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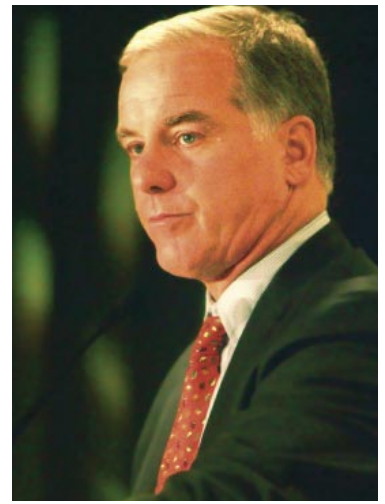
Dean By The Numbers

by Ellen Gill

While Republicans attempt to divert America's attention from the issues into a sparring match between personalities, the real story is in the numbers. The death toll in Iraq steadily increases. The American military death toll at this writing is at 1724, not including corporate mercenary losses of American civilians which our government refuses to report. The cost of the Iraq War is such an upward moving target, that I can barely type it into this article before it goes up. It is hovering around \$179-billion. Gas prices are increasing too, the cost of a barrel hitting \$60 this month. Greenhouse gases in our environment are also increasing, as the Senate rejected a proposal to cap them at 2000 levels within five years. The number of British Government Briefing Papers stating that the Bush Administration created intelligence to agree with its pre-concocted conclusion to invade Iraq, increased to six.

Despite the numbers, the Republicans and the press would rather discuss whether or not Dick Cheney likes Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean's mother and demanding Dean apologize for making strong arguments against Republicans. Dean won't apologize and doesn't care if Cheney likes his mother, and why should he? He has real work to do on some numbers of his own, numbers that are favorable for Democrats and for himself.

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Tenth News

JULY 2005 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 2, Edition 7

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Potential Candidates Considering 10th District Race For Congress

by John Hmurovic

The names of five potential candidates for the 10th District Democratic nomination for Congress have been made public. Other names may emerge as the Tenth Dems Candidate Search Committee continues to interview Democrats who have shown an interest in challenging Republican Mark Kirk in 2006. But for now the potential candidates are: Barry Bradford, Jay Footlik, Clint Krislov, Angelo Kyle and Zane Smith.



Barry Bradford is a teacher at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. He has been in the national news lately thanks to the role he and three of his students played in reopening the Mississippi

Burning case. Bradford encouraged them to produce a documentary on the 1964 killing of three young Civil Rights workers in Mississippi. Their efforts led to the trial this

past month at which Edgar Ray Killen was convicted of those murders. Bradford was recently named National History Day Illinois Teacher of the Year.



Jay Footlik, born and raised on the North Shore, started his political career as a 7-year-old envelope stuffer in Abner Mikva's congressional campaign. Much of his life since then has been devoted to helping

Democrats and to helping America build its partnership with Israel. He was a special assistant to President Clinton, serving as the President's principal liaison to the American Jewish community. He was also a senior advisor to John Kerry in his 2004 race, and earlier had helped Joe Lieberman in his presidential run.



Clint Krislov heads up a nationally-known public interest and class action law firm which has focused on fighting corporate and government wrongdoing over the past 20-plus years. The Wilmette

attorney has successfully protected the pensions of workers and retirees, won court cases involving consumer protection, has taken on government fraud and mismanagement and more. He has been an active Democratic supporter over the years.



Angelo Kyle has been on the Lake County Board since 1990, representing the Waukegan area. But his knowledge and experience go far

Continued on page 8

Mark Kirk Doesn't Get It

by John Hmurovic

"Mark, you don't get it!" . . . Congressman Charles Rangel (D-New York) to Congressman Mark Kirk, at the end of a 2003 debate about the draft on the PBS News Hour with Jim Lehrer.

In a recent article in the Pioneer Press Congressman Mark Kirk defended himself against criticism from State Senator Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest). In a cable TV interview with Jeff Berkowitz, Garrett said, "in the 10th Congressional District we don't have a voice who comes out and listens to us, who says...by the way, here is one of the biggest topics going on in Washington, DC... Social Security...so we can raise our hand and say, Mark, where do you stand? We don't get an answer."

