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



# SPECIAL ELECTION WRAP-UP INSIDE

## No Surprises in Statewide Races



Not one political observer expected Governor **Rod Blagojevich** to lose his bid for the Democratic nomination to Edwin Eisendrath and, with

around 70 percent of the vote, it wasn't close. The Governor didn't campaign much in the primary, but he is already on the campaign trail for the November election, calling for an increase in the state minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour and asking his Republican opponent if she will also support such a change. Her answer, "No." The November election against Judy Baar Topinka is expected to be hotly contested, with the Republicans making a major push to regain control over the statehouse.

The only other contested race in the Democratic primary was for State Treasurer. **Alexander Giannoulias** of Chicago won about 61 percent of the vote over Knox County State's Attorney Paul Mangieri. Democratic State Chair Michael Madigan backed Mangieri, but Giannoulias' campaign was helped by the endorsement of U.S. Senator Barack Obama. Giannoulias faces a new challenge in November against Republican state Senator Christine Radogno of Lemont, who hopes to retain Republican control of the Treasurer's office which is now held by Topinka.

The other Democrats running statewide in the fall were all unopposed in the primary. All are incumbents. **Pat Quinn** will again be the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor,

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For more Election Wrap-Up see pages 4 and 5.*

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# Tenth News

APRIL 2006 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 3, Edition 4

# The Making of a Congressman

by Jane Goldenberg

After Gov. Rod Blagojevich took 70 percent in his gubernatorial primary, a personal best, he joked that he might not campaign in the general election. Dan Seals, however, doesn't have the cushion of incumbency. His 70 percent of the primary vote only puts him at the starting line in his quest to become the next congressman and the first Democrat since Abner Mikva to represent the 10th District.

Fortunately, Dan Seals has a cadre of passionate supporters ready to work hard to get him across the finish line ahead of his Republican opponent, Mark Kirk.



*The final (unofficial) vote totals for the race: Dan Seals 23,122; 71 percent; Zane Smith 9,607; 29 percent. Two days after his election win members of the Tenth Dems Administrative Committee presented Dan Seals with a campaign contribution of \$4000.*

Seals' supporters speak effusively of the 34-year-old candidate. At a recent meeting people weighed in: "He's so charismatic." "He cares about the environment." "He really cares about people." "He's in it for all the right reasons." "He's open to questions that come to him."

And they're willing to put their time and their money behind their words. As of the March 4 filing date, Seals had 185 individual contributors listed on the Federal Elections Commission website and \$132,687 in the bank. Kirk, on the other hand, had \$1.2 million.

Seals plans to keep up his busy schedule attending coffees – already he's had about 30 – because they allow him not only the opportunity of raising money but of meeting people across the district and hearing their concerns.

"I think of them as small town-hall meetings," Seals said. "Certainly I will make my case for my ideas, but once I'm done, anything goes. All manner of questions come up. Sometimes I have an answer. Sometimes, I don't. But I always learn something."

Among the issues that are raised, he noted, are immigration; jobs; lakefront development in the northern part of the district; impact aid in North Chicago, Highwood and Highland Park; plus the environment, the economy, health care and the war.

Seals also hears worries over wages, and "the fact that we are seeing our middle class shrink in size, as more people are pushed down below the poverty line." Voters are also talking about transportation.

*Continued on page 8*

# Kirk Campaign to Focus on Local Issues

by John Hmurovic

On the day after the primary election, a spokesperson for the Lake County Republican Party made a prediction in the Daily Herald about the Democratic campaign against Congressman Mark Kirk.

"The Democrats are clearly going to try to make the national issue a local issue," she said. "We're focusing on the local issues."

Translation: Mark Kirk, a Republican who has voted with the Bush Administration around 90 percent of the time in his Congressional career, is afraid voters will associate him with the Bush Administration.

So, his campaign will be about local issues. That's what he wants to talk about. Forget the fact that Mark Kirk and his Republican colleagues are responsible for the handling of the war in Iraq. Forget the fact that they have dug our nation into the deepest debt in its history. Forget the fact that they have slashed programs for the neediest and most vulnerable among us in order to give tax cuts to the super-rich. Forget all that. He wants to talk about local issues.

