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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

# Touch-Screen Voting Machines, Early Voting Ready to Go

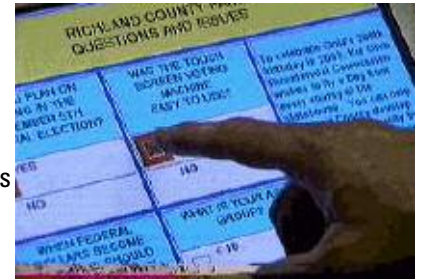
by Jane Goldenberg

While Illinois' new election reform law was designed to allow voters more flexibility – enabling them to vote at their convenience, beginning 22 days before the election – it appears unlikely that it will result in a surging early vote, according to Cook County Clerk David Orr.

The problem: The new law still allows for absentee voting in person, which means people can still go to multiple sites, including village halls, and vote in-person absentee, according to Orr. But that means many more locations than there are touch-screen voting machines in Cook County. Consequently, people will have to use the optical-scan system when voting early. The optical-scan system has voters filling in little ovals to indicate their voting choices on a sheet that looks like an oversized SAT answer card.

The one exception for early voting will be at the Clerk's downtown office, where touch-screen voting will be available.

Orr told a group of people at a recent League of Women Voters from the Palatine area that he would



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# Tenth News

DECEMBER 2005    Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter    Volume 2, Edition 12

## Another Qualified Candidate Joins Race for Congress

Dan Seals has thrown his hat into the 10th Congressional District ring.

Seals, of Wilmette, is the second Democrat to announce his intention to run for Congress in the March 2006 primary. Zane Smith, the vice-chair of the Winnetka Park Board and an attorney, announced his candidacy in July.

A director at GE Commercial Finance, Seals is a former aide to U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut) who assisted the senator with the development of economic policy proposals. In addition, Seals was a Presidential Management Fellow and an aide to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce. He holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and an M.A. from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington.

"I believe our country is going in the wrong direction," Seals says, "and we need new leadership to turn it around. I believe I can help get us back on track." In his view, three of the biggest things we need are an exit strategy from Iraq, a plan to reduce the federal deficit, and a way to increase the availability of affordable health care.

"Solving these issues will strengthen our security, our economy, and our competitiveness," Seals says. In his view, our presence in Iraq is doing more to harm that country than to help it. "More than that," he states, "it is not making us any safer." He favors sitting down with

the Iraqi leadership and presenting a timetable for withdrawal. "This doesn't mean that we won't continue to support Iraq with our money, our expertise, and our weapons—it just means that we will no longer provide our sons and daughters."

Seals also supports aggressively reducing the federal deficit. "This administration has outspent every president since LBJ," he states. "And our current deficit projections don't take into account the war in Iraq or the money to repair the damage from Katrina." The result, he says, is higher interest rates for the country. "Deficits help to bid up interest rates, which means you pay more on your credit card, your car loan, and so on. It is like a tax on the entire economy."

"We also need to put affordable healthcare at the top of our agenda," Seals says. The Census Bureau estimates that 45.8 million Americans were uninsured in 2004, an increase of more than four million since 2001. "These Americans too often have to make terrible



*Dan Seals, candidate for U.S. Congress*

*Continued on page 8*

# A Bad Month for Congressman Kirk

by John Hmurovic

Any way you slice it, November was not a good month for 10th District Congressman Mark Kirk. Here's why:

## Just the (Wrong) Facts

Kirk breezed into a meeting in Lake Bluff and announced that North Chicago schools were "guaranteed" to receive \$7 million over the next five years to compensate the school system for children of military members who go to school in the district, but whose parents don't pay property taxes that support the schools. Then he quickly slipped out of the meeting. He left before State Senators Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest) and Terry Link (D-Waukegan) could wipe the puzzled looks off their faces. They knew right away that there was no guarantee and that Kirk was wrong. Kirk's office later admitted that he "misspoke," but said the congressman was not available to explain how he came to make such a blunder.