Kirk objected to that. He insisted that he has opened up a dialogue with residents on key issues, and cited as an example the fact that he "just completed a major conference on increasing federal support for suburban police departments and will continue to focus my efforts on this issue and other key issues..."

Mark Kirk doesn't get it.

The conference he referred to does address an important issue, but he missed the point that Garrett, and many others, have made about a major deficiency in his performance as our congressman: He's not interested in discussing controversial topics with us.

The invitation list for the conference Kirk referred to consisted primarily of police department administrators and officers. It was not for the general public, and the discussion was narrowly focused. There was no talk of Social Security or the war in Iraq. He didn't explain why he favors, for the first time in the 300-year history of our U.S. Constitution, a limit on our right to free speech by banning the burning of the American flag. Nor did he explain why he voted to choke off funding for the United Nations, or his continued support for spending and tax policies that are digging us deeper into a deficit hole. He simply got news coverage for his conference and left town.

Congressman Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) has held several town hall meetings in his district this year. They talked about taxes, Social Security, homeland security, federal spending, etc. Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-California) had over 550 people show up to talk about Social Security at one of her town meetings. I randomly picked those two names off the Internet. Other congressmen are going back to their district to talk about controversial topics...but not Mark Kirk.

It's a disturbing pattern. After the invasion of Iraq he didn't hold a public meeting to talk about what was probably the most important issue in his congressional career. Instead, he held one to talk about traffic congestion. In 2000, when he first ran for Congress, Kirk participated in numerous debates with his opponent. In 2004, seeking re-election, he agreed to just one. And while Susan Garrett was willing to be interviewed by Berkowitz on his cable TV show, Mark Kirk was not. He appeared frequently when he first ran for Congress but has avoided it ever since. Why does Mark Kirk not want us to hear about his record?

Look at the recent newsletter he sent to 10th District residents. Did it tell you why he voted to have the government interfere in the Terry Schaivo case? Did it mention his complete backing for the war in Iraq? No. His newsletter addressed matters like high gas prices, a Memorial Day tribute to the Greatest Generation and a photo of President Bush promoting Lieutenant Commander Kirk to Commander in the Navy Reserve. All are nice stories, and some are important issues, but none are controversial.

Meanwhile, approximately 92,000 residents of the 10th District receive Social Security, and we don't know if Congressman Kirk supports the President's plan to privatize it. He still refuses to state his position.

When asked about the reluctance of politicians to address the Social Security issue, Kirk told the Associated Press, "Cowardice is always an option." No one is suggesting that Kirk is a coward for not standing up and discussing the issues with his constituents. But isn't a congressman supposed to represent our views on some issues and at other times explain why his ideas differ from ours? Maybe the problem is some of us would like a congressman who listens to us and who has the courage of his convictions...but Mark Kirk just doesn't get it.



Susan Garrett

BUY BLUE

by Ross Nickow

It takes more than voting to support Democratic candidates and promote progressive ideals, values and practices. Volunteers are needed to canvass neighborhoods, write Letters to the Editor, participate in protest demonstrations and engage in social and political action. There's yet another way to make a difference: Go shopping...but be selective about where you shop and what businesses you patronize. Vote With Your Wallet!

By purchasing goods and services without knowing anything about the political affiliations of companies, consumers may unwittingly contribute to businesses whose owners support values contrary to their own. For example, a devoted Democrat might lunch at California Pizza Kitchen, grab a bag of cat litter at PETSMART, get fitted for a suit at Nordstrom's, pick up some home supplies at Wal-Mart and buy a few CDs at Best Buy before an evening meal at Outback Steakhouse. Big mistake!

According to the Internet site BuyBlue.org, that shopper would have supported businesses whose executives and their spouses gave a total of more than \$2,000,000 to Republican candidates in the 2004 election campaign. Furthermore, Outback Steakhouse spent an additional \$870,000 fighting both a minimum wage increase in Florida and health care benefits for low-wage workers in California.