I admit it has been a long time since I took Civics in high school, but isn't a major role of Congress to deal with national and international issues? Or do we let the President handle those things and just give Mark Kirk and his Republicans colleagues new rubber stamps to replace the ones that they've worn out during the Bush years? If Mark Kirk wants to focus on local issues, shouldn't he be running for city council or a post on the county board?

But now I can better understand a few things about Congressman Kirk. I wondered why he never came to his district to talk about President Bush's plan to destroy Social Security. While other congressmen held hearings in their districts to see what the people had to say, Kirk never held a single public forum on the issue. He still has never said whether he supports or opposes the President's plans. But now I understand why he has no opinion on Social Security. It's probably not what he calls a local issue.

But if he wants to talk local issues, let's talk local issues. Let's talk about his recent vote to increase the amount of interest young people pay on student loans. Why did he vote to make it more expensive for students from places like Glencoe, Glenview, and Gurnee to go to college?

According to Jane Bryant Quinn of Newsweek, rising college costs are forcing students from well-to-do families (let's say, locally, from Bannockburn or Barrington) to switch to public universities, "perhaps because their parents haven't saved enough for education and retirement, too." The impact of this, according to Quinn, is that good state schools don't have room for the in-state poor. So the poor (let's say, locally, from North Chicago or Northbrook) are now forced to shift to two-year community colleges.

But the poor have government programs to help them, some of you might argue. They have programs like Pell Grants. But, as Quinn points out, college costs are up six to seven percent, and Pell Grants have not risen since 2003. Why? Because Mark Kirk and his Republican colleagues have other priorities.

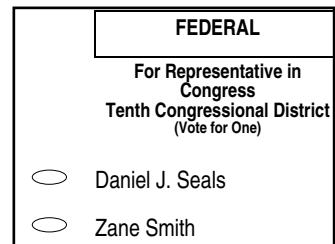
Students right here in Wilmette, Winnetka, and Waukegan have to figure out how to afford college. Meanwhile, what's going to happen to the schools which their younger brothers and sisters attend? President Bush's proposed budget calls for \$4.3 billion in cuts in education. We can't afford education, because the priority of Mark Kirk and his Republican Congress is to pay for yet another round of tax cuts for the wealthy that are expected to cost \$1 trillion over the next decade. By getting us into the war in Iraq (which Kirk has supported from the start), they have also drained \$250 billion (and counting) that might have gone to helping kids from Libertyville, Lincolnshire, and Lake Bluff get a better education. But Mark Kirk apparently doesn't plan to talk about his 100 percent support for tax cuts, the war, or elimination of programs to help the poor break the cycle of poverty. Those are controversial matters which apparently don't affect people in Highland Park or Highwood. He plans to focus on local issues.



# Come Together

by Ben Struhl

I'm a big fan of Democratic primaries — as long as the Democrats involved are intelligent. We had a primary this year for our 10th Congressional District candidate, and we should be thankful, because we had two good and intelligent candidates.



Now, it's our turn to be intelligent. We have to unite fully behind Dan Seals, whether you supported him or not in the primary.

Dan Seals is capable of beating Mark Kirk. By getting over 70 percent of the vote, he proved that he has broad-based appeal. He also proved that he could raise money and put together an effective campaign organization in a short period of time. And the best part is, his views on the issues are more in tune with the residents of the 10th District than those of Mark Kirk, who continues in his obedient support of the Bush Administration's policies. But Dan Seals won't win in November unless he has our full support.

All you have to remember is that we're all Democrats here, and Mark Kirk is a Republican. Let's keep our eye on the ball — Kirk's seat. Dan Seals is not just a huge improvement over Kirk, but Seals also will not be voting for Dennis Hastert for the critical post of Speaker of the House.

Zane Smith ran a good campaign and deserves our thanks for a job well done. He raised issues important to us all; he raised the profile of the race; and he clarified the problems with having Mark Kirk as a congressman. But Dan Seals emerged as the party's choice as the candidate to beat Mark Kirk. That's why I like primaries — they produce tested candidates — candidates able to win. And Dan Seals will win, if we Democrats get together and work hard toward our goal.