## Foot in Mouth



A coalition of groups held a news conference criticizing Mark Kirk's remarks about young Arabs. (Photo courtesy cairchicago.org)

"I'm OK with discrimination against young Arab males from terrorist-producing states. I'm OK with that." So spoke Kirk to a Chicago Sun-Times reporter. But a lot of other people aren't OK with that. Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois) said that Kirk's comment "indicates a cavalier attitude toward civil liberties." Twenty-seven organizations have condemned Kirk's remarks, including the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Hispanic Ministry, the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and the United Methodist Church

Northern Illinois Conference. The organizations asked for a meeting with Kirk, but were told he was not available.

## The Congressman Is Not Home

You'd think by now that people who disagree with the Republican position on any issue would get the point: Congressman Kirk doesn't want to talk to them. Opponents of the war in Iraq have apparently spent more time in Kirk's local office than the congressman has, because on the frequent occasions when they've showed up to talk to him they have been told he's not there. Not learning the lesson, another group showed up in November to talk to him about his position on budget cuts. Guess what? He was not available. Furthermore, the person in charge of his office said he didn't know what the congressman's position was on cutting social programs out of the budget. He might as well have said, "Go home, and don't bother us."

## Smile for the Cameras

The media were watching. It was a huge vote on a Republican budget that would slash spending on social programs that largely affect the poor. With plenty of time for the media to make their deadlines and report the vote, Mark Kirk did the right thing: He voted against his Republican colleagues and opposed the proposal. Proof again that he is a "thoughtful, independent leader"—his words, not mine. Next day, late at night, reporters nodding off, deadlines long past, the matter comes up again. Guess what? This time Mark Kirk votes for the cuts in social programs. It passes by one vote—his vote. The Washington Post said it's a plan that would "impose new fees on Medicare recipients, squeeze student loan programs, cut child support enforcement, and push tens of thousands of low income families off food stamps."

## The Coward with Two Purple Hearts



John Murtha

On the floor of the House, a Republican congresswoman called Congressman John Murtha (D-Pennsylvania) a coward for suggesting that the U.S. should pull out of Iraq. The cowardly act committed by Murtha — who was awarded a Bronze Star, two

Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry for his Vietnam wartime combat service — was the act of disagreeing with the Republicans on the way the war is being waged. Up until this time, Murtha had been a solid backer of the war. The House Republicans could have argued the merits of Murtha's position. Instead, they decided to teach Murtha and the Democrats a lesson by introducing a resolution to withdraw immediately from Iraq, written in a way that virtually no one supported. For hours, the House was engaged in one of the ugliest debates in recent history, arguing over a resolution that no one wanted. It could have been avoided earlier in the evening, when a vote was taken to bring the resolution up for debate. To their credit, several Republicans didn't think this was right . . . but not Mark Kirk. It passed 210-202. Kirk voted for it.

## What Hath GOP Wrought?

The Medicare Prescription Drug benefit went into effect in November. The Chicago Tribune editorial page described the legislation as "a runaway government entitlement of mind-numbing complexity, rammed through Congress with cooked numbers, launched at a time when the country can least afford it." Too bad they didn't point out that this legislation barely passed the House by a vote of 216-215. Mark Kirk voted for it.

# Fitzgerald Threw a Softball

by Sheldon Drobny

Besides my co-founding Air America Radio, I have another day job. I have helped prosecute and defend white-collar-crime offenses for 38 years, including experience with Patrick Fitzgerald's Chicago office on current political prosecutions. Those of us locally in the know here do not agree that Fitzgerald is as independent as the press has made him out to be. Let me explain.

Fitzgerald had to indict I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. Libby's lies were so blatant that Fitzgerald had no choice. But Fitzgerald had a golden opportunity to do

enough work to prove the underlying crimes that he was originally investigating. Those crimes involve two offenses in the U.S. Criminal Code; Conspiracy and Outing a CIA Agent. Essentially, Fitzgerald indicted Libby for preventing his prosecutors from proving the underlying crimes he was investigating by using a baseball metaphor in that Libby "threw sand in the umpires eyes." That part is patently absurd.

In most conspiracy cases, one or more of the co-conspirators invariably lie to the FBI or the grand jury.



Patrick Fitzgerald

Continued on page 8

# Lake County Plans for Surge in Early Voting

by Jane Goldenberg

Lake County voters will cast optical scan ballots. Unlike Cook County, Lake County is planning for a large early vote — 30 percent in the primary and up to 50 percent in the general election, according to Lake County Clerk Willard Helander.

