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Calling All Volunteers: Now is the Time to Start Working for '08

by Mary Reynolds

February is a transition month – it's still cold and snowy here in the 10th District, but the sun is starting to break through, and by the end of the month we can sometimes see crocuses and snowdrops in our yards. February is the month when we take a serious look at those New Year's resolutions we made – to help set up public forums, to pursue opposition research and write letters to the editor, to strengthen relationships across the district, to build up our system of precinct workers in preparation for '08 – the possibilities for volunteer work with the Tenth Dems are limited only by your own creativity and energy. Volunteering can be done entirely at your convenience. Whether you have two hours a week or twenty, whether you prefer working from your home or enjoy traveling the district, there are chances to get involved and work for progressive change in a meaningful way.

To help you put those New Year's resolutions into practice, this Wednesday evening, February 7th, the Tenth Dems welcome you to the annual Volunteer Fair, which is being held at the Jewett Park Community Center in Deerfield. Regardless of whether you have already picked out a favorite for the presidential race in '08 or are looking carefully at the candidates who have announced, you will thrill to the kickoff speech for the evening by Pete Giangreco, advisor to the presidential campaign staff for Senator Barack Obama. Pete, who is affiliated with The Strategy Group in Evanston, will also have time to answer your questions about what really happens on those campaigns. Next, representatives of the Tenth Dems committees will give some highlights about each of their committees, which will begin meeting in February and early March. Then there will be time to browse the committee booths and

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Tenth News

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IT'S ALL ABOUT WINNING

Tenth Dems Uses iPod Giveaway to Boost Recruitment

by John Hmurovic

To most, an iPod is a way to enjoy music. But for Merrilee Redmond of Winnetka, it's also a reminder that there is a lot of work to do over the next 21 months. Redmond won the iPod in a recent recruiting drive conducted by the Tenth Dems, which barely waited for the numbers to be counted in the 2006 election before getting to work on the election scheduled for November 2008.

Redmond exclaimed that she "never wins anything," when she was presented with the iPod after her name was randomly selected from a pool of almost 100 new sign-ups that Tenth Dems recruited in late December. Winning is what the recruiting drive was all about. Democrats have made significant strides in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago in recent years, but they are not yet content to stop working for even more victories.

"We are using these first months after the election to build our base of volunteers," says Lauren Beth Gash, the chair of Tenth Dems and also the Democratic State Central Committeewoman for the 10th Congressional District. "And we're also getting everything in place to use them effectively in the 2008 campaign."

Tenth Dems has a pool of almost one thousand volunteer names, as well as a growing list of readers of Tenth News, its newsletter. But Gash says there is a need for even more volunteers in 2008, when Democrats have a chance to regain the White House, win the 10th Congressional District seat, re-elect Dick Durbin to the U.S. Senate, and help a number of local Democrats win their races.

Candidates for president may announce early and begin building

their campaign organizations more than a year before the first ballots are cast. But candidates for state, county, and local offices generally don't emerge until the months before the election. That's where Tenth Dems come in. Gash said that even before the 2006 election Tenth Dems had hundreds of volunteers identified. As soon as local candidates announced, many of those volunteers were activated and ready to help. Gash said that, thanks to Democratic groups like Tenth Dems, 10th Congressional District candidate Dan Seals had a strong base of volunteers right from the start of his campaign. She says that having a corps of volunteers who were ready to go gave Seals a head start that contributed to his campaign coming closer than many expected to unseating Republican Mark Kirk in the 2006 race.

"Once we recruit volunteers," Gash said, "we plan to train them and keep them interested in Democratic politics." She said that Tenth Dems is currently planning a number of training events, as well as other events that will take place right up to the 2008 election. "Tenth Dems has conducted several well-attended



Merrilee Redmond shows off her new iPod.

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March on Washington

by Lee Goodman

Anti-war demonstrators traveled from the Chicago area to Washington, D.C., to join a crowd estimated at more than one hundred thousand that on Saturday, January 27, urged the U.S. government to end the military occupation of Iraq. Movie stars Sean Penn and Jane Fonda got lots of media attention for their role in the protests, but activists from the 10th congressional district were also part of the demonstration.

David Borris of Highland Park was at Saturday's rally and march, and he stayed to lobby members of Congress on Monday morning. He led a delegation to the offices of Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama, and Republican Congressman Mark Kirk. Borris reported that the mood in Washington was different from what he had experienced during previous visits. "There is a definite understanding that the public does not support the war," said Borris. "There is still too much reluctance to take decisive action to end the war, but at least we are now sensing that many people in our government are finally willing to deal with the facts of the war, and the suffering and destruction it has caused."

