reserve Officer with 33 years of combined active and inactive service, so I have some understanding of the potential dangers in military duty; I am the father of four and a grandfather, and I am fully aware of the danger of placing more human resources in the hands of this administration. But to paraphrase a popular quote from bumper stickers, "War Happens." So it is imperative that the United States remains strong and ready to face whatever may come at whatever time. I believe the best way to accomplish that is to bring back some form of Universal Military Training (UMT).

The long sought-after dream of professional military leaders has been the All-Volunteer Force, and when they began to talk that up a few decades back, interest in UMT faded as they built what they thought was a pretty good one. But it just hasn't worked.

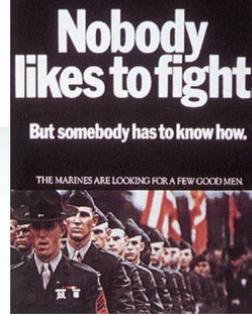
The resources for this effort turned out, mostly, to be young men and women who couldn't find jobs, or who dropped out of high school, or who chose not to attend college, or couldn't afford to, or felt that the service would provide an education and a job, or who responded to the jingoistic blandishments of our political and military leadership. In our society, that turned out, mostly, to be non-white and poor, or from families that didn't consider an education a priority.

So they went into the military, or joined the National Guard, where they could keep their jobs while serving on weekends to earn a few extra dollars. Check the casualty lists and whaddya find? It consists, mostly, of non-white, poor young men and women from families where an education wasn't a priority.

Unfortunate and unfair but nonetheless true; and in a way, yet another regressive tax, this time in human lives, on middle-class and impoverished Americans.

This must change; and so I strongly feel that there are good reasons for a limited draft.

First, it would make available a pool of men and women trained in their military specialties to provide America with personnel resources after they return to civilian life, or even, perhaps, interest many of them in undertaking the military as a profession, which has always been an honorable and necessary one.



Second, young people who have experienced military service would resume their civilian lives as more mature individuals and voters, more knowledgeable about military service, and thus more critical of the situations and manner in which it is utilized.

Third, and most important of all, if administered fairly, it will cut

across socio-economic and ethnic lines, forcing educated middle- and upper-class parents to look with more than casual interest into the day-to-day happenings of a peace-time armed force, and in so doing become more active in their oversight of the armed services.

Having said all that, this is my format for a fair, but limited, draft:

- Physically acceptable candidates between the ages of 18 to 25 would be inducted into Armed Forces active duty reserve units for a period of one year, establishing an active duty reserve force of whatever numbers the Department of Defense determined its services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard

and National Guard) may require, subject to congressional oversight.

- Inductees would be released with the requirement that they serve as inactive duty reservists for an additional two years, serving one weekend per month plus one two week period every year, similar to that of today's inactive duty "weekend warrior" reservists, while pursuing their careers or professions.
- Reservists could then be honorably discharged or would have the option to remain on inactive duty status for as long as they desired while being paid according to active duty pay scales, just as are our current "weekend warriors."
- They could choose to serve either before or after their college years with deferments for graduate school if admitted.
- Exemptions from military service for appropriate reasons, including conscientious objection, would depend on the decisions of local selective service boards made up of civil servants and career military professionals or higher authority, and/or upon agreements to perform approved alternative public service duties in careers in medicine, police work, fire fighting, forestry, etc.
- Inductees could select any branch of service, provided force-level quotas for each are not filled.
- They would be offered the opportunity, if qualified by testing, to extend their time in service to enable them to attend officer training schools.

That's my program for a fair and equitable military draft, and for establishing and maintaining acceptable levels of personnel while ensuring a safe level of national security. I am sure many will disagree, just as some might have better ideas for maintaining our security.

What do you think? After considering all that I've written above in defense of the unthinkable "D" word, is it at all safe for me to appear in public? Or, if apprehended, would you prefer to have me pilloried?