Voters with disabilities will be able to mark their optical scan cards using a machine called the AutoMark, which has a touch-screen and headphones. An AutoMark will be available at each of the county's 21 early voting locations, as well as in every polling place on election day, Helander said.

Voters will be able to check online for their early voting locations, beginning early next year. They can already view a training video about the optical scan system at [www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/opticalscan.asp](http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/opticalscan.asp).



## Voting, continued from page 1



*Cook County Clerk David Orr explained that county voters will have a dual system for voting instead of the desired touch-screen system. The reason: There is a lack of funding to purchase enough touch-screen machines.*

have preferred the new law not include a provision that continues to allow in-person absentee voting. The Clerk's office then could have set up a smaller number of locations around the county, each with a touch-screen voting machine. As it is, there are not enough of these new machines to go around to the many different sites.

With enough publicity, Orr said, he thinks early voting could increase in Illinois, but the total rate probably won't reach 10 percent for the next election on March 21. He expects early voting will perhaps triple the number of in-person absentee voting — a far cry from the 40 percent who vote early in California.

For the next election, early voting will begin on February 27 and end on March 16, five days before the election. These dates will also apply to in-person absentee voting. Absentee voting in which people mail in their ballots will continue as it has in years past.

For the primary election in March, voters will get their chance to try

the new machines, as every polling place in Cook County should have a touch-screen machine. Still, many more voters will likely vote with the optical scan system.

And why aren't there enough touch-screen machines? Not enough money.

The Help America Vote Act that Congress passed after the problems of the presidential election in 2000 didn't allocate enough money for Cook County to fully switch its system over to the touch-screen machines, Orr explained. As a result, Cook County will have a dual voting system. Voters can choose to cast their ballots with either a touch-screen machine, which has a voter-verifiable paper trail, as required by Illinois law, or the optical-scan equipment, whose scanners work like the old punch card scanners. The optical-scan equipment, like the touch-screen machine, will tell the voter if there were any overvotes or undervotes. By 2007, most precincts will have more than one touch-screen machine, Orr said.

The advantage of the touch-screen device is that it enables the county to more easily offer more languages and to accommodate disabled voters, particularly visually impaired voters, Orr said. Voters will also be able to cast provisional ballots on the touch-screen machines in the case of any questions regarding voter registration.

To use the touch-screen machine, voters will be given a little card that, like an ATM card, they slide into the machine to indicate the ballot style they should use. Ballot styles change depending on local jurisdictions, such as state representative or park district, for example. There may be eight or nine ballot styles within the same precinct, Orr noted. Voters can have the option of making the font bigger and changing the color for readability, then they can go back and review their choices before finally casting their ballots.

The company that was chosen to supply the equipment, Sequoia Voting Systems, has also provided technology and services for Nevada, Washington, D.C., Denver, and Baltimore, among many others.

# Movies for the Holidays: Documentaries that Provide Inspiration, Education, and Ammunition

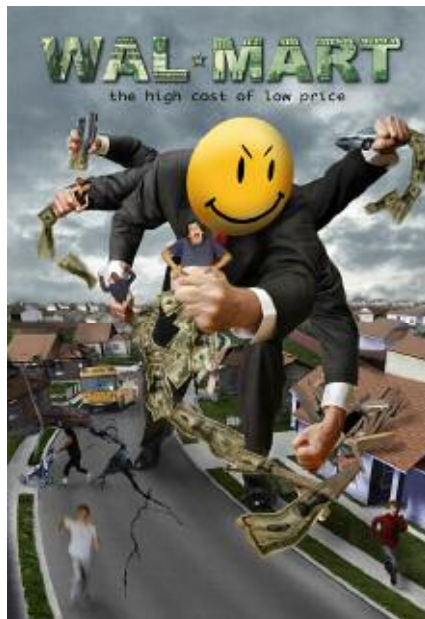
by Ross Nickow

The best, although belated, holiday gift for any dedicated Democrat would be a Democratic majority in the U.S. Congress and Senate in November's election. With polls across the nation showing eroding confidence and lack of trust in President Bush, Democrats are beginning to smell potential victory, and are gearing up for a marathon campaign, first in the March primary, and ending with a midterm election landslide.