Borris said that the group he led was urging Congress to stop funding the war, because they felt that is the strongest thing Congress can do at this point. "With President Bush refusing to listen to the people or the generals or the study group report, Congress has to force the issue," said Borris.

Others who went to D.C. reported that the demonstration was better organized than previous efforts, indicating that the peace movement is continuing to develop and mature. As with

previous marches, the participants were a very diverse group, coming from all parts of the country. And as in previous demonstrations, veterans who are against the war were prominently featured, as were family members of soldiers who are either serving in the war or who have been wounded or killed in the war.

Barbara A. Weiner of Highland Park was at the march and said, "It was well worth my time." She was particularly impressed by the demonstrators who had lost family members in the war, although she said, "It was painful to watch." She urges people to plan now to attend the demonstrations that will be held in Chicago and D.C. in March to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.



Hundreds of thousands gather to listen to speakers at the rally.

A Personal Account of the March by Terry Jones



One of my personal favorite protest signs.

I took one of three buses leaving Chicago Friday, January 26, to take part in the protest march in Washington. It was an amazing experience, as I joined a veritable sea of people from all over the country who had converged on the nation's capital to speak their minds. I know the news reports stuck to the line of "tens of thousands" but I can tell you that it was really hundreds of thousands. I began the journey alone, but made new friends on the bus, so

An Organized Party with Tangible Accomplishments by Zena Kaufman

"I am not a member of any organized political party. I am a Democrat."

—Will Rogers.

Yes, we've won both houses, but we'll need to be organized to be successful in 2008. Are you like me and starting to get nervous the Democratic field is getting too crowded? Will we have too many Democratic candidates with too much mudslinging and end up with a mediocre compromise? Will we see a campaign run on negative ads and determined by who has the most money in a war chest?

I would rather see a Democratic campaign organized and rich on issues. Our party will have to ensure it identifies these critical issues and their impact on our nation and voters.

In the past election, the Democrats sent a strong message regarding the war in Iraq. I hope the Democratic Congress will make sure this is not an issue two years from now, however. I want Iraq to be a bad memory, and quickly.

I want our party to look more deeply into the root causes of the current crisis in the Middle East and to develop a long-term fix. Thomas Friedman has been writing a series of columns on energy issues and linking energy to the terrible events in our headlines. His central theme can be summarized in a simple equation – funding foreign oil means funding terrorism. I want the Democrats to be leaders and develop a strategy for eliminating our dependence on foreign oil.

There are currently two pieces of legislation in the House – H.R. 6, which is the CLEAN [Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation] Energy Act of 2006, and H.Res. 66 – that seek to reduce our nation's dependency on foreign oil by looking at alternate energy sources and increasing the efficiencies of current sources

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our little group of five people made a pact to stick together – no simple task in such a crowd, except for the magic of cell phones. Being a designer, I had made several different protest signs, which also helped us keep track of each other. A lot of people did approach me to compliment me on the one I carried, which read, in part, "IMPEACHMENT – it's not just for bl@% jo&\$ anymore" (except I actually spelled it out). It appeared that at least a third of the signs called for impeachment of Bush and Cheney.

The weather couldn't have been better, the crowd was exuberant but orderly, and even with all those protest signs, not a single paper cut was suffered. One of the more interesting things to note was the lack of police presence. Not that there was none, but compared to other events I've been to it was very subdued. Contrast the Chicago protest last March, for example, where cops in their scary SWAT costumes lined the march route, menacingly brandishing their clubs.

It was hard to get photos that really captured the scope of the event, but I offer a couple here. There was the tiniest, most pathetic counter-protest of about two dozen people (even the media could only exaggerate it up to 40). My favorite of their "powerful" signs was "HIPPIES SMELL." And by the time our group returned to Chicago on the bus, that was quite true.



Me (2nd from left) and my new "peeps" after the march.

Teaming Up with Teamer for North Chicago Race *by Carol Jones, Shields Democrats*

It is often the little things that make a neighborhood special.

Alderman Shauneese Teamer of the 4th Ward in North Chicago understood that when she began asking why trick-or-treating had been canceled 12 years before. Teamer led the campaign to have Halloween trick-or-treat activities reinstated. She personally hands out flyers to be displayed on doors of participating families, and she has enjoyed handing out treats to little goblins ever since.

Ald. Teamer has also tackled the big issues. She serves as Community Development Chair for the City Council, which has undertaken a redevelopment campaign to acquire the Lavin and Fansteel commercial sites and border properties for Sheridan Crossings, set to be North Chicago's largest retail development. "Seeking new economic development opportunities and business growth has been a primary issue in North Chicago for many years," says Ald. Teamer. "Only in the past five years have residents been able to see real economic development growth in the city. The Sheridan Road redevelopment signals the growth of new jobs and new business revenues for North Chicago, representing one of the most important ways to secure and enhance the economic prosperity of our community."