Zane Smith and Dan Seals appear at a candidate forum in Waukegan Township before the primary.

# *Six Easy Pieces -* *Taking Back the 10th Congressional District*

by Mark Paul

Game on. We have a candidate – scholar, executive, and all-around nice guy Dan Seals. And our national committee has finally pulled itself together to issue The Democratic Vision boiled down to six clearly stated and memorable points, short enough to fit on a door hanger.

- **Honest Leadership & Open Government**

We will end the Republican culture of corruption and restore a government as good as the people it serves.

- **Real Security**

We will protect Americans at home and lead the world by telling the truth to our troops, our citizens and our allies.

- **Energy Independence**

We will create a cleaner and stronger America by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

- **Economic Prosperity & Educational Excellence**

We will create jobs that will stay in America by restoring opportunity and driving innovation.

- **A Healthcare System that Works for Everyone**

We will join 36 other industrialized nations by making sure everyone has access to affordable health care.

- **Retirement Security**

We will ensure that a retirement with dignity is the right and expectation of every single American.

### **Together, America Can Do Better**

We are Democrats. All of us have ideas about how one point or another could have been tweaked, or wish a pet issue was addressed. Or we're ready to convert a point into a real live policy statement, suitable for presentation at a Kennedy School seminar. No doubt there are multiple versions of draft legislation for each of these points already sitting on hard drives. And I can already hear the computers cranking out demurring e-mails from MoveOn, the Democratic Leadership Council and the offices of various Presidential hopefuls in the Senate.

The rest of us, let's resist the temptation. This time, let's surprise everyone in the so-called "mainstream media's" Washington bureaus and force them to report on our agenda rather than our fractious response to it.

### **It will drive Karl Rove crazy.**

It's not intellectually stimulating to repeat the same lines over and over again. It doesn't enable us to score points in one of the deepest policy insight contests often held when Democrats gather. But there's real content and meaning in each of those six points. They can't be confused with Robert Redford repeating "For a Better Way, Bill McKay," until he begins to hallucinate.

Every time we repeat these points, someone is hearing them for the first time, and everyone else's memory is reinforced. If we stick to the DNC's language, the message grows exponentially in effectiveness. If we put out competing variations, the result is actually subtraction. Voters get confused and they stop listening.

Certainly, local candidates have to address local issues. I'm fairly confident, for instance, that Dan Seals stands forthright in support of computer-

controlled traffic lights. But don't forget, Congressional Republicans poll lowest when measured on a national basis. Voters tend to think more kindly toward their own congressman, and there may be no district where that is truer than the 10th.

After more than five years of mendacity, wishful thinking, rank incompetence, routine corruption and fundamentally mistaken policy choices, reality finally has caught up with the Bush-led Republican Party.

If we can resist the old counter-productive habits, we can win this.



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# MARCH PRIMARY ELECTION WRAP-UP

## IN COOK COUNTY

### Stroger/Claypool Race Overshadows Others

Most of the primary night attention in Cook County was on **John Stroger** winning the Democratic nomination for another term as president of the County Board over Forrester Claypool. Not as closely noted was the victory of **Tom Dart** over Sylvester Baker and Richard Remus in the Democratic race for Cook County Sheriff. Other countywide officeholders, such as **Maria Pappas** (treasurer), **James Houlihan** (assessor) and **David Orr** (clerk) were unopposed in the primary. All will face Republican opponents in the fall.

In all three Cook County Board races in our area, a Democrat ran unopposed in the primary. Incumbent Larry Suffredin (Evanston) currently has no Republican challenger in November. But neither Jim Steven Dasakis (Hoffman Estates), nor Thomas Kraus (Orland Park) are incumbents, and both will be facing Republican opposition.

Brendan Houlihan (Palos Heights) was unopposed in the Democratic primary for Board of Review District 1. He will face Republican incumbent Maureen Murphy.