But . . . it's still only December 2005, and holiday gift shopping is a priority for many people. Thoughtful gifts can keep determined minds sharp through the long Chicagoland winter as we head into the political battle that could save our nation from an unaccountable, out-of-control administration.

Many political and social issue-oriented documentaries are currently available on DVD and make the perfect gift for political junkies and committed constituents among family and friends. Several of these films have been shown in theaters. Some have been released only on video. All can provide inspiration, education, and ammunition for next year's crucial election.

The hottest documentary now available is Robert Greenwald's *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*. While more a human-interest story than a political expose, it tracks the devastating effect Wal-Mart's policies and practices have on its employees (ironically referred to as "associates"), suppliers, small businesses and the U.S. economy. It not only makes a great gift at a low price—\$12.95—but it also helps holiday shopping by eliminating one store (Wal-Mart, of course) that people hopefully will want to avoid.



Greenwald also directed a series of topical documentaries, available individually or in a 4-DVD box set (that includes a "bonus" disc). *Uncovered: the whole truth about the Iraq war* presents former government officials and military experts detailing the lies and propaganda that initially convinced many Americans that the war was justified. Information from this 1 1/2-year-old

documentary is in headlines and newscasts almost daily in recent months. Other films in Greenwald's series include *Unconstitutional: The War on our Civil Liberties*, with its many heartbreaking stories about victims of the so-called Patriot Act, and *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War On Journalism*, an expose of the Bush White House propaganda machine otherwise known as Fox News. *Outfoxed* interviews former Fox News employees who share techniques used to spread misinformation, such as the use of the term "Some people say . . ." as in "Some people say that John Kerry eats puppies for breakfast." We never learn who "some people" are, but Fox fans evidently believe anything if it is repeated enough times.

Reviewing the Clinton years on video is a good way to revisit the methods that led to victory and eight years of a Democratic White House, and also to avoid the kind of tactical errors that gave

ammunition to the Republican attack machine. *The War Room* follows an even younger George Stephanopoulos and a James Carville with some hair as they strategize to help Bill Clinton's election in 1992. Watching Bill Clinton and Al Gore as they were about to take the reins is heartbreakingly nostalgic. *The Hunting of the President* follows Ken Starr and congressional Republicans as they ravage the country's finances and morale with their witch hunt to impeach Clinton.

To gain insight into how an incompetent, draft-dodging, chicken-hawk ideologue became President (sorry for the understatement), three documentaries explore various aspects of George W. Bush's unethical and illegitimate power grab. *Bush's Brain* tracks the background and methods of Bush's political confidence man, Karl Rove. Rove's lust for power and lack of ethics and class is exemplified in the film's recounting of a 1986 incident in



Continued on page 5

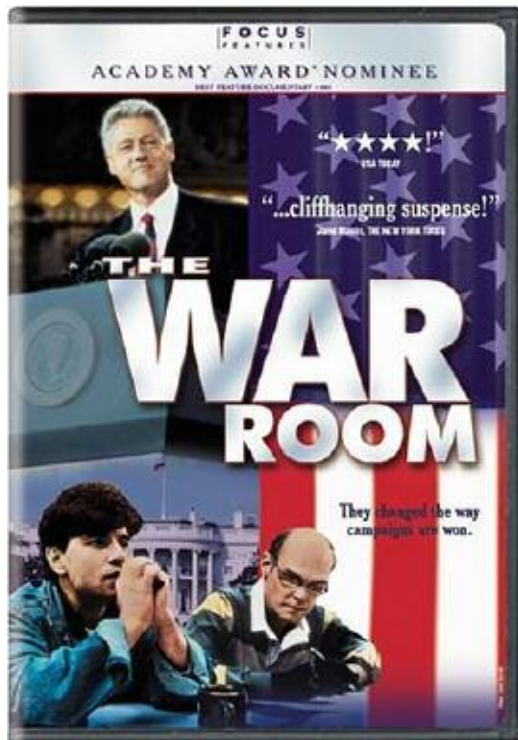
## Documentaries,

continued from page 4

which Rove planted a listening device in his own office during a pre-Bush gubernatorial campaign in Texas. He arranged for the bug to be "discovered" just prior to a crucial debate, and then blamed it on the Democratic opponent to distract attention from the issues and the fact that his candidate was a weak debater. Other documentaries that define Bush's tainted rise to power include *Bush Family Fortunes: The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* and *With God on Our Side: George W. Bush and the Rise of the Religious Right in America*.