These are the projects Ald. Teamer believes will move North Chicago forward, and these projects are why she is running for re-election as 4th Ward Alderman in a primary race Feb. 27.

At her recent fundraiser, she had the opportunity to summarize her many accomplishments and demonstrate her passionate commitment to North Chicago.

Her background in economic development came prior to her election



Alderman Teamer greets trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

as alderman while serving as President of North Chicago's Five Points Economic Development Corporation, an entity charged with providing loans to individuals to start or expand businesses within city limits. As president, Ald. Teamer led the Corporation's initiative to support the development of North Chicago's downtown revitalization campaign with the Grant Place Retail Center, set to open this spring.

The community has taken notice of these accomplishments. During her first term in office, Ald. Teamer was recognized for her efforts in supporting the building of two playgrounds. In 2004, she coordinated the North Chicago city sticker design contest, which has awarded over \$3,000 in savings bonds to North Chicago students, and she formed the first Young Politician's Club at the Neal Math & Science Academy. Last summer, she announced her Block By Block Pride Meeting initiative – outdoor meetings designed to open lines of communication among residents and help address issues of importance to residents living on each block.

Ald. Teamer's efforts have also been recognized nationally. In December, she was awarded the NLC Silver Certificate, which is presented to city officials when they reach core competency levels within the National League of Cities leadership training program. Ald. Teamer, a graduate member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership, is one of only 135 NLC members to reach this level in the Certificate of Achievement Leadership program.

Ald. Teamer has her sights set on several exciting future projects, such as the introduction of two major housing developments that will play a major part in building North Chicago's tax base. In addition to serving as Community Development Chairman, Teamer is also on the Finance, Water and Audit Committee.



2006 congressional candidate Dan Seals (center) and state Senator Susan Garrett (right) were among many local Dem luminaries who came to lend their support for Ald. Shauneese Teamer's re-election campaign at a Shields Democrats and Independents fund-raiser Jan. 25th at Toby's Tavern and Grill in North Chicago.

Volunteers *Continued from page 1*

sign up for those that interest you the most.

Doors to the Volunteer Fair open at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7th. The Jewett Park Community Center is located at 836 Jewett Park Drive in Deerfield, right off Waukegan Road, behind the Deerfield Police Station. It is near the intersection of Waukegan and Deerfield Roads; take the first left north of Deerfield Road on Waukegan, and go toward the back. There is ample parking.

Can't make it on the 7th? Here's a brief description of some of our committees. If you are interested in joining one or more of these committees, or have suggestions about other potential committees or special projects, please contact TenthDems@aol.com and you will be put in touch with a committee chair.

Communications – includes website, letters to the editor, blogs, Yahoo group, media relations, and the newsletter.

Constituency and Organization Outreach – supports specialized requirements of niche groups in the district; develops relationships with local, state, and national organizations that share our goals.

Database – actively updates Tenth Dems lists and develops reliable voter lists.

Events – plans and implements events and activities for members and the public.

Fundraising/Membership – seeks development of member and donor base as well as creative ideas for fundraising.

Legal – acts as a legal resource and conducts legal research on election and political issues. Lawyers preferred, but not always necessary.

Regional Coordination/Precinct Work – helps strengthen relationships across the district; continues development of precinct structure.

Research – includes research about local and national issues as well as research pertaining to the logistical needs of the organization.

Tenth Dems U – A NEW COMMITTEE – develops and implements a set of courses, including speakers, that are of particular interest to area Democrats and that will help members work efficiently and effectively to elect Democrats.

Volunteer Management – this core committee welcomes new volunteers, directs them to committees, directs phone banks, and acts as a liaison to each of the other committees.

Water, a Priceless Liquid Asset

by Debra Shore

Debra Shore is a commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. The following is from an op-ed piece first published in the Chicago Tribune.

On January 17, 1900, a group of exhausted workers and nervous commissioners stood on the banks of the Sanitary and Ship Canal and watched as the dam at Lockport was lowered, making the final connection between Lake Michigan and the Des Plaines River and reversing the flow of the Chicago River. In that instant, when lake water began flowing through the canal into the Des Plaines River, Chicago's future as a robust metropolis was assured.

This grand act preserved the integrity of Chicago's drinking water supply – Lake Michigan – by sending sewage downstream instead of into the lake, and it protected the city's residents from diseases caused by poor sanitation.

