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For information or to volunteer call:
847.266.VOTE (8683)

Or write to:
Lauren Beth Gash, Chair, Tenth Dems
PO Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015
Visit the website: www.tenthdems.org
Newsletter: comments@tenthdems.org

Editor: Barbara Altman

Editorial Staff: Joan Attenberg, Vicki Bailyn, Sheldon Drobny, John Hmurovic, Nels Howard, Mark Karlin, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Sara Knizhnik, Leslie Lipschultz, Ross Nickow, Mark Paul, Sharon Sanders, Steve Sheffey, Glenn Stier, Marla Sundh

Design: Terry Jones

Distribution: Glenn Stier, Dave Du Bordieu, Collette Winter

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Looking Beyond Front Runners

“Second Tier” Democratic Presidential Hopefuls Offer Ideas and Experience

by Marla Sundh

Recent media coverage would have us believe that the only viable choices in the 2008 Democratic primaries are Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama. John Edwards has received a fair amount of press attention, due in part to his financial capability to keep him in the public eye and, now, his wife's health problems. I intend no disrespect to any of these fine public servants, all of whom I admire. However, there are other Democratic candidates who have received minimal press coverage who are certainly worthy of consideration as well.

In recent years, campaign coverage in the mass media has resulted in a merger between information and entertainment. Television coverage tends to resemble a reality show, reflecting the public's interest in more prurient matters, instead of focusing on issues. The

portion of TV coverage on news shows devoted to real news has shrunk to sound bites and is overshadowed by entertainment stories. Many of the press outlets are more inclined to cover candidates' verbal faux pas, rumors, and innuendo than more substantive material.

Here is a look at the so-called “second tier” Democratic presidential hopefuls:

BILL RICHARDSON, governor of New Mexico, has a varied and impressive resume. He served in Congress for 15 years. He served as secretary of energy under President Clinton, helping implement energy efficiency policies. He has been nominated four times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Serving as a governor has added executive experience to his qualifications, giving him a well-rounded background. He is viewed as responsible for cutting \$230 million in waste

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Tenth News

APRIL 2007

Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter

Volume 4, Edition 4

Citizens Join in Vigil to Mark War's Fourth Anniversary: *Honoring Sacrifice, Mourning Loss, and Working for Peace* by Vicki Bailyn



Above: More than 150 people participated in a candlelight vigil March 19th in downtown Highland Park to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq. Right: Cards representing each of the 115 Illinois soldiers who have died in the war form a poignant memorial in the Plaza.

This was one of nearly 1,200 vigils organized through Moveon.org taking place that day, joining the voices of tens of thousands across the nation to mark four years of the horror that is the Iraq War.

The purpose of the vigil was to mourn loss, to honor sacrifice, and to vow that there would not be a fifth anniversary of this misbegotten war. The magnitude of the sacrifice was symbolized in cards laid out in the Plaza that displayed the statistics of human cost – 3,206 U.S. military deaths, 40,000 U.S. military wounded, 600,000 Iraqi civilian deaths. Most touching were the 115 cards that named each of Illinois' fallen, each lit by a candle.

Vicki Bailyn from North Shore Women for Peace, and David Borris from North Suburban Peace Initiative (NSPI) hosted the vigil, and each spoke briefly of welcome, of sadness, of loss, of anger, and of a demand for change.



Four years of war – longer than World War I, longer than World War II, longer than Korea. We could not let this fourth anniversary of the Iraq War pass without notice.

More than 150 people gathered in Highland Park's Port Clinton Square Monday evening, March 19th, to participate in a candlelight vigil.

The featured speaker was Katy Scott, mother of U.S. Army Captain Jason Scott. Katy spent eight months at Walter Reed Hospital as Jason began his healing from losing his right arm and right eye in Iraq on October 14, 2005. She spoke of the suffering of families, of

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John Edwards – *Working for Transformational Change*



John Edwards addresses the Brussels Forum in Belgium in April 2006.

by Glenn Stier and Sharon Sanders

Leadership in America often seems born out of crisis. Whether personal tragedy or public emergency, adverse circumstances often bring out our best. But one suspects that best has always been a part of us – fostered by a set of core values that lie dormant waiting to emerge. Such has been the case for great American leaders such as Franklin Roosevelt who, with his political star rising, was stricken with paralysis at age 39, or Robert Kennedy, heir to a new political generation when tragedy struck his brother via an assassin's bullet. Both of these men rose above their

personal circumstances to become inspirational leaders who transcended their generations.