These days, there is an easy way to identify businesses that support progressive values as well as those that don't. BuyBlue.org enables consumers to keep tabs on companies' political contributions as well as their positions on many social issues. It began from a diary entry on a blog the day after last November's Presidential election debacle, and became a website on December 3rd. In an interview with *Tenth News*, Raven Brooks, BuyBlue.org president and chairman, said he began the website as "motivation to empower consumers that felt like they had their political powers taken away from them." He stressed, "We still have a lot of power to effect change."

Companies listed on the website are given ratings to reflect their level of commitment to progressive values. The most committed are given a solid blue rating, while the most offensive companies are assigned a solid red rating. Shading gets lighter as companies move away from the extremes. Those colors reflect contributions to Democrats or Republicans during the 2003-2004 election cycle, with many companies receiving a white "Apolitical" rating.

Continued on page 3

A sampling of companies supporting Republican



BUY BLUE, Continued from page 2

Brooks said the website will be updated this summer so consumers can find out about companies' records on issues such as environmental standards, labor and human rights, equal employment opportunity, reproductive rights, business ethics and corporate and social responsibility, including cruelty to animals. Followers of the website will be able to use it to develop lists based on their interests, or on issues of primary concern to them.

Dig deeper into this website and you will unearth still more valuable information. The Blog Archive contains more than 100 entries highlighting strengths and weaknesses of many companies. One entry indicates that Costco employees receive among the highest wages and best health care in the retail business, while another decries Hershey's (as in chocolate) for perpetuating child slave labor in Ghana and the Ivory Coast. Wal-Mart shows up with the most abuses across categories. By clicking on specific companies in the Ranked Company Listing, links take you to the Schedule A Itemized Receipts filed with the Federal Election Commission by company executives to verify which candidates received their contributions.

Brooks noted that if everybody who voted for Kerry switched from purchasing \$100 in goods and services from Red companies to giving their business to Blue companies, there would be a \$5 billion dollar shift in favor of Blue companies

Consumers should be aware that where they choose to do their workouts can have political implications. Curves, a faith-based corporation and popular workout spa for women, was founded by Gary Heavin in 1992 after he was released from jail for failing to pay child support. He makes no secret of his anti-abortion views, and contributes heavily to anti-choice groups and sexual abstinence programs. Women who exercise at Curves will have to balance their scales between losing weight and losing reproductive rights. According to BuyBlue.org, Heavin and his wife donated more than \$112,000 to Republican candidates during the 2003-2004 election cycle.

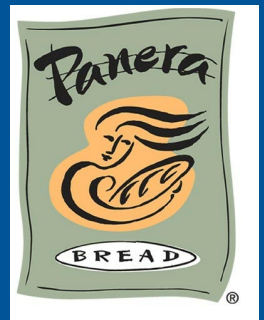
Just donating money to Democratic candidates does not necessarily make a company worthy of support. Starbucks, for instance, has a 100% Blue rating, having donated more than \$39,000 to Democratic candidates last year. Starbucks is also known to provide good employee benefits. But some people may be disturbed when several Starbucks stores suddenly pop up in a neighborhood, putting family-owned or independent coffee shops out of business. Also, many questions have been raised about Starbucks' minimal Fair Trade practices and lack of support for fair wages and sufficient living conditions for coffee farmers and plantation workers. Many Starbucks stores use milk from cows injected with the dangerous recombinant Bovine Growth hormone.

Pressure from consumers, even beyond buying patterns, can make a difference. Verizon, American Airlines and Nissan each donated thousands of dollars to Tom DeLay's defense fund. But a campaign spearheaded by The American Progress Action Fund helped convince them to pledge not to make any subsequent donations. Bacardi and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco have not yet backed down. Recently, Planned Parenthood organized nearly 100 supporters to march in front of a Chicago Osco where a pharmacist had recently refused to dispense emergency contraception to two women.

BuyBlue.org offers consumers ways to shift their spending to promote progressive values and ideals. Possibilities include not only retail buying but also spending on insurance, travel, gasoline and banks. In recent months, for example, BuyBlue.org has encouraged drivers to switch to a solid-blue auto insurance company. Its campaign, Driving for Progress, redirected almost \$250,000 to Progressive Insurance, and also encourages feedback to make sure that those who switched are satisfied with the service. The website will soon develop local databases to identify neighborhood businesses that embrace progressive values. As of late June, there were more than one million visits to BuyBlue.org.