Ultimately, the Sanitary District (now called the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago) would build treatment plants throughout Cook County, including the world's largest, at Stickney, and would undertake another massive engineering project – the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, known as the Deep Tunnel – to reduce pollution caused by storm water overflow.

But the diversion of water from Lake Michigan caused by the river's reversal means that we take more water from the lake than we put back.

We pull a billion gallons a day from Lake Michigan for residential and industrial use – sometimes more – and return almost none of it.

At the same time, we take the billions of gallons of rainwater that fall each year on Cook County and hustle nearly all of it into our sewers, where it becomes contaminated.

We pay to treat it, and then send it downstream where it eventually becomes New Orleans' problem.

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission predicts that the region's overall population will reach more than 10 million people by 2030. More people mean greater demand on our water supply. Those of us who have access to Lake Michigan for our drinking water will come under increasing scrutiny for our water use from those who don't. Are we in the Chicago region acting as responsible stewards of this precious resource, or are we wasteful?

The challenge for us is to begin to think about and to talk about stormwater – all the rain and snow that falls on our region – as drinking water. The 35 inches that fall on Cook County each year amount to more than 500 billion gallons of fresh, clean water.

There are only two places our drinking water comes from: surface water, primarily Lake Michigan, or from the ground. And those sources are replenished by rain.

So the task before us is nothing less than a dramatic change in the way we think about, talk about, and manage our freshwater resources. Every time we talk about managing stormwater, let's talk about managing drinking water.

Today we treat rainwater as if it were a misbehaving student: We send it to detention. We send it to detention until we can figure out how to get it away from us permanently.

Let me suggest that there is another path. The sustainable cities of the future will be those that are most successful at changing their own culture, that make the transition from viewing stormwater as a problem to viewing rainwater as a liquid asset to be captured, treasured, saved and not squandered.

Changes will need to come in our homes, yards, towns, and watersheds. For instance, my partner and I wanted to rip up the rather large asphalt driveway in front of our home and replace it with gravel, which would

allow rainwater to infiltrate the ground and recharge the underground aquifer. We calculated this would save 10,000 gallons a year that today run into the street, collect salt and oil and contaminants, flow into the sewer, and ultimately go to a treatment plant.

That's 10,000 gallons a year from one driveway. But our village code has thus far prevented us from taking this path.

Instead of obstacles, government can provide incentives and assistance to individuals and municipalities to protect and enhance our water resources.

As part of Mayor Richard Daley's water conservation agenda for Chicago, the city has installed a green roof on part of McCormick Place that will return up to 50 million gallons of rainwater to Lake Michigan per year, water that otherwise would have gone into the sewers. A drop here, a bucket there – pretty soon it begins to add up.

There are no substitutes for fresh water.

Smart planners and policymakers are now promoting a host of techniques, such as the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable pavement, to capture rainwater where it falls.

I believe we have a chance here, a rare moment in time, when we can set the course for generations – toward a sustainable, harmonious, healthy relationship with nearby nature – or not.

We can change the culture. We can act as caring stewards. We can treat and manage water as a priceless liquid asset.

Escalation by Ron Weiner

With apologies (and in homage) to The Nation's "Deadline Poet," Calvin Trillin:

Still playing the war chief without hesitation,
His spin-game is Rove-like; "There'll be no cessation,"
(Though "staying the course" is the bane of our nation).
He insists on continuing this conflagration.
He calls it a "surge," but we say: **"Escalation."**

Rejecting Republicans' own protestation,
He continues his ego-bent intimidation,
Regardless of Congress, to their consternation.
This "Caesar" defies rank-and-file condemnation,
Saying: "It's just a surge," though we cry: **"Escalation!"**

He lied when he answered our first objurgation
By citing those Weapons of Mass Devastation,
A figment, we've learned, of his imagination;
Now citing some sort of Democratization,
He orders a "surge," though we scream **"Escalation!"**

But wait! There just might be some justification
For making a different evaluation:
Perhaps he's delusional, has this sensation
Of speaking to God in direct conversation.
(Maybe God will explain "surge" is still **"Escalation!"**)

It's clear to us all: there is no motivation
For us to continue Iraq's ruination,
For even our Generals without reservation
Are saying, "We've failed, there's no simplification."
It's not just a "surge," folks, it's called **"Escalation."**

And how many soldiers must die at their station?
How many Iraqis of this generation
Must die by this new kind of terrorization?
And how many more of our civilization
Will be purged in this "surge," better called **"Escalation."**

Democrats are Solidly Pro-Israel *by Steve Sheffey*

Happily, the new Congress, controlled by the Democrats, is likely to be even more pro-Israel than its predecessor. In the Senate, there are now a record 13 Jews, only two of whom are Republicans. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is well-known as a strong friend of Israel. Carl Levin now chairs Armed Services. The Foreign Relations Committee will no longer be chaired by Republican Lincoln Chafee, who was one of Israel's toughest critics in either party and was defeated last November. The Committee will now be chaired by John Kerry, who is unquestionably far better on Israel than Chafee was.