John Edwards has faced similar personal adversity, first with the tragic death of his oldest son and then following his wife Elizabeth's diagnosis with breast cancer. For John and Elizabeth, her illness and apparent recovery heightened their empathy for the problems facing American families and strengthened their commitment to finding solutions that improve the lives of other people. Now, Elizabeth's relapse marks still one more personal crisis for these fine and decent Americans, one shared by many other Americans with similar circumstances, and by all of us who admire their strength and courage, their grace and humanity. John and Elizabeth have chosen to share their personal lives openly with all Americans. While we can take their strength and inspiration with us, they will have all our best wishes and prayers with them.

We believe that John Edwards can provide the leadership America needs, now more than ever.

During the 2004 presidential primaries, John spoke of the two Americas that exist in the 21st century. In 2005 he set about to make a difference – founding the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and then forming OneCorps, a volunteer organization fashioned after the Peace Corps initiated by JFK. Whether helping with Katrina recovery, advocating for energy conservation, feeding the hungry, organizing workers, or fighting for minimum wage increases, OneCorps has motivated thousands of young people and volunteers to make a difference. As John frequently says, "We cannot wait for the next president to solve the problems that exist in America. We have got to start NOW to solve the problems ourselves."

John Edwards has worked for a strong national defense, restoring America's moral leadership in the world, and developing an exit strategy for Iraq. Throughout this campaign, he has offered visionary leadership and advocated "transformational change" on issues such as universal healthcare, combating global warming, preserving workers' rights, raising the minimum wage, providing job training and work programs for the poor, and developing a "College for Everyone" program that promises to help pay college expenses of any student willing to work up to 20 hours a week while in school. Differentiating him from the other candidates in the 2008 presidential race are the



John and Elizabeth Edwards in New York City in October.

specifics of his plans and ideas and the straightforward method in which he is framing his message:

Restoring America's Moral Leadership in the World: John Edwards advocates immediately withdrawing 40,000-50,000 troops from Iraq, with the complete withdrawal of all combat troops from Iraq within 12-18 months.

Guaranteeing Affordable, Quality Health Care for Every American: John Edwards is the first and only candidate with a plan to provide health insurance for ALL Americans. His detailed plan can be seen at: <http://johnedwards.com/about/issues/>.

Eliminating Poverty: John Edwards has called for a national goal of eliminating poverty within 30 years.

Strengthening America's Middle Class: John Edwards believes that our economic policies must reward work via negotiating fair/smart trade agreements, helping families save for the future, and fighting the rising costs of middle-class life.

Leading the Fight against Global Warming and Our Addiction to Foreign Oil: John Edwards believes that Americans must be patriotic about something other than the war. We must act now by investing in clean, renewable energy sources to create a new energy economy.

On March 1, 2007, Errol Louis of the *New York Daily News* wrote in *He's The Man With A Plan*, "Win or lose, John Edwards has already done America a great service by running for President and putting the issue of poverty where it belongs: front and center. And the more he talks about it, the more political ground he will snatch from his leading Democratic rivals, Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. ... Edwards is... a fierce and unapologetic supporter of federal legislation that would make it easier to form unions, especially for the estimated 50 million Americans toiling in the service economy, many of whom work for poverty-level wages without health or retirement benefits."

Finally, John recognizes that detailing policy initiatives is politically risky. "When people know where you stand," he says, "when [your opinion] isn't fuzzy, they can disagree with you. I believe it's more important to say who you are. We don't need to redefine the Democratic Party. We need to reclaim the Democratic Party!" For all his talk of budget

issues and foreign policy, John Edwards speaks often of hope for a better future. He says America needs a leader whom the world can recognize as a decent human being.

In short, we think John Edwards is doing what every Democratic presidential candidate ought to be doing – saying exactly what he thinks, taking the side of the average American worker, and talking about ways to strengthen



John Edwards volunteers in the yard of a home still being rebuilt from damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

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The NTDO – Proving the Power of Grassroots Politics

by Nels Howard

New Trier Township is one of 12 townships that make up the 10th Congressional District. In size, it is the sixth largest of the 12 townships (based on voter registrations) and in 2006 it cast about nine percent of the 10th District vote. It includes the communities of Glencoe, Kenilworth, Wilmette, Winnetka, and a small piece of Glenview.

In 1964, when New Trier businessman Lynn Williams ran for Congress in the 10th District, the chance for victory by a Democrat was viewed as almost impossible. The last Democratic congressman had been elected 80 years before, in 1884. Even Evanston, then part of the 10th, was a pretty conservative place. So, although Lynn Williams ran a good campaign, he lost. This was not only unfortunate for the local populace but, in hindsight, for the entire world as well, since Lynn lost his race to a fine young fellow named Donald Rumsfeld. (How different things might be if that young man's political career had ended then.)