Mix some great music with a touch of political rebellion, and surprise somebody with a wonderful new documentary directed by Martin Scorsese about Bob Dylan's early years, *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*. The film includes some amazing footage and music from Dylan's most prolific decade, focusing on the early to mid-1960s, when Dylan's voice, songs, and persona became the symbol of social conscience for a generation.

Video documentaries can be ordered through local, independent music and video merchants, or from online sites such as Walmartmovie.com, RobertGreenwald.org/docs, and Buzzflash.org/premiums. (In no instances will they be available at Wal-Mart, so don't even bother trying.)



## More dazzling documentaries for great gift-giving

*The Agronomist*

*Control Room*

*The Corporation*

*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*  
(available Jan. 17)

*The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara*

*How Democrats and Progressives Can Win: Solutions from George Lakoff*

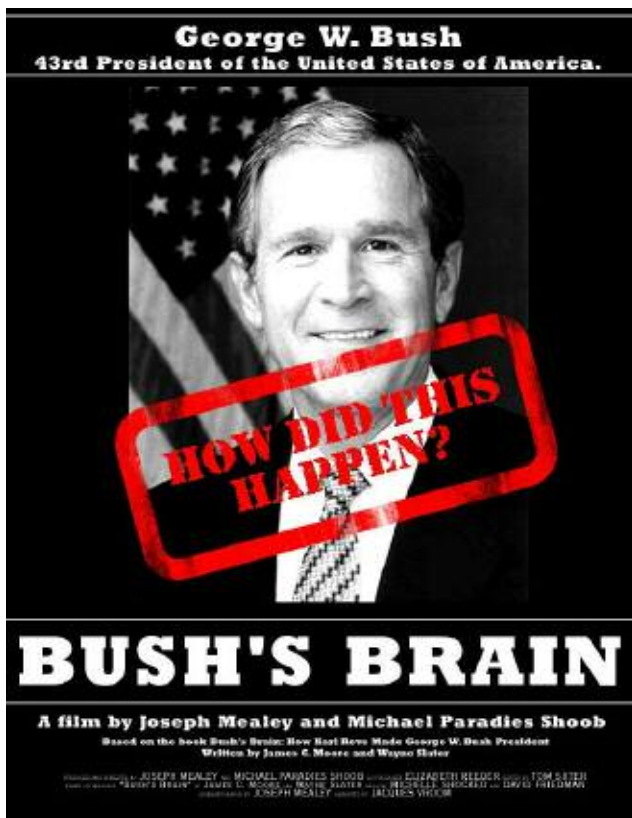
*Orwell Rolls in his Grave*

*The Party's Over* (available through FilmMovement.com)

*Point of Order* (from 1964)

*Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election - 2004 Campaign Edition*

*The Weather Underground*



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# Wondering about Dems' Prospects in 2006?

by David Robin

If you want to monitor the mood of the electorate, there's a website you should know about: <http://www.democracycorps.com>.

Democracy Corps was founded in 1999 by one of the country's most respected pollsters, Stanley Greenberg, along with political consultants James Carville and Robert Shrum. At least once a month, Democracy Corps carries out nationwide polling to gauge how voters are feeling about the Bush administration and about Democrats and Republicans. (From time to time, they also conduct focus groups.) There's always a summary article called "Analysis," but, for the detail-minded, they also post the actual questions asked in the poll.

I've been following Democracy Corps since September, and the reports are very encouraging for Democratic prospects in 2006. There are two persistent themes:

- Bush and the Republicans are losing their hold on the voters.
- The Democrats still haven't been able to capitalize on this trend as much as they should.

Here are just a few highlights from the last few months' reports.

Even before Katrina, the country at large was losing faith in the Republicans, with "no region in the country ... more disgruntled with Bush and the Republicans over the last nine months than the Midwest."