### Shore Wins Race for Cook Water Reclamation Board



By the number of candidates on the ballot, someone might believe that being a Water Reclamation District Commissioner was Cook County's most glamorous job. But the fact is, the Board's main responsibility is to treat sewage. Glamorous? No. But with 2,100 employees, an annual budget of \$800 million, and the environmental importance of treating sewage in America's third largest metropolitan area while protecting the purity of Lake Michigan water as a drinking source, it is certainly an important job.

It is also a job that some candidates who have political ambitions see as a good stepping stone to higher office, which may explain why there were nine contenders for the three open slots on the Board. Finishing at the top were current Board chair **Terrance O'Brien**, **Patricia Horton** and **Debra Shore**. Shore is not a professional politician, but she still managed to win more votes than any other candidate. Perhaps that's because she came to the race as one of the most qualified candidates to seek the post. Shore is a professional conservationist. Among other roles, she is a leader in the Chicago Wilderness group, a consortium of groups working to protect the ecosystem of the Chicago area, and founding editor of Chicago Wilderness magazine.

The Republicans did not field any candidates for the Water Reclamation race. Although they can still appoint someone to run, odds are heavily in favor of Democrats Shore, O'Brien and Horton.

## IN LAKE COUNTY

### County Board Races Draw Interest

Other than one countywide race for Sheriff, won by **Mark Curran** over Larry Oliver, the only contested Lake County races in the Democratic primary were for County Board seats. In Waukegan, **Angelo Kyle** and **Robert Sabonjian** emerged victorious in bids for another term on the County Board. Neither has a Republican opponent in the fall, although the GOP can still appoint someone to run. Incumbent **Carol Spielman** is also unopposed at this time, after winning her primary over Arnie Silberman in a district that includes Deerfield and Highland Park.

**Diane Hewitt**, won her primary over Brandon Rohrdanz in a district that includes 10th District portions of Warren and Waukegan Townships. She will now face incumbent Republican Randall Whitmore in November's election.

Other Democratic County Board candidates in our area ran unopposed in the primary, but all will face Republican incumbents. They include **Kurt Anderson** (Park City, Gurnee); **Mary Ross Cunningham** (Waukegan); **Carrie Travers** (Lake Forest, Lake Bluff); **Del Parra** (Libertyville); **John Sonnenberg** (Vernon Hills, Indian Creek); **Marc Tepper** (Buffalo Grove, Long Grove); and **Anne Bassi** (Highland Park).

In the fall, there will also be significant attention given to two other countywide races. **Sharon Narrod** of Highland Park was nominated to run for County Clerk against incumbent Republican Willard Helander. And Democrat **Glenn Ryback** will challenge incumbent Treasurer Robert Skidmore.

### Curran Wins Nod for Lake County Sheriff Race



Attorney Mark Curran, who survived a heated primary campaign and easily defeated Larry Oliver to capture the Democratic nomination for Lake County sheriff, says he is optimistic about winning the November election.

Curran and Oliver faced off in numerous candidate forums, sponsored by Tenth Dems, leading up to the primary. They had many vigorous exchanges, yet both agreed that the biggest problem in the sheriff's office was its questionable ethics under incumbent Gary Del Re. If victorious, Curran predicted "The culture of the office will change; it will have a whole new look. This type of behavior will not be tolerated."

Two directors of the Lake County Jail, promoted by Del Re, have been indicted and are awaiting trial, Curran noted. A two-year investigation by the Attorney General and State's Attorney has uncovered "fraud, corruption and criminal wrongdoing," he said. Del Re is seeking his third term as Sheriff.

Curran, 42, a resident of Libertyville with a private legal practice in Waukegan, has worked as a prosecutor with the Lake County State's Attorney office. He also worked with the Illinois Attorney General's office, where he helped establish the Sexually Violent Persons Bureau.

After a week in Florida with his wife and children, he says, he will begin raising money and campaigning intensively. "Every day that's lost is a day you can't get back," said Curran. "I'm running against the clock."

Curran credited his victory to overwhelming support in the southern townships of Lake County, as well as endorsements from major newspapers and many elected officials. He said Oliver had called him to concede "and left a very gracious message."