Lynn Williams' brave effort did, however, give him some valuable political insights and strengthened his belief in the power of grassroots volunteerism. As New Trier Township Democratic Committeeman, he began building the New Trier Democratic Organization (NTDO) based on the concept that an effective political organization could be successful without patronage, simply by offering interested citizens the opportunity to participate in the political process. Working with a core of New Trier Democrats energized by his campaign, Lynn laid the foundation for today's NTDO.

In 1985, Lynn Williams retired from his committeeman post. He was replaced by Bill Crowley, who continues to serve as the New Trier committeeman and NTDO leader. A steering committee of volunteers guides operations.

Following Lynn Williams' grassroots philosophy remains the NTDO's most impressive strength. This core strength is especially visible before primary elections, when members meet to hear candidates present their views. The general membership votes on which candidates to endorse (a 60 percent vote is needed). Endorsed candidates then receive the full support of the organization's precinct operation. Hundreds of volunteers from New Trier Township's 72 precincts work in their neighborhoods and in the NTDO office to achieve Election Day victories.

Between elections, the NTDO regularly contacts new community residents to build membership and works to keep township voters informed about activities of incumbents and local or national issues affecting our communities.

In the years since Lynn Williams' intrepid campaign, the NTDO has played a role in an ever-growing number of Democratic victories – the legendary Abner Mikva races in the '70s, the growing majorities for Democratic state contests in the '80s and '90s, and majority votes for the Democratic candidates in the last three presidential elections. In 2006, a majority of New Trier's votes went to Dan Seals in his strong first-time challenge of incumbent Congressman Mark Kirk.

Against early odds, the NTDO has grown into a local political force, proving that grassroots volunteerism can prevail. Chances are some of you reading this may think you live in a community where Republicans hold an unbeatable advantage. But the fact is grassroots efforts really can turn voters around – anywhere.

If you live in New Trier Township and wish to contact NTDO call 847-446-8030, go to www.ntdo.org, or visit the office any weekday morning at 800 Oak Street, Winnetka 60093.

Iraq, Iran, and 2008 *by Steve Sheffey*

The three main contenders for the Democratic nomination for president, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John Edwards, have many strengths and weaknesses. Yet instead of focusing on where the candidates stand on today's issues, some would have us apply a litmus test based on how they voted on authorizing the war in Iraq in 2002.

Edwards says that he made a mistake. Clinton says her vote was correct at the time, but the war was subsequently mishandled. Obama says that had he been there, he would have voted "no." Historians will one day tell us whether it was reasonable at the time to believe that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. The Clinton administration appears to have believed that he did, as did most of the world's intelligence agencies. The theory that makes the most sense to me is that Saddam Hussein deliberately attempted to mislead the world into believing he had weapons of mass destruction to bolster his standing in the Arab world. He did not cooperate with the UN inspectors in order to create the illusion that he had something to hide. He believed that the United States would not call his bluff or, if it did, action would be limited, as it was in Kuwait. His tragic miscalculation, compounded by the ineptness and dishonesty of the Bush administration, led to the current quagmire.

The world is better off without Saddam Hussein, but the world is not a safer place today than it was when Bush took office. As a result of the Bush administration's strategic short-sightedness, Iran now finds itself with its two biggest threats – Iraq and the Taliban in Afghanistan – having been rendered impotent by the United States, thus allowing Iran to pursue its broader regional ambitions unchecked by its natural enemies.

Whether Iraq is better off without Saddam Hussein is yet to be decided, but we know for certain that his regime tortured and murdered hundreds of thousands of people and threatened other states in the region. It is hard to fault a senator for voting for military action against an evil despot who many believed possessed, and would use, weapons of mass destruction. If any senators voting "no" foresaw how incompetently the war would be conducted, they did not say so at the time – of all the reasons cited for voting against the war, no senator to my knowledge went on record predicting what actually happened. Congress should have been much clearer in defining the objectives of the military action, but the fault for the war's prosecution lies squarely with the Bush administration, not with the senators who voted to authorize the war.

Not having personally reviewed the intelligence reports made available to members of Congress, I cannot say whether – even had the war been prosecuted competently – the decision to invade Iraq was correct. But it seems to me that at the time, reasonable minds could have differed, and did differ. If John Edwards thinks he made a mistake, good for him for admitting it. But if Hillary Clinton does not think she made a mistake, we should not fault her for providing a more nuanced explanation of her vote. Nor does Barack Obama deserve a free pass for not even being in the Senate when all of this happened. If he opposed the war from the start, it certainly was not because of, or despite, any classified intelligence briefings.