A link to BuyBlue.org may be found on the home page of the Tenth Dems website, www.tenthdems.org. Meanwhile, Democrats might want to keep driving as they pass the very Red Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Wendy's, Urban Outfitters and (most unfortunately) Krispy Kreme, choosing instead to visit friendly and Blue businesses like Costco, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Panera Bread, Barnes & Noble and Hyatt Hotels.

A sampling of companies supporting Democrats



The Definition of Liberalism

by Mark Paul

Liberals, according to the conventional wisdom, don't know what they believe. That may be someone else's problem.

First, it's useful to be clear about liberalism's mirror opposite. The Latin root words help a lot. Conservatives are primarily concerned with conserving wealth, power, and privilege. They know how good they are and will fight like hell to keep them. Conservatives, William Buckley said, "stand athwart history and say Stop!" Easy for him to say; he likely wrote it from the galley of his ocean-going yacht. The conundrum for conservatives is that even Buckley cannot stop time. They must choose what to conserve and they choose best when they favor civility, rule of law, responsibility and classical aesthetic values.

Liberals are interested in expanding liberty. The term originally developed in British politics, as England evolved into a constitutional monarchy. Liberals wanted to expand the franchise and conservatives resisted. In the U.S. the terms were most useful during the civil rights movement in the '50s and '60s. Everyone who believed African-Americans should have the right to vote was a liberal. Everyone who didn't was a conservative. There were no exceptions. Zero.

Adam Smith, too, was a liberal, because he wanted to expand economic liberty beyond royal concessions, and liberals remain market-oriented. The conundrum for liberals is that expanding liberty for those who do not have it inevitably pinches those who do, even if all it does is dilute their vote.

**UNAPOLOGETIC
LIBERAL**

Liberals believe you should be able to do with your property as you please, unless you impinge on others. Conservatives, such as recently confirmed appellate judge Janice Brown, believe zoning is theft. Liberals want to be confident when they buy a suburban house that their upwind neighbor can't turn the backyard into a hog farm.

Liberals believe labor should have the right to organize into unions, just as capital

Continued on page 5

Malpractice Caps Are Necessary

by Daniel Swislow

A surgeon from Chicago travels over 600 miles every week to Tulsa in order to avoid the high cost of practicing medicine in Illinois. A man from southern Illinois is flown out of state to a St. Louis hospital just to get stitches because of Illinois' lack of trauma doctors.

This is reality.

The health care crisis in Illinois has reached new extremes in recent years because of excessive malpractice litigation. ISMIE Mutual, contrary to distorted assertions made by trial lawyers, reports that from 2001 to 2003 the number of medical liability claims increased 46-percent, while the average paid on claims increased 24-percent. Since 1998, jury awards in these cases have increased over 300-percent.

As a result, premiums have risen dramatically. Illinois doctors and hospitals pay among the highest in the nation

This situation is causing doctors to leave Illinois by the dozens – the metro-east area of Springfield alone has lost a net 136 physicians in the last two years. Without adequate doctors and with rising costs, many hospitals in Illinois are quickly becoming unable to provide appropriate care to patients.

Although lawyers may blame this crisis on insurance companies, the facts show otherwise. In the last several years, numerous insurance companies have left Illinois altogether. St. Paul, the nation's second largest liability insurer, stopped providing medical liability insurance in Illinois in 2002 because of yearly losses of over \$900 million. Even ISMIE issued a moratorium on new business in 2003 because there was no profit to be made. If trial lawyers are right, then running themselves into the ground must be the insurance companies' idea of good business.

The lawyers may also blame bad doctors, but ISMIE reports that 94-percent of payments in the last five years were made on behalf of doctors with only one or two losses.

Thankfully, the Illinois legislature just approved a reform that includes caps on non-economic damages in malpractice cases, a measure that has proven effective in numerous states nationwide in lowering premiums and attracting physicians in states with excessive litigation problems.