## STATE SENATE RACES

### Incumbents Lead the Way

Incumbent state Senators **Terry Link** (Waukegan) and **Jeff Schoenberg** (Evanston) lead the field of five Democrats seeking State Senate seats in the November election in our area. Schoenberg faces no Republican opposition at this time, but Link will be challenged by Shields Township Supervisor Charles Fitzgerald.

Democrat **Dan Kotowski** won his primary, and will oppose newly appointed Republican state Senator Cheryl Axley. But the other two Democrats running in this area will be in races with no incumbent.

Firefighter and paramedic **Peter Gutzmer** is the Democratic choice in District 27, which includes parts of Buffalo Grove in Lake County, stretches down to Arlington Heights in Cook County, and over to include Palatine and Inverness. He is running for a seat being vacated by Republican state Senator Wendell Jones.

District 31 includes portions of Waukegan, Gurnee and Grayslake, and has been represented by 88-year old state Senator Adeline Geo-Karis for the past 33 years. But she lost the Republican primary to Warren Township Supervisor Suzanne Simpson. Democrat **Michael Bond** didn't have a primary opponent, but raised a significant amount of money ... a sign that this will be a top Democratic target in our area.

### Kotowski Gives Democrats Hope for A Senate Victory



When Republican state Senator Dave Sullivan resigned from his seat last year, Democrats saw an opportunity to pick up a seat in this year's election in District 33, which includes parts of Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows and Mount Prospect as well as a number of communities just across the southern border of the 10th Congressional district. Although District 33 is traditionally Republican, Democrats are confident that Dan Kotowski of Park Ridge, can win the seat. He emerged as the winner of the Democratic primary against attorney Jim Morici.

Kotowski had never run for public office, but he is familiar with the legislative process and with the needs of people who don't usually have the power or the money to go up against the rich special interest and lobby groups. In the 1990s, Kotowski headed up the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, which led a successful fight to enact gun safety laws. He currently works as Director for Development and Public Affairs for a child welfare agency, where he uses his skills as an advocate for society's least powerful members, children of poor families.

In the fall, Kotowski will face state Senator Cheryl Axley, who served as Elk Grove Township Clerk until last September, when she was appointed to fill the rest of Sullivan's term.

## STATE REP RACES

### Six Dem Incumbents, Five Newcomers in Local State Rep Races

Eleven Democrats will be running for state representative in districts that fall within the boundaries of the 10th Congressional District: six are incumbents, and five are newcomers.

Only one of those eleven had a challenger in the March primary. **Michael MacDonald** (Buffalo Grove) easily defeated Rob Sherman for the Democratic nomination. He will face Republican state Representative Sid Mathias in the fall.

**Sharyn Elman** (Gurnee) is the only one of the five Democratic newcomers who will not be facing an incumbent. **Judith-Rae Ross** (Skokie) will run against Republican Elizabeth Coulson; **Amanda Howland** (Lake Zurich) will challenge Ed Sullivan Jr.; and **Jeffrey Ketelsen** (Palatine) is opposing Suzie Bassi.

Five of the incumbent Democrats running in our area have no Republican challengers at this time: John D'Amico (Chicago), Julie Hamos (Evanston), Elaine Nekritz (Northbrook), Kathy Ryg (Vernon Hills), and Eddie Washington (Waukegan) ... although the Republicans may appoint candidates in some of these races.

Incumbent **Karen May** (Highland Park) already knows she will face a challenge from College of Lake County Board Chair William Griffin. Democrats also hope to appoint candidates to challenge four currently unopposed Republican House incumbents in the area: Paul Froelich (Schaumburg), JoAnn Osmond (Antioch), Rosemary Mulligan (Des Plaines) and Carolyn Kraus (Mount Prospect).

### Elman's Strong Run in 2004 Earns Her Another Try



Two years ago, many political observers might not have given Sharyn Elman much of a chance in her race for state representative. She was running against incumbent Bob Churchill, a well-known name in the 62nd District... a district which includes parts of Gurnee, Grayslake, and other traditionally Republican communities that border the northwest boundary of the 10th Congressional District. But those observers won't make such a prediction now.