A Different Opinion On The Draft

by Ben Strubl

Mr. Weiner makes several important points and offers intelligent insights in his support of the draft, but does not place enough emphasis on the possible negative effects of his proposal. While his proposal is reasonable enough, and would probably be supported by veteran Congressman Charles Rangel (D-New York), the consequences of enacting a draft would far outweigh any benefits that could be gained.

It's true that George Bush "has stretched and weakened our armed forces to the point where they are tired out, drained and depleted" in his Iraq excursion. It is also true that America is in "a state of overall un-readiness should we be forced to deal with a major emergency at home...or abroad" as a result of Bush's misuse of America's soldiers. The solution, however, is NOT to give the man more soldiers.

George Bush has many enemies and oilfields left to conquer in the world. He also possesses an unwillingness to compromise. He has already framed arguments for attacking Syria, Iran and North Korea, and many of these are more compelling than the evidence he had to invade Iraq. What, then, could hold him back from his binge of world domination? Soldiers! He has congressional support and has already been re-elected. A lack of manpower is all that's holding him back.

To say that George Bush, if given more

soldiers, would use them responsibly, is naïve. Rather, he would finally have the means to continue his global "crusade" to rid the world of evil. A draft would not solve our problem—it would add fuel to the fire.

It's true that the lack of soldiers leaves America in a difficult situation, but perhaps it is one we can learn from. To bail out Bush with new soldiers, however, would allow his doctrine justification in the long run. Imagine the analogy of a neighborhood bully, cornered in the alley with a gang of vengeful kids approaching. The bully's actions have left him

vulnerable to a pummeling, and that's not a bad thing. Perhaps he'll think first next time before beating up other kids, and he'll live through the experience. The alternative—to give the bully a pistol—will certainly keep the bully safe, but will wreak havoc on the neighborhood.

There's a simpler solution to the problem posed by having soldiers mired in Iraq...remove them from Iraq. This suggestion is usually met with "the Pottery Barn" argument (we broke it, we've got to fix it), or "we'll destabilize the region by withdrawing from Iraq." Perhaps we should spend a little more time shoring up the new government, but if we're still there in a year we should just get out. Every day we stay there more lives are lost, and the chances of ending the insurgency grow dimmer. More soldiers will not solve the problem.

Ben is a senior at New Trier High School.



Help Wanted: Skilled Diplomat/Ambassador

by George Rosenblit

Sixty years ago, on April 26, 1945, the United Nations Charter was signed by representatives of 50 nations in San Francisco. Poland signed it later, becoming the 51st of the original Member States.

In January, 1946, the General Assembly adopted its first resolution, the main focus of which was peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction, with the objective of maintaining world peace and security. The debate in the Senate on the appointment of John Bolton as U.S. Ambassador to the UN is deeply involved with his ability, or lack thereof, to effectively deal with the objectives of this resolution.

Today, there are several serious non-proliferation problems. We must keep fissionable material out of the hands of terrorists. Bolton was responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of 134 tons of Russia's plutonium. Yet, because of his uncompromising stance, there has been no progress. Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois) raised the question, "Is he the right man to act effectively with North Korea and Iran?"

Recently, the U.S. was not properly prepared for an important non-proliferation meeting because Bolton did not do his homework. He was too busy promoting himself for his potential promotion. He is also alleged to have withheld or modified intelligence reports.

He will have to manage a staff of 150 people at the UN. Testimony has alleged that he is arrogant, loses his temper easily, screams at employees, and harasses them when they disagree with him. To characterize him kindly, he is not a good listener, nor a good

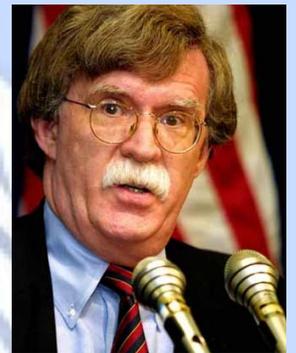
manager, and not a good negotiator. Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) said that Bolton would have been fired in a major corporation.

Both Senators Voinovich and Joseph Biden (D-Delaware) were told by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that Bolton would be "closely supervised." Biden asked, "Why send an Ambassador to the UN that needs to be supervised?"