California provides a good example of the success of these caps: premiums in the Golden State have risen at rates considerably lower than in states without caps, and studies by the University of California at San Francisco have shown that doctors continue to flock to the state – only 25 percent of California physicians attended medical school in California.

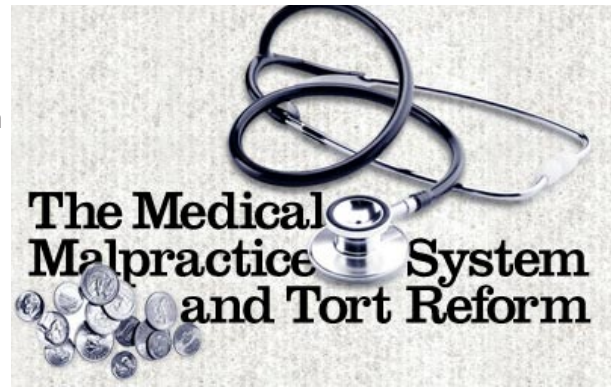
Perhaps the best showing of caps' success is provided by Oregon. Oregon had caps from 1988 until 1999, when the Supreme Court of Oregon struck them down. For that decade, premiums declined immensely, but after the Supreme Court's decision Oregon was thrust into crisis and rates immediately increased.

Moreover, liability premiums are 100-300 percent higher in Illinois than in neighboring states that have had caps already installed (Wisconsin, Missouri, and Indiana).

The benefits to caps are astounding. As other states have shown, caps will bring doctors back to Illinois by spurring cheaper insurance premiums. Also, a study cited in a 2002 Department of Health and Human Services report stated that caps would lower health care costs for hospitals 5-9-percent. 90-percent of Illinois hospitals are not-for-profit and serve those who need it most like the poor and elderly – these are the hospitals that would gain most.

The most important benefit is not to doctors and hospitals though; it is to the patients, the millions of uninsured and the millions of underserved. Caps on non-economic damages in Illinois will not only lower the cost of health care, but doctors will be able to slow their practice of "defensive medicine" for fear of being sued, and start practicing medicine aimed at improving the quality of life of all citizens of Illinois. This is what is most important.

Dan is a Tenth Dems intern, a Northbrook resident and will be attending New York University in the fall.



Malpractice Caps Won't Solve The Problem

by Keith Hebeisen



There is a myth out there that medical malpractice claims and lawsuits in recent years have increased, resulting in high malpractice insurance premiums and reduced access to healthcare. The facts are otherwise.

In the last five years in Illinois, there has not been an increase in the number of medical malpractice lawsuits filed.

In 2004, ISMIE, the malpractice insurer for doctors, paid out less to settle claims than in 2003. The average amount ISMIE paid in 2004 was 20-percent less than in 2003.

While claims have been decreasing, ISMIE raised its premiums. In 2004, ISMIE took in almost \$200 million more than the amount it paid out in claims.

Premiums continued to rise in every state after caps were enacted. And one of our neighbors, Iowa, has no cap but also has almost the lowest malpractice premiums in the country. Wisconsin

has insurance reforms which we don't have that keep premiums down, such as a pool for catastrophic injuries and asset protection for its doctors.

The real problem lies with the insurance industry. ISMIE has refused to promise that it will lower its premiums. In 30 years, no rate increase by a medical malpractice insurer has ever been rejected by Illinois regulators because they have no authority to reject a rate increase. Those laws need to change.

Hospitals have compared their insurance problems to an auto driver having a \$50,000 deductible for his auto insurance. But if you got in an accident almost every day due to your own negligence, would you be surprised if you had a really big insurance problem?

Medical malpractice is one of the leading causes of death and injury in this state. In U.S. aviation, only 1 in 5 million flights ends in a deadly accident. Every year, 90,000 hospital patients die due to medical errors. The National Practitioners Databank reported that 5-percent of the doctors who have made malpractice payments over the last 15 years are responsible for almost one-third of the costs.