Instead of attempting to hold the candidates accountable for a vote whose correctness cannot yet be judged, we should hold the candidates accountable for their plans to solve today's problems in Iraq and Iran. Regarding Iraq, we should ask how quickly they would withdraw the troops and what circumstances, if any, would compel them to delay withdrawal. How they would prevent Iran

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The Plame Affair's Broader Ramifications *by Mark Paul*

Now that the chief of staff to the most powerful vice president in the nation's history has been convicted of perjury, lying to federal officers, and obstruction of justice, it's time to take a step back from the legal subtleties and look at the bigger picture the Plame-Wilson-Libby case outlines.

The Bush administration neutralized the CIA's counter-proliferation program.

Valerie Plame was in charge of that program, tracking transfers of technology and materials useful in constructing nuclear weapons. She was a highly trained operative, for whom the CIA created an elaborate cover identity, even establishing a front company as her employer. She built a network of informants who risked their jobs – and possibly their lives – if they were exposed.

Plame's training and experience aren't easy to replace and aren't replaced immediately. The CIA has had to start all over. Train someone else. Build a new cover identity. Recruit new informants.

Who knows what happened while the CIA was at least temporarily blinded, if in fact a new counter-proliferation intelligence network is now fully functional?

The Pakistani nuclear entrepreneur A.Q. Khan and the North Korean and Iranian regimes were all quite happy to see Plame exposed. So were any freelancers who might be able to acquire nuclear material and only need precision tools and special metals to build a bomb.

Cheney, Libby, Rove, and the others sacrificed Plame's intelligence network so they could justify the war with Iraq based on phony suspicions that it was attempting to acquire nuclear weapons, precisely the subject of her portfolio. And even now, one aspect of the administration's smear campaign against Joe Wilson remains effective. The generally understood storyline still claims that Wilson's marriage to Plame was key in selecting him for the fact-finding trip to Niger.

In fact, there may not have been anyone in the United States better qualified than Joe Wilson to make that trip to Africa.

Wilson had been the charge d'affaires in the Baghdad embassy, outranking everyone but the ambassador. When the ambassador to

Iraq was recalled to Washington, Wilson was in charge during the run-up to the Gulf War. Afterwards, President G. H. W. Bush gave him the State Department's highest decoration for heroism. Then, Wilson served several years as ambassador to a central African country that borders Niger.



How many other people knew as many players in both the Iraqi government and the central African uranium trade? Sending Wilson to Niger was a rare act of competence in an administration so lacking in competence that incompetence has become normative.

And the scale of the incompetence has reached monumental proportions.

The U.S. spends more on its military than the rest of the world combined. Nonetheless, the U.S. Army is stretched to the breaking point in both personnel and materiel. There is not a single combat-ready brigade in reserve. Units are rushing to Iraq and bypassing the army's desert training facility. The largest industrial economy in the world cannot produce enough armored Humvees to supply a force of less than 150,000. There are continuing shortages of body armor and, now, even reports of inadequate supplies of ammunition.

An administration that has nothing but scorn for soft power has no more hard power to wield. And yet, in this environment we hear some Democrats urge us to be gentle with our opponents. Some even want us to concede that Mark Kirk is "good on Israel," because he can mouth some "pro-Israel" platitudes about the dangers to Israel posed by a nuclear-armed Iran. But it certainly was not good for Israel that the CIA's counter-proliferation unit was suspended while Iran builds enrichment facilities of indeterminate capacity. And even some who believe Kirk to be "good on Israel" concede that Israel's general security posture has declined during the years Kirk and Bush have been in office.

This is not the time for Democrats to cower in fear of the right-wing attack machine. Bush and Kirk have been a disaster for this nation's security, as well as Israel's. They cannot defend their record. Support for the neocon foreign policy has already dropped to about 30 percent. Voters will only question our own grasp of reality if we Democrats fail to attack the perpetrators of this catastrophe.

Iran, Iraq *continued from page 3*

from jumping into the power vacuum our withdrawal would create and whether they favor splitting Iraq into various ethnic states are also questions we should demand answers to.