There are now 30 Jews in the House, all but one of whom are Democrats. New House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is on record as saying that "America's commitment to the safety and security of the State of Israel is unwavering. America and Israel share an unbreakable bond: in peace and war, and in prosperity and in hardship . . . The United States will stand with Israel now and forever. Now and forever."

When Steny Hoyer was elected Majority Leader, the nonpartisan Jewish Telegraphic Agency pointed out that "Hoyer has made a point of promoting bipartisan support of Israel, has urged freshmen lawmakers to join the numerous congressional delegations to Israel he has led, and has isolated Democrats who have been strongly critical of the Jewish state."

Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever to serve in Congress, now chairs the House International Relations Committee. The House Subcommittee on the Middle East and Southeast Asia is now chaired by Gary Ackerman, a pro-Israel Jewish Congressman from New York. The House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations is now chaired by New York's Nita Lowey, also Jewish.

But what does it mean to be "pro-Israel?" In today's world, being pro-Israel means standing by Israel politically, diplomatically, and economically. It means supporting increased military assistance for Israel. It means stopping Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. It means supporting full implementation of the Syrian Accountability Act. By this definition, the Democratic Party in general and Dan Seals in particular are strongly pro-Israel.

Israel is America's only reliable ally in the Middle East, and no other country in the world shares America's values to the extent Israel does. The United States and Israel both were founded by idealists who shared a dream of democracy and freedom; and both were created to stand for something special. The ties between Israel and America are based on shared values as well as geopolitical realism, both of which should be reason enough for an unshakeable bond.

Here in the United States support for Israel is so much stronger than in Europe, not because of strong lobbying by American Jewry, but because, unlike Europe, the United States does not have a history of institutionalized anti-Semitism, state religion, or significant dependence on Arab oil.

It is therefore no coincidence that strong support for Israel frequently results in success at the polls. The 10th District is a perfect example. The two Democrats who have done the best against Mark Kirk, Lauren Beth Gash and Dan Seals, were unequivocally pro-Israel and they both nearly won. The other two candidates were perceived as questionable on Israel and finished far out of the running.

It is true that fringes of both the Democratic and Republican parties are critical of Israel. This is natural in a two-party system. Those on the right who are critical of Israel have nowhere to belong but the Republican Party, even though as a whole, the Republican Party is very pro-Israel. Those on the left who are critical of Israel have nowhere to belong but the Democratic Party, even though Democrats in Congress are overwhelmingly pro-Israel.

Here is one 2008 election prediction you can take to the bank: In the

general election, supporters of Mark Kirk will ignore the overwhelming support of Israel by the Democrats and point to isolated blogs or websites to support their contention that "the Democrats" are not pro-Israel. When that happens, we must remind our Republican friends that an opinion expressed on a blog or a website represents only the lone opinion of the blogger or the person controlling the web content, and we should gently point them toward our candidate's website for the real story.

Anyone who supports the principles of the premier pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC, would have seen from reading Dan Seals's website that Dan could not have been more pro-Israel. AIPAC is non-partisan and does not support candidates. It supports positions. Saying AIPAC is conservative or liberal makes as much sense as saying a triangle is blue or red. Being pro-Israel transcends party lines and ideological labels. To the extent anyone, even George Bush, takes pro-Israel positions, AIPAC supports those positions, just as AIPAC will oppose any policies that are not pro-Israel, no matter who takes them. Yes, we hear rhetoric about how pro-Israel George Bush is, but let's not forget that Bill Clinton was also considered a great friend of Israel by the same community.

Democrats and Republicans alike work closely with AIPAC, and that is as it should be. AIPAC does not attempt to represent the fringes of the community. AIPAC does not even pretend to speak for Monday-morning quarterbacks with the chutzpah to think they, sitting in their safe suburban homes, know better than Israel how to defend against

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Come to the Tenth Dems Volunteer Fair

With featured speaker, Pete Giangreco

Pete Giangreco, a senior advisor to Senator Obama's run for the White House, directs election-winning campaigns as a partner at the award-winning Strategy Group. Pete has been at the heart of some of the most exciting races in this country over the last four years, helping to make John Edwards a household name, electing three new Democratic governors, one new



Democratic U.S. senator, and five new members of Congress. The Obama campaign is Pete's seventh presidential race. While at The Strategy Group, Giangreco served as Deputy National Field Director for Clinton-Gore '92 and as lead direct mail consultant to Clinton-Gore '96. Come hear his stories at the Tenth Dems Volunteer Fair on

Wednesday, February 7th at 7:30 pm

The Jewett Park Community Center

836 Jewett Park Drive, Deerfield

DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 PM

This will also be an opportunity to learn about and sign up to help on Tenth Dems committees!