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell did not sign a letter endorsing Bolton. Powell had his Chief of Staff keep an eye on Bolton because he appeared to be "a loose cannon!"

In this democracy of ours we televise hearings which the whole world can view. Much of the testimony has cast Bolton in a bad light, which will no doubt undermine the confidence of UN members toward him. The full Senate should consider the nomination objectively and not vote along party lines. There is too much at stake. From where I sit (watching the hearings on TV as so many millions of others), Bolton is the wrong man to represent the United States at the UN.

It's most likely too late for Bolton to learn that you can gain more cooperation, respect, loyalty and productivity with a little honey, than with a hammer.



John Bolton

Connect the Dots

by James Rosen

When I was a kid, I loved the "connect-the-dots" books. Take a pencil, draw a continuous line and see what picture emerges. So, take some recent news stories, connect the dots and see what emerges.

In Kansas, the State Board of Education is likely to allow "Intelligent Design" (a.k.a. creationism) to be taught in high school. They will also no doubt re-define the very definition of science from the fact-based method of "seeking natural explanations for what we observe around us," to a more faith-based definition of using, among other things, "logical argument and theory building to lead to more adequate explanations of natural phenomena." Facts and data become faith and magic. Additional proposals include teaching history students that slavery was just a management-labor dispute, teaching home economic students that the body of Christ might be in wafers, and teaching sex education students that while abstinence may lead to an immaculate conception, real sex is icky.

In Alabama, state Representative Gerald Allen introduced a bill to ban any book or play by gay authors, or about gay characters. Obviously, Alabama has solved all the crime, health and education issues to have the time to rid their libraries of Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, Gore Vidal, "The Color Purple," "The Maltese Falcon," and some Shakespeare. Half the library books would be banned. Of the bill, Rep. Allen said, "I don't look at it as censorship." While some call it wholesale book burning, it would cut down on reading homework for the innocent waifs who make up the student body.

In Texas, the House of Representatives approved a bill restricting "overtly sexually suggestive" cheerleading. An amendment to the bill to require cheerleaders to wear burqas during routines was narrowly defeated.

The Pentagon has recently recommended the closure of 33 major domestic U.S. military bases and the realignment of 29 more, guaranteed to be a severe economic blow to many communities in the United States. Over the next 20 years the Pentagon estimates a savings of \$50 billion. Too bad we can't afford those bases. We could have if we hadn't sent \$200 billion, and still counting, to Iraq. Why don't we just send our taxes directly to Halliburton instead of the IRS and save some time? I can't say for sure, but I'll bet there were more than a few votes for President Bush in 2004 among those small business owners. Talk about voting against your own economic interests. Vote Bush who sends billions down the Iraq rat hole who then closes U.S. military bases because we can't afford them. Nice symmetry.

The ripple effect of these closings will devastate small business owners near those bases. Restaurants, dry cleaners, grocery stores, to name a few, will be hard hit. Some may even go bankrupt. But unless their name is United Airlines they may be in for a tough time.

Connect the Dots to See Where Tolerance in America is Going

Intelligent Design 1
Ban Gay Authors 2
Suggestive Cheerleading Ban 3
Budget Cuts 4
Bankruptcy Changes 5



Ah, the joys of being a deadbeat corporation. After losing \$5.8 billion dollars since it entered bankruptcy in December 2002, United Airlines has been given permission to walk away from its pension obligations covering 120,000 active and retired employees. Nice going, boys. Despite all that free money after 9/11, and millions paid to United executives for "retention" bonuses, you made less money in the last two and a half years than my nephew's once a year lemonade stand. Good thing the corporate bankruptcy rules are so accommodating as to let United default on its obligations to creditors. And when some of those United employees themselves file for bankruptcy - a statistical certainty - the new personal bankruptcy laws won't allow them to do the same thing. We should bronze the two laws and make them bookends. Beat the rush and send your thank you cards now, while you still can afford it, to the Republicans for that brave bit of lawmaking. Libraries have already moved the book Animal Farm - "All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others especially if you are a big corporation" - to the non-fiction section.