We should also demand a clear answer on what measures the candidates would take to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. It is a logical fallacy to assume that because, in retrospect, Iraq appears not to have had weapons of mass destruction, or because the war in Iraq was incompetently prosecuted, it therefore follows that the threat from Iran is benign, or that military action against Iran must be ruled out. Indeed, as Barack Obama said in

early March of this year while urging that we focus on a diplomatic solution, "We should take no option, including military action, off the table." We have to be wrong only once when nuclear weapons are at issue, and while we must not rush into war, we must also consider the effect on the region and the world of a nuclear Iran. We must recognize that once Iran obtains nuclear weapons, it probably will be impossible to rid it of nuclear weapons.

There is a legitimate school of thought that argues that even if Iran obtains nuclear weapons, it would be deterred from using them by Israel's nuclear forces. Iran has proven to be pragmatic in the past, and while its rhetoric certainly suggests a willingness to use nuclear weapons to wipe

out Israel regardless of the consequences, as a practical matter, it is unlikely to do so. Eliminating Iran's nuclear program would be much harder than it was to eliminate Iraq's program, and doing so would almost certainly invite retaliation against Israel. The best answer probably is very tough political and economic sanctions backed by the threat of military action, but whether military action as a last resort is a real option depends on how one assesses the likelihood that Iran will actually use nuclear weapons once it acquires them. This is the assessment we must demand of our candidates so that we can choose intelligently; and the sooner we focus on today's issues instead of the original vote on Iraq, the more likely we'll be to choose the best candidate for today's challenges.

A Radicalized Federal Court Could Mean the Death Knell for an Issue of Importance to the Residents of the 10th Congressional District *by Mark Karlin*

In early March, a panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit struck down the District of Columbia's ban on handguns.

The panel's majority opinion was written by Judge Laurence Silberman, who has been a right wing, partisan GOP judge through several administrations. In fact, Silberman not only worked behind the scenes to assist the forces trying to impeach Bill Clinton – while he was sitting on the D.C. federal bench ruling on motions relating to President Clinton – he also was one of the judges who overruled the Iran-Contra convictions of Oliver North and John Poindexter.

What we need to emphasize here is that Judge Silberman has rewritten the Constitution in his majority (2-1) opinion in a manner that will result in more gun deaths in D.C. If the ruling is upheld, it could ultimately lead to the nullification of the three community handgun bans on the North Shore: in Evanston, Wilmette, and Winnetka. Another Republican appointment joined in the majority decision, but Judge Silberman wrote the decision. As we are seeing more frequently in other areas of the law, the right wing GOP judicial appointments now hold sway in many of the nation's federal courts.

This is the Second Amendment as written into our Constitution: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

What Judge Silberman did in his ruling recognizing an individual right to keep and bear arms was implicitly to rewrite the Second Amendment by inserting the word "all" into its text: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the

People to keep and bear [all] arms shall not be infringed." And he did this even though logic and legal precedent argue that the Second Amendment should not even have been a factor in this case.

Why? Because a ban on handguns does not limit "the right of the People to keep and bear arms," even if one accepts – and I don't – the NRA's mantra that gun ownership is an individual right. This is part of the reasoning that the state and federal courts used in upholding the first handgun ban in the nation in Morton Grove.

In short, you don't have to agree with gun control proponents on the one hand or the NRA on the other to realize that the Second Amendment – as written – was irrelevant to the D.C. ban on handguns. This is because D.C. residents can own many other types of firearms, including shotguns and rifles – just not handguns.

Does this decision seem a bit hypocritical for a right wing judge who claims to be a "strict constructionist?" Not really, because Silberman is a political partisan first and foremost.

Judge Silberman is guilty of the most egregious form of judicial activism: rewriting the Constitution. *The Washington Post* said just that in an editorial.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/13/AR2007031301508.html>

And *The New York Times* agreed.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/14/opinion/14wed2.html?_r=3



This decision is politically motivated and dangerous. It threatens even the most reasonable of our gun laws.

The North Shore has a long history of supporting and advocating for communities free from gun violence. The radicalization of the federal courts by Republican administrations should be of deep concern to us, and particularly with regard to the issue of guns and safety.

If Judge Silberman's ruling disturbs you, please note this observation about Judge Samuel Alito in a recent *New York Times* article: "In a 1996 dissent while serving on the federal appeals court in Philadelphia, Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., now a justice of the Supreme Court, wrote that he would have struck down a federal law regulating the possession of machine guns under the commerce clause of the Constitution." <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070310/ZNYT02/703100471>

Machine guns available to the general public? Assault weapons? Fifty caliber sniper rifles?

This may be the most dangerous threat to our safety posed by a federal bench now filled with politically motivated Republican judges. Just ask the residents of Washington, D.C., who now will face even more death and injury from gun violence.