Elman proved in 2004 that she knows how to run a campaign, and because she came so close to beating Churchill, she earned the right to a second try. She first ran for office after being diagnosed with breast cancer, and discovering first hand what the health care system is like for those who have jobs with no health care coverage. Elman channeled her frustration and outrage and has become an advocate not just for better health care for all, but better education for our children, better solutions for traffic problems, and a better quality of life in our area.

Unopposed in the primary, Elman will run against Lake County Board member, Republican Sandy Cole. Churchill backed out of another run against Elman, choosing to make a bid (unsuccessful) for the Republican 8th District Congressional nomination.

### No Surprises in Statewide Races, *Continued from page 1*

with DuPage County State's Attorney Joe Birkett rounding off the Republican ticket. For Attorney General, **Lisa Madigan** will be challenged for a second term by Tazewell County State's Attorney Stu Umholz. Secretary of State **Jesse White** goes for a third term against Republican state Senator Dan Rutherford of Pontiac. And **Dan Hynes** is running again for State Comptroller, against state Senator Carole Pankau of DuPage County.

# Media Machinations: Part II

by Ron Weiner

In last month's Tenth Dems Newsletter, I presented evidence that the "Liberal Press," that monstrous chimera so decried by those of the Republican (read "neo-con") persuasion, was only a shell of its former self. Media conglomeration and the resultant ownership or control of most of our news outlets by a handful of humongous corporations, had left only a paper tiger where left-leaning – or, at least, objective – and socially conscious newsmen had once prowled our journalistic jungles.

Over the past decade, many of us have become aware that these corporate colossi will simply not countenance a "liberal press." They have caused it to disappear, while keeping the shade of it alive by incessantly referring to it...the better to bludgeon America with the threat of the dreaded, horrific, and almost nonexistent "L-word."

But I suggested, that America might finally be stirring from its long, blindly complacent nap; that a wisp or two of a more progressive spirit may at last be wafting out to the open air, despite the continuing case-hard conservative control of our mainstream media. And that I, more than 30 years ago, had begun to awaken to that heady aroma when Phil Donahue brought his then six-year-old show from Dayton, Ohio, to the production facilities of WGN-TV, where I was assigned to be its director, and became a member of his staff.

The program's style and stance, while admittedly often titillating, was always journalistic. **We delivered information.** We were the perfect example of the broadcasting industry's long-established contract with the public: that in exchange for the use of the public-owned air-waves, broadcasting promised **to operate in the public interest; that is, to entertain, educate, and inform.**

Not too much of that happening in television today, friends. Well, I suppose they can realistically claim to do a big job entertaining us, but one out of three is simply not fulfilling that contract.

And the responsibility for that lies with the corporate interests, as in the example offered below.

In 1985, after eleven enormously successful years here, during which Phil became a household word and an easy answer in crossword puzzles, and during which Donahue and our staff won 17 National Emmy Awards (variously for the show, for its host, for its producers and for myself as well), Phil moved the show to New York, whereupon I decided, for various personal reasons, to let it go on without me.

A dozen years later, Donahue, having been on the air for some 28 years, called it a career – or so he thought at the time.

In the summer of 2002, MSNBC – engaged in a losing battle with Fox News Channel for cable-news supremacy – called on him to return to television to host an issues-and-answers program, hoping that the man who had set the standard for television talk would provide the boost it needed to compete more successfully with its competitors. From its outset, the show did well, often leading MSNBC in the nightly ratings. It was regularly the network's most-watched program.

Just at that time the war in Iraq seemed imminent. Phil – who had been and continued to be publicly outspoken against the war – believed his shows and his anti-war stance would distinguish the program, contributing to the dialogue about the controversy over the war and giving it added commercial value. He felt this would be a strategically good move for a network that was trying to scratch its way upward.

Wrong! After only seven months, in February, 2003, the show was cancelled; some weeks prior, a leaked NBC memo had read: "[He presents a] difficult public face for NBC in a time of war, at the same time our competitors are waving the flag."

"That's why I call myself naïve," he said later, "I never anticipated how truly hostile [management] would be to an anti-war voice, not only in the corridors of NBC, but at all the commercial networks."