A five-dot puzzle isn't really a picture but the list of "dots" goes on and on. What the Republican Party has become is a home for the religious right and those who value corporate lobbyists over hard-working people. "Freedom is on the march," we are told by President Bush. But while we claim to be against religious Ayatollahs and Mullahs overseas, Christian Mullahs and \$750-an-hour lobbyists are on the march here in America. Keep reading the news. Keep connecting the dots and just maybe people will figure out the picture emerging before the next election. We can only hope. Fasten your seat belts, it's going to be a bumpy ride.



Tenth Dems Lunch with Jan and Jane

Dozens of Tenth Dems members lunched with Jane Fonda and Jan Schakowsky at The Women's Power Luncheon on April 22 at the Chicago Hilton. About 1,500 powerful women and men gathered to hear Jane Fonda discuss her extraordinary life, the role of women and being an activist. Barack Obama was also a speaker at the annual event hosted by Congresswoman Schakowsky.

l to r: Jan Schakowsky, Lauren Beth Gash, Sharon Narrod, Jane Fonda, Glenn Stier, Bev Hmurovic, and Carol Jones.

Tenth Dems Meet the Governor

Governor Rod Blagojevich was the guest of honor at an event hosted by Anne and Marcus Wedner in their Winnetka home May 16. Besides Anne, the Tenth Dems steering committee was represented by Karyn Davidman, Carol Jones, Ross and Marcia Nickow, George Rosenblit, Glenn Stier and Jack Strom. The Governor discussed his commitment to fund educational opportunities and job growth despite budget deficits and challenges faced by our state. Many were impressed with his candor regarding "issues" with father-in-law Richard Mell.



l to r; David Stricklin, Anne Wedner, Kerry Peck and Gov. Blagojevich.

Below, Glenn Stier and Jack Strom, co-chairs of the Tenth Dems website committee, discuss our site, www.tenthdems.org with the Governor.



Kerry *continued from page 1*



Sen. Kerry and Sen. Obama

as attorney Bill Singer.

Sen. Barack Obama (D-Illinois) arrived later – apologetically – and “worked the room.” He shook hands or talked with every person sitting at the five tables of five.

Kerry took the microphone and stood in front of the burning fireplace in the dining room after speeches from Senators Obama and Durbin, and Teresa Heinz Kerry.

The senator from Massachusetts addressed those disappointed individuals who still question the results of last year.

“There are things we’d all do differently,” Kerry said. “It’s not that the Democrats aren’t doing the right thing.”

We could never have predicted how certain things turned out until we were in the middle of the campaign, he said. Karl Rove had six years – two years with Al Gore then four after that – to get ready.

He thanked supporters and demonstrated sincere admiration for our Illinois senators, citing the “unlimited possibilities” for the junior senator and how he considered Durbin seriously as his “No. 2” running mate.

In addition, he talked about how traveling the nation’s countryside affected him in ways he could not have predicted. He recalled the time

The 2004 Democratic presidential nominee was there simply to say thanks to those who “went the extra mile” for him – politically, financially or as a friend when he needed one.

Kerry arrived early into the cocktail hour with a few staff members and commanded the attention of attendees that included Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), former U.S. Commerce Secretary Bill Daley, and Deege and David Wilhelm. He looked fresh, confident and engaged as he shook hands with his national finance chairman, Louis Susman, and his wife, Margorie, and others such

he traveled by train near the Arizona/New Mexico border: “I stood out on the end of that train,” he said motioning with his hand and gazing far off to the corners of the dining room to simulate the distance. He evoked a descriptive, patriotic picture of how a man stood all alone at an intersection in a remote corner near Four Corners carrying an American flag, “not knowing when the train would go by.”

“People found a place with us. A place to hope.

“It’s like the taxi drivers outside when I walked over here, and I was coming down the street. They rolled down the window and gave me a ‘thumbs up.’ One guy actually backed up.”

Eyes glassed over, and it was obvious many people wanted to cry. But the tall, positive, articulate, debonair senator would have none of that. Too much to do, so little time.

“I’m energized. The focus is 2006. We need to take the challenges we learned about and put them to work.”