Global Warming Workshop

"How To Reduce Global Warming" is the subject of a North Shore workshop moderated by a representative of The Sierra Club. The workshop includes a showing of a film about saving energy and a presentation about Highland Park's successful "Cool Cities" campaign. It starts at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 15th at the Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue) and is free and open to the public.

Becki Clayborn of The Sierra Club's Midwest Clean Energy Committee will tell individuals how to reduce climate dangers. She'll introduce a challenging environmental film, "Kilowatt Ours," that views diverse energy sources, from the coal mines of West Virginia to

the solar panel fields of Florida, and proposes solutions to America's energy-related problems.

"Kilowatt Ours" explores mountain-top coal-removal mining, air pollution, haze in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, methyl mercury contamination of newborns, childhood asthma, and global warming. It shows how individuals can create energy-efficient homes and businesses and seek a net-zero energy-consuming nation.

In addition, Highland Park High School senior Molly Dillon will explain how her community follows the "Cool Cities" campaign and encourages civic and personal action.

This strong environmental program is jointly sponsored by The New Trier Democratic Organization, Democrats of Northfield

Township, and Tenth Congressional District Democrats. For information, call 847-446-8030.

Solution to last month's crossword



Moraine Township Gives Residents a Lift by John Hmurovic



Moraine Township's Door-to-Door vans give elderly and disabled township residents the "gift of freedom."

Once the teenage excitement of earning that first driver's license wears off, most of us probably take driving for granted. But for some of us, age or sickness settles in and suddenly, when we are no longer able to drive, we realize how much we have come to rely on a car.

Unfortunately, America is not a leader in providing public transportation for its citizens, especially for those who are too old or too ill to get to bus stops or train stations, and even less so for those on fixed incomes who can't afford regular trips in a taxi. That's why senior citizens and the disabled who live in Moraine Township (Highland Park, Highwood and a small part of Lake Forest) have at least one thing to be grateful for – their township government has made their transportation needs a priority.

In 2005, Moraine Township voters elected a group of Democrats to lead their township government. Mari Barnes was elected as township supervisor, Ellen Gussin as township clerk, and Bryna Gamson, Margoth Moreno, Cynthia Plouche, and Jeffrey Zaluda were elected as trustees. It was the first time that candidates ran in Moraine Township under the Democratic banner. They came well-prepared for their new jobs.

"We knew from past experience," Supervisor Barnes said, "that there was a serious transportation problem in our area." When the new leaders took office in May 2005, the main service that the township government provided for the elderly and disabled who were unable to drive was a taxi subsidy program. It covered a portion of the taxi fare for those who needed a ride for medical care. But it did not cover any transportation costs beyond the township border. So, a person who needed to visit a doctor in Deerfield, for example, would have to pay most of the cost of the ride in a vehicle that was not equipped for people with disabilities, and driven by a taxi driver who was probably not trained to help the elderly and disabled. "The needs of township residents do not stop at township boundaries," Barnes says.

That program had another problem, Barnes says. It was not cost effective. By restructuring the program, the township was able to come up with enough money to develop the Moraine Door-to-Door van service in 2006. The township leased a van, hired a driver, and for a charge of four dollars residents who needed assistance could be picked up at home and driven to their medical appointments – even if those appointments were outside the township. They were transported by a trained driver, in a van that was equipped to handle their needs. Other communities in the area are hoping to set up similar programs, but Moraine Township was the first to do it in Lake County.

The program was such a big success that demand exceeded the township's ability to provide the service to everyone who needed it. But this month the township will roll out a second van, thanks to a \$60,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park.

"We think this second van will allow us to meet demand," Barnes says. She says having just one van made the logistics of getting residents to their appointments difficult. It would be impossible, she said, to get one resident to the V.A. Hospital in North Chicago, for example, if the van was tied up taking another resident to a doctor's office in Evanston.

The township government has stated that one of its goals is to close gaps that exist in service and avoid duplication. Officials also see it as their responsibility to provide township residents who need assistance with responsive, efficient, and compassionate service. Barnes feels the Moraine Door-to-Door program is a reflection of those guiding principles.

"For a very small amount of tax dollars, we're providing a service that even the best social service agencies do not provide," she says. She hopes the new van will enable the township to fill another gap – providing some non-medical transportation for the elderly and other residents requiring assistance.

Township governments in Illinois have always been responsible for providing help to those who need assistance. "No one in Highland Park or Highwood is starving," Barnes says, "but there are people here who need help." That's one reason that Moraine Township, like townships across the state, operates food and clothing pantries. In Moraine Township, the township government also helps residents cut through the red tape that comes with federal and state assistance programs.