Hospitals are doing quite well financially. For example, Northwestern Hospital had a 448-percent increase in its net profit in 2004. Hospitals also engage in a lot of expensive advertising. Imagine how much less medical malpractice we would have if the hospitals channeled their advertising budgets into preventing medical malpractice?

Illinois, like many other states, has some problems with shortages of doctors, particularly specialists. A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association proves that caps on damages have at best a minuscule effect on the number of doctors in a given state. In 2001, the California Medical Association surveyed its physicians who had had the protection of caps for 26 years. 43 percent planned to leave medical practice in the next three years and specialists, such as neurosurgeons, were in short supply.

So does it make sense to pass a cap on the recovery of the most severely injured patients when it won't solve the malpractice premium problem, or does it make sense to pass laws now to reduce medical malpractice so there are less malpractice cases and reduce doctors' malpractice premiums by toughening insurance regulation? The answer is obvious if you look at the facts.

Keith is the president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, a resident of Northbrook and a lifelong Democrat.

LIBERAL, continued from page 4

organizes into corporations.

Liberals believe liberty expands when people have reasonable expectations of each other through fraud and liability statutes; conservatives prefer caveat emptor.

Liberals understand that economic development sometimes destroys markets, leading to oligopolies and monopolies, and these must be regulated or commerce becomes extortion.

Liberals don't resent Bill Gates for becoming wealthy by building a successful business, but they don't want him to have sole control of the software business, either.

Liberals have reluctantly concluded from the evidence that modern medicine has outstripped the privately financed, fee-for-service system, which now makes no more sense than private ownership of New York City streets.

Liberals understand that modern economies can have disastrous effects unforeseeable by even the most prudent. Poverty is poor soil for liberty, so they favor unemployment compensation and other temporary measures for those with the capacity to adjust, and a Social Security system for the disabled, dependents and elderly, who cannot.

Liberals believe government should be constrained from interfering in private life. How we worship, what we read and watch, our reproduction choices, and how and to whom we make love (minors and coercion excluded) are private matters. The government need only acknowledge marriage as a boilerplate contract giving both parties certain rights and obligations. Whether they are the same race or same sex is none of government's business.

Liberals believe the public sphere should be governed by empiricism, which requires an intellectual discipline best developed through education and the free expression of ideas. Good public schools expand liberty for everyone, regardless of their parents' educational achievement.

LIBERAL
is not a
4-letter word

Liberals believe that empirical utility is more likely to lead to good policy than abstract ideology. Back in the day when SDS veered off into Maoism, I never dreamed that conservatives would take so well to ideology, which used to be the province of Euro-socialists. Take David Horowitz—please.

The Bush/Kirk Tsunami Effect

by George Rosenblit

Suddenly the lights came on, and now we can connect the dots, no thanks to Congressman Mark Kirk.

The Washington Post recently reported that on July 21, 2002 Tony Blair's staff prepared a memo in advance of a July 23 Downing Street meeting stating that senior British officials saw the Bush administration decision to go to war with Iraq as inevitable, that the war would be costly and protracted, and that little thought had been given to the aftermath and how to shape it. This British analysis was very perceptive. The Bush Administration was not.

In the Downing Street Memo minutes of the July 23 meeting, it was stated that British officials returning from Washington said that Bush's mind was made up eight months before the invasion began even though there was no legal basis for it. The desire for regime change was deemed insufficient, so intelligence was manipulated about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction and the purported relationship with terrorists to justify the invasion. The memo also stated that the British Defence Secretary "thought the most likely timing in U.S. minds for military action to begin was January, with the timeline beginning 30 days before the U.S. Congressional elections!" The U.S. Congress, the United Nations and the American people (and Colin Powell) were hoodwinked into believing that the fabricated information justified the invasion!

What were the real reasons for this ill-advised war that has claimed the lives of more than 1700 patriotic U.S. soldiers and more than 100,000 innocent Iraqi men, women and children deemed "collateral damage?" And let's not forget the many thousands who survived the war, maimed for life by loss of limbs and/or sanity. Was it a vendetta by Bush against Saddam for trying to assassinate his father? Was it a vision of controlling Iraqi oil production, as well as having it pay for the



cost of the war? Was an objective of the war to manipulate U.S. elections? Is Bush's insistence on appointing an obviously incompetent John Bolton as Ambassador to the United Nations a reward because of Bolton's role in withholding and manipulating intelligence reports to justify the war?