Some of that work includes trying to make a dent in the federal deficit and putting “Kids First” for health care as opposed to providing only for the rich, the powerful and for our congressional leaders.

“People in America live by the ‘pyramid’ – they look to the top for “real leadership – [but] there are people who sense that something is not right in America.

“I’m compelled to keep fighting. The [plan] needs to be spelled out clearly with a clear message. [Then] we need to connect the dots.”

Where to begin? Ensure the elections in 2006 return more Democrats to Congress, he urged.

“We need to start where I’ve been before ... with grassroots.”

In the end, he finished with that confident, athletic charisma of victory and that understated charm as he lowered his head, flashed that dashing smile and blushed that impishly boyish sideways grin despite his 61 years to cheer up those teary eyes of supporters, who had somehow been both convinced and reinvigorated in just a couple of hours at a dinner party.

But before he departed, he gave us perhaps just an inkling of more to come during that moment that I stood sandwiched between my husband and the senator: “Be with your family – for now,” Kerry suggested.

And just as he did during his concession speech during that weary day on November 3, 2004, John Kerry showed us a little more of himself when he opened up – ditched the talking points – and lifted us with all his heart.

Dear Editor:

The newsletter is an excellent communication tool. My only comment is that everyone, I repeat, every family in the 10th Cong. District should be on the mailing list. I know that is expensive, but this newsletter is the only place we can read about Mark Kirk and his "hidden" positions on everything from Terry S. to Social Security. It's important for all 10th Democrats to band together and get behind a candidate who will defeat Mark Kirk in 2006. I believe the newsletter is the common denominator for getting the word out. The local newspapers don't cover the political issues and we certainly aren't going to hear about it in the regular press.

When you receive those four color glitzy newsletters from the area hospitals, it is because they are "selling" their services. Color gets more attention than black and white. You too are "selling" something—the truth about one of our most important issues of this century: Social Security. Get the word out—in color—and to everyone in our congressional district. The message needs to be heard over and over. The Republican party is pretending it speaks for all Americans, and it does not. At least not in the Tenth Cong. District. Keep up the good work.

Good luck.

A fellow Democrat

Editor: We would love to get the newsletter out to more people, and are working on it. The issue, of course, is money. Readers can help us spread the word by contributing to Tenth Dems, and/or becoming a Tenth Dems member. For more information, go to our website at www.tenthdems.org.

Tenth News welcomes letters. Send your thoughts to comments@tenthdems.org.

Keller continued from page 1

Keller is also planning to bring the urine-testing program from the jail over to the coroner's office. "It'll improve the quality of the testing, decrease the costs for the county and bring it into one place that's controllable."

The main work of the coroner remains examining every death in the county. They're categorized into three levels. Most are returned to the patient's doctor, who signs the death certificate, after very little investigation. About a third of the cases get to the inquiry level, which require more investigation up to, and sometimes including, autopsy. And about five percent of cases are determined to be unnatural, due to accidents, homicides, suicides or some other cause. These take extensive investigation.

"We have an inquest, which we do twice a month, and we have a trial. We bring the evidence, essentially a report of our investigation, and then if police or fire are involved we bring them in to testify, as well, before a jury of six," Keller said. The jury comes to a verdict on the cause and manner of death.

Most inquests are routine, he noted, but since the popularity of CSI on TV, the juries have tended to pose more questions about the chain of evidence. The county averages only about ten murders a year.

Wise Words



"Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1952



Recently elected Moraine Township Trustees Jeff Zaluda, Margoth Moreno, Cynthia Plouché and Bryna Gamson are sworn in by Cook County Circuit Court Associate Judge Earl Hoffenberg on Monday, May 16th at the Moraine Township offices in Highland Park. Township Supervisor Mari Barnes, Lake County Board Member Anne Bassi and Township Clerk Ellen Gussin look on. Barnes and Gussin, also sworn in, had joined the trustees as part of the first Democratic slate to run in Moraine Township. Democrats surprised pundits by winning 6 of 7 positions in the April 5 election.

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