[www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy\\_Corps\\_August\\_2005\\_Targeting\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy_Corps_August_2005_Targeting_Memo.pdf)

In September, after Katrina, the report stated that "the country has lost confidence in George Bush's leadership, direction, and plans for the country and, indeed, seems to have closed down on him personally and his conservative project." They showed 45% of voters saying they are "finished with him!" And the discontent with Bush was translating into trouble for Congressional Republicans, with Democratic incumbents polling much more strongly than Republican incumbents.

[www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy\\_Corps\\_September\\_2005\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy_Corps_September_2005_Memo.pdf)

October showed "a country ready for a political upheaval in 2006."

[www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy\\_Corps\\_October\\_2005\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy_Corps_October_2005_Memo.pdf)

The latest report, dated Nov. 14, shows a "growing desire for change and anger with Washington" along with the country's "disengagement from the Republicans." (It's about time!) The Democratic supporters are showing as much more enthusiastic in their support for their own party than are Republicans, and almost twice as many Republicans as Democrats seem to be "winnable" by the other side. Finally, and very promisingly, health care and energy are looking like very good issues for Democrats.



[www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy\\_Corps\\_November\\_2-6\\_2005\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.democracycorps.com/reports/analyses/Democracy_Corps_November_2-6_2005_Memo.pdf)

Stay tuned!

## Impact of Bush Policies & Decisions

	Better	Worse	Neither	Net Bush Impact
Federal Budget Deficit	6%	66%	21%	-60%
Gap Between Rich & Poor	8%	57%	31%	-49%
Health Care	16%	43%	36%	-27%
American Relations With Its Allies	22%	47%	26%	-25%
Race Relations	16%	29%	48%	-13%

Source: Pew Research Center Poll, 10/8-10/2005

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# Things To Do, Places To Be!

Go to the "Events" link at [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org) for more details on these events (possible cost, RSVP, etc.), as well as information on other events.

## Senator Barbara Boxer Talks About Her New Book

Saturday, December 3, 3:00 p.m.  
Winnetka  
Congregational Church  
725 Pine Street  
Winnetka



## Senator Hillary Clinton in Chicago

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m.  
Auditorium Theater at Roosevelt University  
400 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

## Meet Senator Hillary Clinton & Support Her Re-Election Campaign

Saturday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.  
Crobar, 1512 N. Fremont, Chicago

## The Jewish Stake in Church and State

Sunday, December 4, 9:15 a.m.  
North Shore Congregation Israel  
1185 Sheridan Road, Glencoe

## Meet and Greet Dan Seals, Candidate for Congress

Sunday, December 4, 2:00 p.m.  
Home of Jennifer Jenkins  
315 Lockwood Avenue  
Northfield

## Lake County Democracy for America Meetup

Wednesday December 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Flanagan's Restaurant  
3201 Buckley Rd  
North Chicago

## Meet Amanda Howland, Candidate for State Representative

Wednesday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.  
Oregono  
119 W. Gilmer Road, Hawthorn Woods

## Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership Honors Barbara Flynn Currie & Debbie Halverson

Thursday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.  
Chicago Cultural Center - GAR Hall & Rotunda  
78 East Washington Street  
Chicago

## Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.  
The South Church  
501 South Emerson  
Mt. Prospect

## Open House for Dan Seals

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.  
Home of John & Betty Sorin  
630 Rosewood  
Winnetka

## What, Me Worry? The "DotNet" Generation Will Have Boomer Woes Laid at Its Feet

by Jamie Citron

One day in the not so distant future, my generation will step forward to take the reins of the world and sort through what we have inherited. In a month marked by ever-deadlier hurricanes, the introduction of religion disguised as science, the apathetic response to political deceit, and the imminent end of our oil supply, I can't help but wonder what kind of world it will be. One would think that with such overwhelming obstacles, America's youth would be rising to the occasion, fighting for a greener culture and a cleaner government. Instead, as a fresh college grad thrown into the real world, I find the exact opposite.

What has happened to political outrage engulfing college campuses? More importantly, how is it that America's future generations have been wrapped up in indifference and the active pursuit of ignorance as the soothing alternative to involvement?