Mr. Kirk, these are the hard questions which you should be asking on behalf of your constituents without our asking you to do so. We haven't heard a report of any kind from you on these questions.

So, why haven't you had open public forums to keep us, YOUR CONSTITUENTS, advised of the true state of events in the Congress and in the world, and most important, to listen to our views on every important piece of legislation before you exercise your vote?

Why haven't you asked crucial questions of your colleagues and the President concerning important legislation affecting the majority of our citizens, such as Privatization of Social Security, Medicaid (primary health care for the poor), Low Income Medicare Assistance, Education, Head Start, Child Care, Nutrition for Pregnant

Women and Young Children, Health Research, Student Loans, Community Development, Adult Education and Training, etc., and reported your findings to us? The fact is that you have not done so.

Mr. Kirk, since you are not part of the solution, you are most certainly part of the problem. Your loyalty to the President appears to be greater than your loyalty to your constituents in the 10th District and that is unconscionable. You and President Bush are responsible for the "Tsunami Effect," wherein you start or condone an action such as the Iraqi War, underestimate the required logistics of men and materiel, watch the cost escalate to more than \$300 Billion with no end in sight, generate a ballooning deficit which will burden our children and grandchildren, and ignore the real needs of the majority Americans on our home front.

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Messengers On the Trash Heap

by Ron Weiner

There they all lay, as they have throughout history, the messengers who have sacrificed life or limb or reputation for telling the simple truth. The latest of these, of course, is Senator Dick Durbin, whose political corpus, while certainly not dead, nonetheless lies tossed on the trash heap of truth and reputability with other worthy truth-telling messengers of recent history, and all of them because they sought to shed light on what has been happening in our country for the last four years.

Like that wonderfully malevolent, and oh so Rove-like character in *The Mikado*, I've got a list, too, but rather than announcing that, "they'd none of them be missed," all of those on my list would very certainly have been missed had they not come forward to speak up for what is right. It isn't a mere list – it's more like an honor roll.

Where shall I begin? The first half-dozen or so who come quickly to mind are former National Security Advisor Richard Clarke, former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, former Ambassador Joe Wilson (lots of "formers" there), Dan Rather, The International Red Cross, Amnesty International, and Newsweek magazine, all of whom have preceded Durbin to the Bush wood-shed.

And what was it, after all, that Durbin said? He never said, as so many who've lined up outside that wood-shed with paddles at the ready have chosen to understand, that America is like Stalin's Russia, or like Hitler's Germany, or like Pol Pot's Cambodia – he never said that, folks. To quote him exactly, he said, in reading from an FBI agent's detailed e-mail complaining about the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo:

"If I read this to you and did not tell you that it was an FBI agent describing what Americans had done to prisoners in their control, you would most certainly believe this must have been done by Nazis, Soviets in their gulags or some mad regime – Pol Pot or others – that had no concern for human beings."

That's what he said, and that, for me, is the bang on truth!



We have behaved inhumanely to those under our control, and somebody had to say it, somebody with national stature and credibility, and he was just the guy to do it. But knee-jerk conservatives, abetted by a House and Senate who are always on the look-out for anything to distract us from their continual failures at home and abroad, have pounced on it, and, sadly, it will probably not go away very soon.

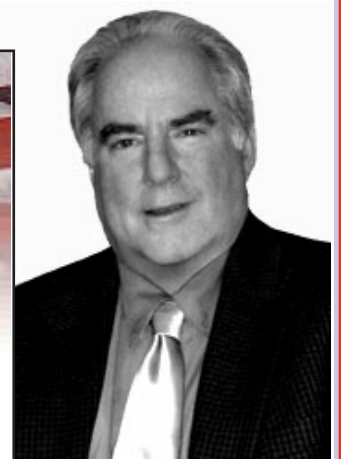
I am sorry he felt he had to apologize. I would rather he'd defended his remarks by pointing out that he made no comparisons between our country and those infamous regimes, and by continuing to insist that he said what was vitally needed to be said. I would much rather he did not appear as woebegone, weak and wimpy as some of his

Democratic colleagues in either house of the Congress. Here's hoping he gets his backbone re-adjusted; we need him as a leader and as a spokesperson for reason.