Questions or comments? Please call 847-266-VOTE (8683) or email TenthDems@aol.com

The Grateful Dead, Escalation, and Impeachment *by Mark Paul*

There was a bit of a shock when members of The Grateful Dead played at the celebration of the new Congress now known as Pelosi Fest. For Pelosi, it could simply be an enthusiasm for a local band that made good, but Harry Reid and Pat Leahy, among other Democratic leaders, also copped to having a long-standing taste for the band's music.

Public endorsement of The Dead is, for one thing, a sign that perhaps politicians and voters aren't so uptight anymore about youthful indiscretions with drugs. The Rolling Stones are famous for their drug use; but with The Dead it was always both the band and the audience. I don't expect, however, that Barack Obama will adopt "Casey Jones" as his campaign theme.

But more broadly, the Haight-Ashbury scene from which The Dead sprang was always more deeply subversive than were the Berkeley radicals across the bay. Radical politics is still politics, but the hippies were after something else, and nothing expressed whatever that was better than The Dead's improvisations.

Those improvisations often dispensed with lead guitar solos supported by the rhythm section in favor of a group improvisation that sometimes dissolved the tune itself, while players offered riffs and scales to suggest the next song to play. This is genuinely weird to write, but The Dead's method may be functioning as something of a model for senators as they deal with a president who has lost everything but his own intransigence.

It seems particularly true with regard to Iraq. While Reid has bluntly denied that Bush has unilateral power to go to war with Iran, the Senate majority leader has been content to step aside while small bi-partisan groups of senators form to issue statements about the resolutions they are drafting in response to Bush's ongoing escalation.

There's the Biden-Levin-Hagel-Snowe unit, now followed by the Warner-Collins-Smith-Nelson group, as well as solos from Jay Rockefeller and Ted Kennedy. Everyone is tossing out motifs and listening for others to pick up on them. In this way, the Senate will work its way toward a resolution. Or maybe two, one designed to gain the largest possible majority and another that is more emphatically worded but with narrower support.

In any case, it would be a mistake to read these resolutions as if they were op-ed columns to be rigorously parsed, much less legislation that Bush is legally obligated to acknowledge. Certainly, no one in the Senate believes Bush intends to do anything but bequeath to his successor what a Republican senator from Nebraska terms "the most dangerous foreign policy blunder in this country since Vietnam."



The resolutions are, instead, the next step toward a constitutional crisis that Bush and his legal advisors, enthralled by theories of a unitary executive, seem determined to provoke. As I write this, only a few hours before Bush delivered his State of the Union address, Sen. Warner, a senior Republican from Virginia, felt it necessary to remind a PBS interviewer that he is a member of a branch that is co-equal with the Presidency. While senators try out resolution phrases, they are asking their colleagues – sometimes directly but often in a more oblique manner – what they are willing to do if Bush responds as expected and continues to pour more troops into Iraq.

Those calculations are changing in the Senate, and not just among those competing for presidential nominations. Twenty-two Republican senators – nearly half – must run for re-election next year, and their fear is palpable. A previously stalwart Bush supporter, Norm Coleman of Minnesota, has emerged as a prominent critic of the escalation. Wayne Allard of Colorado simply announced he would not run again.

Even Rep. Mark Kirk, who never offered a comment on the Iraq Study Group's report (although he somehow supported it before it was written), ventured to say he was skeptical of Bush's escalation plan.

With Republican support crumbling, Bush would be vulnerable to the impeachment he so richly deserves, if only this were earlier in the election cycle. Now, though, there simply isn't enough time, the order of succession is problematic, and the process could only jeopardize an otherwise certain, overwhelming, and broad Democratic victory next year.

When the end came for Nixon, a delegation of senior Republican senators led by Barry Goldwater delivered the news. A similar group probably led by Warner and Richard Lugar will meet with Bush. This time, however, the message will not be resignation. Instead, an informal agreement will be reached that transfers power to the congressional committees, with Bob Gates serving as a sort of regent. The Crawford vacations will grow even longer and Bush will spend more time working out and riding his bicycle on the Camp David trails. This is actually what he had in mind when he first decided to run for president.

And then, less than two years from now, a Democrat will move into the White House. Pelosi Fest was just a warm-up. Those inaugural balls will be a blast to remember.