It seems that once the collegiate bubble is popped it remains hard to teach 22-year-old dogs new tricks. When I mention my newfound employment as an administrative assistant at a local PAC to the peanut gallery of my peers, I am met with blank stares. When I try to steer conversation to current affairs I am met with defeatist groans. I recently told a friend about Avian Flu; he responded by telling me that he preferred not to know. It was less scary and more fun. Ignorance is bliss, until you sprout feathers.

If my personal experiences do indeed reflect on a larger problem, then it shouldn't come as a surprise that a decrease in political



*Continued on page 8*

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## Young Voters, continued from page 7

involvement is foreshadowed by a decline in academic pride. A recent ethnography published by Northern Arizona University Professor Cathy Small states that while students privately admit to caring about their classes, students generally "avoid front row seats in classes and otherwise downplay academic or scholarly interests." Peer pressure is causing American students to glorify a disdain for learning — the seed of civic involvement — in the very environment it was meant to be celebrated. Then again, Bush was a C student, so maybe there is something to be said for an Animal House education. ...

A 2003 study of 4,352 15- to 25-year-olds—dubbed "Generation DotNet"—found that American youth have a "strong participation in apolitical activities and a disengagement from politics." Professor Cliff Zukin postulates that "while the country has succeeded in transmitting the value of civic engagement to successive generations, there is strong evidence that it has failed in keeping the chain of political engagement unbroken." The only consistent form of activism practiced by the studied demographic was consumer activism



(product boycotting), and only 24 percent of those surveyed even engaged in that.

The Zukin study also showed that 38 percent of DotNets thought citizenship entailed any sort of civic responsibility. Compare that to 60 percent of Baby Boomers who think citizenship requires accountability, and the decline is glaringly apparent. America's youth is avoiding politics, and as a result, the current administration is destroying what it will soon lay at our collective feet.

In a recent episode of the hit TV show "Boston Legal," an actor portraying a judge proclaimed from the bench, "We, as a nation, have reached the point where Iraq has geared up to become the next Vietnam. All that is missing is the appropriate level of outrage" — outrage that is traditionally the

stomping ground of the young, along with lax hygiene and kegers, traditions that have not seen equal levels of decline.

What can be done to reverse the trend of apathy? Like most positive changes, it begins with education. If parents make a habit of discussing current events with their children, then it is more likely they will grow up to continue as part of the national conversation. If history and social studies classes would teach government as a living entity instead of a string of dates, then maybe we would all grow up seeing its effects on our everyday lives. If we can show college students that political science, law, and government are not only specialized areas of study but imperative parts of American life, then maybe I wouldn't have to write this at all.

What if the Democratic Party did more to reach out to future voters, instead of just those with enough disposable income to fund campaigns? If our birthright is the nation, then our burden is its care — not tomorrow, but today.

The DotNets must wake up and start to shout—now. Because when you scream for reform on a tropical island at the North Pole while a Category Six sends a nice breeze your way, nobody is listening.

## Seals, continued from page 1

choices between treating their illness and paying the rent." This has been around as an issue for some time, but Seals thinks the time is right to resolve it because health care costs for employers and employees are also increasing rapidly.

"Healthcare costs have become an economic and competitive issue for our nation's businesses," Seals says. "At the same time we have too many uninsured Americans. Expanding affordable health care coverage may be able to address both problems."

## Fitzgerald, continued from page 2

That is something prosecutors face all the time. The idea that Libby alone prevented Fitzgerald from proving the underlying crime is absurd. If Vice President Dick Cheney told Libby about Valerie Plame [the unveiled CIA agent], there obviously was a reason. The idea that Cheney, Libby, Karl Rove, and President Bush did not talk to each other about the purpose of passing on this information to the press is simply not believable. And there were many ways that Fitzgerald could have proven the conspiracy in spite of Libby's lies. The fact that Libby lied would normally embolden a prosecutor to prove the underlying crime. This was not the case for Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald stated in his press conference that most of his work has been completed. While there is always a grand jury available to indict others in the event of an unlikely plea bargain for Libby, the investigative phase is really over for this prosecutor. His office will now focus on the trial of Libby. Those of us who know about prosecutors and grand jury investigations would tell you that Fitzgerald, using a baseball metaphor, threw the Bush cabal a "softball." And using a football metaphor, he "fumbled the ball."

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