"Our goal in township government is to help people get back on their feet," Barnes says. "It's our theory that the greatest gift we can give anyone is self-sufficiency."

To succeed in many of its tasks, Moraine Township relies on volunteers. Barnes said they are constantly in need of people who can staff the food and clothing pantries during the daytime hours, Mondays thru Fridays. This spring also offers a perfect opportunity to help for anyone who likes to garden. The township has a plot of land called the Food Pantry Garden. The fresh vegetables raised in the garden go to the food pantry. All that's needed are volunteers who will help plant and care for the garden.

For more information about volunteering, or about the Moraine Door-to-Door van service, you can call the township office at 847-432-3240, or go to their website at www.morainetownship.org.

Ultimate Women's Power Lunch

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's Annual Fundraiser

Friday, May 4, 2007

Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Featuring Guest of Honor Speaker Nancy Pelosi
with Special Guest Geraldine A. Ferraro

Power Lunch Guests: \$125

11:30 AM - Registration Opens

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Luncheon and Program

Please join us at our Tenth Dems tables – we are filling up quickly.

RSVP to Lauren Beth Gash at LaurenBethGash@aol.com
or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).

Reduced Army Recruitment Standards and *The Dirty Dozen*

by Sheldon Drobny



The failure of the U.S. Army to meet its recruitment standards has opened the door for the worst possible recruits available to the armed forces.

Essentially the new recruitment policy is a moderate version of the movie *The Dirty*

Dozen, which was one of my all time favorite war movies. As you may recall in the movie, the army recruited 12 of the worst criminals to embark on a dangerous mission into France just before D-Day. I guess the military is now so desperate that serving with our brave young troops will be a bunch of criminals and low-lives who may be as dangerous to our troops as they are to the enemy.

I served in the military from 1968-1970 when there was a draft and I can tell you first hand that some of your worst enemies were your own comrades in arms. What was sometimes called friendly fire was

really premeditated murder. But, that was a long time ago. Perhaps things have changed today, but I seriously doubt it.

My solution would be to have a limited draft for the National Guard, Reserves, and the Regular Army. To mitigate the danger of being sent to a combat zone, the new draftees would only be required to serve at home, in the United States, unless they volunteered for combat duty. Surely the young men and women of draft age in this country could be assigned to the "home guard" that has virtually disappeared and is dangerously undermanned. With most of the Reservists and National Guard serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States is very vulnerable to domestic terrorism and natural catastrophes without a fully manned and equipped National Guard.

The Congress and the president should at least require some sacrifice from our young men and women at a time of war. Perhaps President Bush can volunteer his two daughters to serve their country in the National Guard, giving them the choice of volunteering for combat duty (not likely). Additionally, more American families would be inclined to get more involved in the political discourse, and prevent further wars of choice, if young family members have some skin in the game. I sincerely hope that this suggestion be taken seriously by the Congress and the president to protect the overstretched combat troops from the likes of *The Dirty Dozen* that are uniquely capable of "friendly fire."

Are You Under 40? Your Time has Come by Sara Knizbnik

I have an ideologically conservative cousin. We'll call him Joe. Joe is the smartest person in our family. His actions are progressive in many ways. He loves and is committed to a strong woman (who, incidentally, does not agree with much of his politics). He freely discusses his feelings and the feelings of others while, at 6'3" and a trim 200 pounds, he remains secure in his masculinity. His goals in life include knowing the sum of all knowledge. To say that he is well-read is an understatement. My mom calls him our family Renaissance man. He is, inexplicably, a Republican.

I admire many things about Joe, including his ability to make truckloads of money selling real estate. Another is that he's willing to listen – and listen well – to those who disagree with him, which I do with regularity over Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas trimmings. Joe meets and greets hundreds, maybe thousands, of potential home buyers each year. He chats them up, makes them feel comfortable, and this – his killer personality – is the secret to his success. Joe makes his money in a red state, and he would say that he lives and works in the real world. If you ask him, he'll tell you that I don't. He'll tell you that I live in Chicago – a.k.a. Democratland.

This Christmas, Joe argued that Obama cannot become president in 2008. According to him, too much of the country is anti-immigrant and anti-foreigner. Most would never vote for a man whose middle name is Hussein. Joe is quick to point out that he personally admires Obama but says that he is an unrealistic choice – the country is just not as progressive as those of us in Democratland would like to believe.