TENTH DEMS SPEAK OUT



On Jan. 10, 2007, Tenth Dems hosted a Speak-Out at the Highland Park Community House. The event was open to the public and invited attendees to share what was on their minds. Left to right: Mark Paul speaks about a recent newsletter article; Carol Jones, Trude Roselle, and Beth Marquardt listen to the discussion; Richard Hutner discusses campaign messaging.

Cost of War Or the Cost of Health Care

by Paul Kelly

We do not know the total cost of the war in Iraq to the taxpayers of the United States, but it appears that one more victim of the war may be the opportunity to have universal health care.

David Leonhardt of the *New York Times* recently wrote an article estimating that the war in Iraq will end up costing \$1.2 trillion. This is a conservative estimate – there are others who, calculating the costs of not investing that money in the American economy, put the costs closer to \$2 trillion. Leonhardt is including only the actual cost of troops, not an increase in the cost of gas that Americans pay because of the war, the cost of rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq, and the equipment costs of replacing all the hardware that we are burning through.

Richard Cowan of Reuters recently reported that replacement costs for lost, destroyed, and aging equipment have almost doubled, from about \$4.4 billion a month to almost \$8 billion. Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said that the Pentagon has to replace big-ticket items such as helicopters, airplanes, and armored vehicles that are wearing out or were lost in combat.

So, conservatively, the war is costing \$200 billion a year.

Leonhardt's piece also had a sidebar showing that, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the cost of universal health care for all the people in the United States who don't have health care is \$100 billion a year.

If that number is accurate, or close, it raises the question of why the United States didn't just go ahead and fund universal health care. And what will be stopping us from doing so when this conflict comes to an end, whenever that is?

Unlike the cost of the war in Iraq, the cost of universal health care would go down once the initial investment was made. The cost to business also would go down. This would enable businesses to invest more in workers, in research, and in efficiencies, making American companies more competitive.

It is hard to imagine that universal health care can be considered affordable in today's climate. But the United States will not be spending \$200 billion a year in Iraq indefinitely. And when we are not, I have an idea where we can invest approximately one-half that figure to make America stronger.

iPod Giveaway continued from page 1

grassroots volunteer trainings in the past, as well as candidate training seminars," Gash added.

"One reason for the success of the Democratic Party in our area," Gash said, "is the huge number of volunteers willing to work for our party's candidates." She pointed out that Democrats from the north and northwest suburbs like Michael Bond and Dan Kotowski, both of whom won formerly Republican seats in the Illinois Senate in the 2006 election, give credit for their victories to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to help them. "We want to make sure that all Democrats in our part of the suburbs have a strong pool of experienced and committed volunteers to help them in 2008," Gash said.

Merrilee Redmond says that now that she owns an iPod, the next step is to figure out how to use it. For Tenth Dems, now that it has Redmond and nearly 100 other new recruits, the next step is to get them ready to help Democrats in the 2008 election. With 21 months to go, Gash is confident that these new recruits will be part of an army of thousands of north suburban voters who will be ready to work for Democrats when the time comes.

If you're interested in volunteering to join this "army of thousands" right now, you can send an email to TenthDems@aol.com.

Looking Forward to 2008

by Carmen A. Corbett

No doubt you are aware that the 2008 election campaign is well underway at the national level. We are all looking forward to taking control of the White House and finally getting our country moving in the right direction.

The same can be said in the 10th District. We had a very successful campaign to unseat Mark Kirk that fell just short, but our goal has not changed. I think we would all like to see Dan Seals as our congressman.

In his 2006 campaign, Dan Seals raised nearly \$2 million in just 12 months and garnered 47 percent of the vote despite the fact that he was a virtual unknown at the outset. He ran a grassroots campaign that attracted almost 2000 volunteers by Election Day. He

accomplished all this with only minimal support from the DCCC, and very little press coverage, both of which came late in the campaign. The campaign simply ran out of time, but Dan was quickly closing in on the three-term incumbent, Mark Kirk.

We can be very optimistic about Dan's chances of winning in 2008 for several reasons. In presidential election years, 10th District voter turnout increases by a third, and much of that increase is Democratic. The campaign will begin with a significant base of campaign funds from donors who want to see Dan represent the district. Dan has gained the broad name recognition that he did not have when the last campaign began. Given the 2006 results, support from the DCCC will arrive much earlier in the campaign, which will attract other large donors locally, as well as nationally. Also, Dan now has established press relationships that promise earlier, better coverage of his race. And of course, with your help, we can increase the number of "foot soldiers" on the ground knocking on doors to introduce Dan Seals to their neighbors and friends in the 10th District. This is a formula for success to win the IL-10 congressional seat in 2008.