Come Hear Sheldon Drobney

Sheldon Drobny, the founder of Air America Radio, will be the speaker on July 21 at a Tenth Dems event. All are welcome. Drobny, a Highland Park resident, will talk about his recent book, *Road To Air America: Breaking the Right Wing Stranglehold On Our Nation's Airwaves*, and the reasons why he took on the task of getting Air America Radio on the air. He will appear at the Highland Park Library Auditorium, 494 Laurel Avenue, at 7pm on Thursday, July 21.



In Praise of Democrats' Persistent Letter-Writing

Dear Editor:

Kudos to all those Democratic scribes in the 10th District who've been keeping the pressure on Congressman Kirk in the Pioneer Press. The months-long conversation has featured a range of letter-writers calling Kirk to task on his "moderate" moniker, unmasking his cloak-and-dagger efforts to hide his stance on such hot-button issues as the war in Iraq and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. It's working... judging by all those testy, defensive responses!!!

Jane Goldenberg,
Tenth Dems News Writer

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

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as she begins her campaign for re-election as the State Central Committeewoman from the 10th District.

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**Congresswoman
Melissa Bean**

Please RSVP to skastrup@yahoo.com
Or call 773-539-3335 for details.

DEAN, *continued from page 1*

The first set of Dean's numbers show that he has used his strong personality to increase contributions. He has been successful at increasing the number of first time contributors, decreasing the gap between RNC and DNC contributions from three to one down to two to one and doubled contributions from 2003 levels.

The next number Dean is focusing on is 50. Dean has increased the number of states in which the Democrats will bring their fight from 18 to 50, no longer writing off all the red states, including over 40-percent of the African-American population as William McNary of Citizen Action pointed out to an audience in Highland Park this past winter. Under the 50 State Strategy, Dean intends to provide funds and training for local organization in all 50 states, a few at a time. Dean's 50-State-Plan includes training programs for local organizers, national communication between local organizations and leadership recruitment.

Local Democrats appreciate Dean's efforts because they are seeing measurable results of his work in their communities. North Carolina's Democratic Party was the first to receive assistance from the 50 State Plan in the form of paid organizers. According to its leader, Jerry Meek, they are using this assistance to improve the technical infrastructure of the local offices and train workers and volunteer to use the upgraded technology.

The numbers show that such measurable results, and a clear focus on building a Democratic Party for the future, are what Democrats want from their party leader. They believe that Dean is giving them both. A June 12, Air America Radio poll showed that 88-percent of those responding believed that Dean is doing a good job as DNC Chairman. A June 12 Seattle Radio Station Poll showed similar results.

Democrats don't care about what Cheney and the RNC wants them to focus on they want to focus on the numbers that matter in their lives, keeping military costs and deaths down and prosperity up for their families. When Dean strikes the Republicans he is speaking to the Democratic base and increasing their enthusiasm and contributions. His numbers are going in the right direction and he should never apologize for that.

CANDIDATES, *continued from page 1*

beyond the borders of Lake County. This past year Kyle became president of the National Association of Counties. In that role he has taken a lead in such national issues as dealing with the disparities in health care for Americans, providing affordable housing, making sure local governments receive Homeland Security funding and finding new ways for governments to generate income.



Zane Smith is a trial lawyer who has his own firm in Chicago's Loop. His focus has been in areas such as medical malpractice, personal injury and work-related injuries. But besides building a successful legal practice he has also been an active member of his Winnetka community. Smith has been a leader in youth organizations, such as the Cub Scouts, and has been elected to the Winnetka Park Board, where he currently serves as the Board's vice-president.

All five have been, or will soon be, interviewed by members of the Tenth Dems Candidate Search Committee, which will continue to meet with others who are considering a run in 2006.

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