I've thought this over carefully through the cold Chicago winter. Turned it over in my mind. Twisted it this way and that. And, ultimately, I cannot agree. No doubt, Joe is right about some Americans. Perhaps many Boomers and their parents cling to these old lines of thought. But I've lived, studied, and worked in enough places to know that the young and younger among us find this idea about as timely as a Buddy Holly vinyl LP. It's time for all of us under 40 to stand up and say this is not who we are.

We have friends named Hussein. We have colleagues named Hussein. When I look around, I see that this idea – that what it means to be an American has nothing to do with one's ethnicity – is one of the few American ideals to be spared repeated assaults by Bush administration policies. It is a world view that sets us – and Obama – apart. His books and speeches make it clear that he has developed this perspective through careful thought and personal experience, and it is for this reason that he is the candidate of the future. Joe is still under 40, but I've got only 10 months or so to bring him around. I won't give up if you don't.

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the emotional, spiritual, physical, and social losses of war. She called attention to the incredible escalation in the numbers of wounded in this war; that there were approximately four wounded military for every death in WWII, but nearly 16 wounded for every death in Iraq. (While at Walter Reed, Katy kept a blog journal, which can be found at www.captjason.blogspot.com.)

Marge Haracz from MFSO (Military Families Speak Out) also spoke. Her words brought a personal connection to the statistics of the war, to the names on the Plaza. She related personal anecdotes of pain and of loss to the ever-widening circles of family, friends, and communities surrounding each of the fallen.

Following the speakers, the attendees each took the name of a fallen soldier and walked in solemn procession through downtown Highland Park. As we walked, the name of each of the Illinois fallen was read,

Beyond Front Runners *continued from page 1*

in New Mexico. This is his second term as governor; he was reelected by 69 percent of the voters. He has a unique personal background as the son of a Mexican mother and American father, brought up and educated in both Mexico City and Boston.

A recent CNN poll indicates that only 3 percent of those surveyed have Governor Richardson as their preferred candidate. But perhaps the rest of us should take a look.

Senator JOE BIDEN, another presidential hopeful, is fairly well known by Americans as a strong voice against the Bush administration's foray into Iraq and is viewed by some as a serious contender to succeed Bush as president.

Serving as senator from the State of Delaware for more than 30 years, he has risen to become chairman of the important Foreign Relations Committee. During those 30 years, he crafted many pieces of legislation, such as the Violence against Women Act and the Biden Crime Law. He was the first Democrat to introduce a plan to bring the war in Iraq to a close.

Senator CHRIS DODD of Connecticut was touted as a potential vice presidential candidate in 2004, and is now officially a candidate for president. He has served in the U.S. Senate since 1981, authoring and fighting for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act. He served as Democratic national chairman from 1995-97. He has been an innovative voice for health care reform. From 1975 to 1981, he served in the Connecticut state legislature. He is viewed as being

followed by a chorus of "present" from the entire procession. We ended at the new war memorial where each of these names was laid at the foot of the memorial wall to connect the ongoing tragedy of this war to past conflicts. The vigil ended as the sound of Taps soared in the night sky. Then silence.

Edwards *continued from page 2*

the middle class and eliminate desperate poverty from our midst once and for all. This is why we support John Edwards – working for transformational change.

To volunteer with the Tenth District Edwards Club, contact Glenn Stier at gstier@comcast.net or visit <http://www.JohnEdwards.com>.

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left of center in foreign policy issues and is well liked and respected by his peers in the Senate.

Former U.S. Senator from Alaska MIKE GRAVEL is viewed as an extremely long shot candidate, since he has been out of the public eye since the early 1980s. Also, he will be 78 years old in 2008, which many deem as too old to handle the rigors of the job.

Representative DENNIS KUCINICH, a fifth term congressman from Cleveland who some will recall as an early opponent of the war in Iraq, sounds like a prophet now, considering his speech in 2002 where he warned of the disastrous effects of attacking Iraq. He first rose to prominence as the 31-year-old mayor of Cleveland in the 1970s and has represented his district in Congress since 1996. He advocates international cooperation in problem solving and putting principle before politics. During his tenure in Congress, he has authored and co-sponsored legislation to create a national health system and to provide universal pre-kindergarten classes, neither of which has come to fruition.

Part of our mission as Tenth Congressional District Democrats is to gain knowledge about the various candidates and share it with other Democratic voters. Deep in their hearts, American voters hunger for a president who represents the best of what makes America great; who can lead us out of the morass that is Iraq; who can help rebuild our damaged image, both to ourselves and the rest of the international community; who can be tough but fair; who governs according to the U. S. Constitution in partnership with the legislative and judicial branches; who is open to discourse and who is willing to admit mistakes. Let's help the voters do that in 2008.

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