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Republican "Logic"

by James Rosen

Republicans have never been good at logic because logic involves reasoning and sound judgment – two concepts that are eternally on the Republican endangered ideas list. The famous, or infamous, Reagan supply-side economic theory argues that selective tax cuts raise revenues and are good for the economy. The idea that some tax cuts are good has now, by Republican "logic," been transformed into the demonstrably false proposition that all tax cuts always increase revenues and are always good for the economy – in times of peace or war, surplus or deficit. All evidence to the contrary is merely an inconvenient truth for Republican "logic." Tax cuts get votes today while the cost for the tax cuts is paid for by someone else many years after tomorrow. Fiscal recklessness does have some logic to it even if it's craven political logic.

In the 1980s Republicans argued huge defense spending increases were needed to defeat the Soviet Union and win the Cold War. The Berlin Wall did fall but not simply because of bigger defense budgets. Hungary decided to remove its border restrictions with Austria, allowing any East German to get to the West through this back door land bridge. Once the flow of people started, East German border guards, faced with thousands of their own protesters wanting the same thing, simply opened the gates of the Berlin Wall to a post-Cold War world. The Republican argument is that the spending increases were justified since we won the Cold War. But before the Cold War ended the Republican argument was that defense spending increases were needed to "keep up" with the threat from the other side. Thus Republican "logic" argues for increased defense spending always, in every year, in times of peace and in times of war, hot or cold. The need becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Spend to achieve victory; spend to not fall behind.

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Tenth News

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Schakowsky Shares Her Views With Residents of the 10th District



by Barbara Altman

On Sunday, April 15, in an auditorium at Stevenson High School, 9th District Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky treated residents of the 10th District to a rare opportunity for an informal conversation with an elected member of the House. Tenth District Democrats co-sponsored this low-key event, along with the Vernon Township Democratic Organization and the Stevenson High School Political Action Club. Among the notables present was Dan Seals, who introduced Schakowsky to the audience of more than 100 students, teachers, and Tenth District and Vernon Township Democrats. Seals

inspired laughter and applause when he identified himself as "your former future congressman." He aptly described Schakowsky as a congresswoman who works for all Americans.

Schakowsky's wide-ranging remarks began with an explanation of her dedication to grassroots politics. She confessed that whenever a constituent she approaches outside a train station or supermarket tells her he or she is "not interested," she is tempted to retort, "Tell me what part of your life you're not interested in." She elaborated

that legislation determines issues such as air quality, college loans, education, and war and peace. "Politics," Schakowsky concluded, "is the stuff of life."

Schakowsky said that in November 2006, the electorate sent two messages to Washington: end the war in Iraq and stop the bickering. She characterized the Iraq War as "probably illegal but [certainly] unconscionable," and noted that, in contrast to her stance, Republican Mark Kirk continues to support the discredited policy of "stay the

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Left to right: Steve Rosenzweig, Michael Simkin, Marcy Maller, Karen McCormick, Hon. Jan Schakowsky, Ross Nickow, Sharon Narrad, Glenn Stier, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash.

War vs. Peace: Let's Not Honor Our Military With Icons of War

by Greg Mysko

It was a classic battle of War versus Peace. And in Northbrook recently, it was War that won. As American soldiers are dying in the war debacle in Iraq, a group of American Legion members in Northbrook have pushed a plan to install a World War II cannon on the front lawn of the Northbrook Village Hall. While such an event would not have been questioned back in 1947, there is opposition by community members today.

This "cannon battle" reveals a distinct cultural split in America today. It pits those who glorify American militarism against those who want America to be a country committed to peace. Local activists did their part to attempt to scrap the paradigm of celebrating warfare. On the other side, ultra-conservative veterans and a local newspaper tried very hard to keep things the old way.

Lee Goodman, the 10th District Democratic congressional candidate in 2004, organized the cannon opposition. After he got the word out under the auspices of the Northbrook Peace Committee, residents turned out at a local village board meeting to express their opposition to promoting a tool of war as an honor to veterans. Goodman said, "The important thing people should start thinking about is the damage violence and militarism are doing to the world."

The old cannon in question had been displayed in front of the Northbrook American Legion hall on Pflugsten Road from 1954 until early 2007, when the hall was closed and the property sold. The American Legion members, along with Village President Gene Marks, wanted the cannon moved to a prominent location between the Northbrook Village Hall and the Northbrook Public Library. The site currently holds a flagpole and a small war memorial. The cannon will become the focal centerpiece of this civic complex when it is finally installed. There is also a proposal to illuminate the cannon with floodlights at night. And that was just fine with the Northbrook Village Board members who unanimously approved the placement of the cannon on April 10.

At a Northbrook Community Relations Commission hearing held in early March, a diverse cross-section of residents raised objections to the American Legion plan. Veterans not affiliated with the American Legion expressed their opposition to seeing any weapons displayed in a civic setting. Others objected from religious viewpoints. The cannon is considered by many to be a glorification of war and it sends the wrong message to children. With all the death going on in Iraq today, why celebrate warfare with a tool of war? The existing memorial with the flagpole and flowers is a fitting tribute to veterans and local war dead.