I urge you to let Dan Seals hear from you, and let him know that he has your support for a 2008 campaign, at www.dansealsforcongress.com, where donations can also be made via ActBlue:

Dan Seals for Congress, P.O. Box 584, Wilmette, IL 60091

Dems Pro-Israel continued from page 5

terrorists sworn to effect Israel's destruction. AIPAC represents mainstream Americans who are pro-Israel, and it is to Dan Seals's credit that many AIPAC members were among his strong supporters, even though AIPAC itself was neutral.

There will be much change now that Democrats control Congress. What won't change is our country's strong support for Israel, which Democrats have been at the forefront of ever since Harry Truman recognized Israel only moments after it declared independence. It is our duty as Tenth District Democrats to continue the strong support of Israel that has stretched not only from Truman to Kennedy to Johnson to Clinton, but also in our own 10th District from Mikva to Porter to Kirk and, if we are successful, to our next President and our next (new) representative in Congress.



Dan Seals with supporters during his 2006 campaign

Opening the Doors to Democracy – Election Day Registration

by David Creason

Election Day Registration is a reform that can substantially expand voter participation and improve the ease and functionality of the electoral process in Illinois.

An arbitrary registration deadline currently limits voter participation in Illinois. Illinois ends voter registration 27 days before Election Day – long before many debates are held and advertisements are run. Furthermore, many voters only focus on elections in the final few days before the election. Election Day Registration (EDR), also known as same-day voter registration, permits eligible citizens to register and vote on Election Day. And EDR makes a difference.

The seven states that now allow EDR are Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Montana, and efforts are underway in many more states to implement EDR. In Montana, which implemented EDR for the first time in 2006, the number of EDR votes (nearly 4,000) was almost 50 percent greater than the number of votes that decided that state's U.S. Senate election, in which Senator Jon Tester (D) unseated incumbent Conrad Burns (R) by 2,847 votes. This nationally important difference came about in a state which implemented a form of EDR far more restrictive than that in the six other EDR states.

In those states with EDR, voting among young adults is higher, provisional ballots are not a problem, overall turnout is higher, and our mobile population can still participate in elections.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, on average 75 percent of voting-age citizens voted in EDR states in the 2004 election – about 12 percentage points higher than the national average. States with EDR also have youth voter turnout rates an average of 14 percentage points higher than in states with earlier registration deadlines.

Only 61 percent of eligible voters participated in the 2004 presidential

election. Another 27 percent were not registered to vote. Experts predict that EDR could bring many of these citizens into the system, and according to a May 2001 poll nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of all nonvoters said that allowing people to register on Election Day would make them more likely to vote.

Approximately 14 percent of the population moves each year. Young people, minorities, and low-income populations are most mobile. Many of these individuals want to vote but inadvertently miss the deadlines. EDR offers a ready remedy. Recently moved residents can simply re-register at their new voting precinct on Election Day and vote.

In the 2004 presidential election, more than one million registered voters had registration problems, and many cast provisional ballots that went uncounted. EDR virtually eliminates the need for provisional ballots. With EDR, all eligible citizens who arrive at the polls can register or re-register and vote like everyone else, even if their names have been incorrectly purged or were not added in time for the election, thus insuring that every vote will be counted.

Instituting EDR is possible by legislative action by our state representatives and senators and approval by the governor. It is clear that democracy would be enhanced by providing a broader cross-section of the population a better opportunity to vote. The only valid reasons for not implementing EDR would seem to be if it is too difficult or too costly. Other states have proved that it is not too difficult, and using the provisional judges to handle Election Day registration would minimize the cost of instituting this reform.

If you believe that expanding the right to vote would be good for our country, feel that it is possibly worth the effort and cost, and think that you could be helpful in influencing a legislator to sponsor this legislation, please call David Creason @ 224/629-3215 or email cdcreason@aol.com. Our state government will listen to the will of the people if it knows the will of the people.

An Organized Party *Continued from page 2*

of clean and renewable energy. These pieces of legislation were sponsored by Democrats. I hope they are real and not just 30-second news bites with no substance.

I believe Americans are smart enough to develop the necessary technology. I hope we are committed enough to be more conscious of our use of energy. I saw a recent newspaper article that compared the use of electricity in a Japanese household with that in a U.S.

household. We were considerably more wasteful. Perhaps we need to return to the days when my dad would admonish me for not turning out a light when I left a room. Yes, I can afford the electricity costs, but can our country afford the continued dependence it represents?

So while we bask in the glow of our November victory, please let us not become complacent. Let us be an organized party that has tangible accomplishments to parlay into a continued Democratic agenda. Let us not attack one another and fractionate beyond repair.

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