A little over three years later, few remember that program ever existed. Is there any program on the public's airwaves now (airwaves usurped by Big Media as they merge and consolidate their stranglehold on our communications system and thus society through their political allies now in control of Congress and the FCC) that serves to remind anyone of their broken contract with us?

The broadcasters made our citizens a promise to properly and steadfastly educate, entertain, and inform us in exchange for their free use of our airwaves. Where did that commitment go? Why, it went the way of the Liberal Press. You remember the Liberal Press, don't you? Need a reminder? Ask anyone from the Religious Right; ask any Corporate Conglomerator; ask any Republican.

They'll tell you all about it, and what a really scary thing it is.



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# Township Forums All Over the 10th District



Democrats in all 12 townships that make up the 10th District got to meet the candidates at forums organized by the local township Democratic organization and/or Tenth Dems. Above: Lake County Clerk candidate Sharon Narrod explains early voting at the Waukegan Township forum.



Above, Shields Township Candidate Forum, March 2nd. Candidates running for State Central Committeeman, (l to r) Alan Prochaska and Bill Crowley are introduced by North Chicago's Fourth Ward Alderwoman, Shaunese Teamer. Left, Zane Smith discusses the issues with David Robin.



Right, Dan Seals and Karen May at West Deerfield Township Forum, February 26th.



## Election Night Celebrations

Left: Democrats from Moraine and West Deerfield Townships gathered at Trax in Deerfield on election night to watch the vote totals come in. Below: While in Northbrook, Dan Seals supporters celebrated their candidate's victory at the Hilton.





"As you get farther out from the city, people have to spend hours each day commuting to and from work. We've got to find a better way to ease that congestion," Seals said.

The coffees have also supplied a regular source of volunteers, "a cast of thousands," as he put it, who work a multiplicity of jobs for the campaign, from office and volunteer management, to phone banking to sign assembly and mailings.

One important local issue involves Israel, said Seals, who's planning a trip to Israel in April. While many pro-Israel voters have in the past proved a reliable source of votes for former Congressman John Porter and then Kirk, Seals is determined to show this swing bloc that he will be as solidly pro-Israel as anyone.



Dan Seals on the campaign trail.

These voters don't "have to choose between supporting their values there and supporting their values here. They can have both," Seals said, referring to the umbrella of issues that he calls part of caring for the community, from supporting the elderly to making sure kids have a chance to attend college.

In the meantime, Seals will be busy raising money and getting the message out. Many in the district feel he can beat Kirk, but it will take an army of people on the ground.

"It's about getting to the doors. It's about getting on the phones. There's no glamour on election day. It's all about execution," Jan Schakowsky told a rally of Seals' supporters in Winnetka days before the primary. So far so good.

## You Can Track Your Vote!

by Carol Jones

So you voted early, you voted absentee, or you voted on March 21st. Thank you for voting in the primary! This will be a more important "off-year" than you might think. With all the excitement in the primary and all the new voting procedures in place this election, we should be extra vigilant in monitoring the recording of our votes.

Did you know that you can check to make sure your vote counted in the primary? You can check with the County Clerk's office – Lake County at (847) 377-2400 or Cook County at (312) 603-0906 – to confirm the party ballot you pulled in this last election. All you need to do is call and ask what is on file. Only in the primaries can you check accuracy by party ballot. Making sure they have your vote counted and in the right party is a great way to check on the new procedures for early voting, absentee voting and standard voting.

If you find a mistake in how your vote was recorded, or if you have a question about how to check on your vote, call (847) 266-VOTE.

## We Can Land A Man On the Moon ...



While contemplating Bush's vague and distant goal for developing alternative energy sources, we should remember a simple timeline from a massive federal technology program managed by Democrats:

- 05/05/61. Alan Shepard takes the first, sub-orbital U.S. space flight.
- 05/25/61. John Kennedy announces the U.S. will land a man on the moon before the end of the decade.
- 7/20/69. Neil Armstrong steps onto the moon.



David Borris of the North Suburban Peace Initiative addresses a crowd of close to 100 residents that gathered in Highland Park to mark the third anniversary of the War in Iraq.

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