A contingent of World War II American Legion veterans repeatedly said their cannon was a symbol of freedom and were dismayed that anyone would oppose it. The commission members, mostly composed of young professionals, some with future political ambitions, ignored the opponents and decided to back the American Legion by voting to recommend installing the cannon. After all, who wants to become known as someone who is against elderly grandpas and freedom? In the end, it was the younger, middle-aged Vietnam era American Legion members who lobbied to push the plan through. They got help from the editors of

the Pioneer Press Northbrook Star with emotional appeals about the sacrifice of the old-timers during World War II and reminiscences of greasy fish fry Friday nights at the old legion hall.

In Europe today, there are plenty of memorials that honor both the soldiers and civilians who perished in war. And they do so without displaying weapons. Elsewhere in the United States, war memorials were built in recent years without weapons. There is such a memorial in Highland Park. While it is common to find displays of artillery and tanks at old courthouses in rural areas, it is uncommon to find such displays in front of city halls in affluent suburbs that can invest in updating infrastructure, like Northbrook, which is located in the most well-to-do region of the Chicago area. But the American Legion in Northbrook and the village board sadly wish to continue antiquated 19th Century traditions.

There could be alternatives developed, such as a "Peace Garden" that would be open to creations of local artists. A plan like this is already being discussed in Lindenhurst to balance a veteran's memorial (no weapons) the town recently erected. This is a good idea that should be pursued in Northbrook as well.

In Littleton, Colorado, where the infamous Columbine High School shootings took place in 1999, parents are raising objections to a statue honoring a local soldier killed in Afghanistan. The statue will be placed next to an elementary school. The soldier is holding a rifle with a finger on the trigger. Veteran groups are outraged at the parents for wanting the weapon removed. Enough said.

Is this the same type of mentality that wants to go to war with Iran and who knows where else? A new cannon installed on the front lawn of a city hall in 2007 is a sad testament to the grip of militarism in American society and the type of negativity that helped spawn the American invasion of Iraq. Why does it have to happen here?

Veterans and those who died in service to the United States should be honored for their sacrifices. There is no opposition from reasonable people for that. But violent icons ought not be part of any memorials being erected today.



Save the Date!



Friday, September 7, 2007

Tenth Dems Ravinia Night

Three Generations of Women
in Folk Music

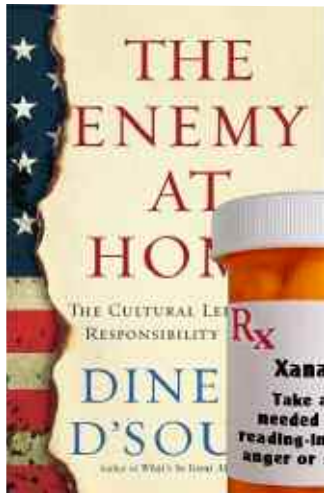
Judy Collins

Dar Williams

Sonya Kitchell

Plan to join us for great music and dinner – more details will be announced in the June issue. To reserve your space now, call 847-266-VOTE (8683) or e-mail events@tenthdems.org.

Our States May Be Blue, But Democrats Are Well-Read



Culture Wars and Enemies at Home and Abroad

by Ronald Altman

There is an old saying (probably not attributable to a carpenter) that to someone with a hammer, everything looks like a nail. To a right wing Republican, everything looks like the product of a vast left wing conspiracy. Senator Clinton has her own version of

vast conspiracies, but let's save that for another commentary. In his book *The Enemy at Home: The Cultural Left and Its Responsibility for 9/11* (Doubleday, 2007), Hoover Institute scholar Dinesh D'Souza blames the left at home and abroad for nearly everything that is wrong in the world, up to and including al Qaeda terrorism – even though he goes on to explain that the natural ally of the right wing in America is the conservative majority in the developing world, specifically the Moslem world. Despite his perverted view of liberalism in the West, D'Souza offers a great deal of insight into the Islamic world. He also offers the open-minded reader provocative criticism of the cultural excesses of our own country. His book is worth reading, even by a liberal Democrat – provided one has a doctor's note and a sufficient dose of tranquilizers.

At the root of the conflict between Islamic extremism and the United States is a deep and long-lived antagonism of 3,000 years between the peoples who inhabit west central Asia and those who live in the Mediterranean basin. This antagonism has been referred to as the Clash of Civilizations by Samuel Huntington, the Anti-Islamic War of Crusaders and Zionists by Osama bin Laden, and European Imperialism by anti-imperialists from Gladstone to Lenin. It is, in essence, the primal sibling rivalry of the monotheistic faiths of Abraham, expressed today as the West vs. Islam.

To fully comprehend this antagonism, we must see the world as it is today through the eyes of Islamic conservatives. They are part of the Third World, amorphous and perceived as inferior to us of the developed nations, and only recently liberated from our empires. Compare this modern global dichotomy with the world of the ninth century, an era of western civilization known as the Dark Ages. In contrast, to the Moslem world the ninth century was a golden age, the pinnacle of Islamic civilization, the period of the Abbassid caliphate in Egypt. Art, literature, science, and philosophy were at their zenith in the streets of Alexandria at a time when London and Paris were villages with dirt tracks inhabited by even dirtier people. No wonder the sense of degradation that pervades the Islamic world today.

Islamic radicals preach that this degradation is God's punishment for forsaking the Quran. Conservative Moslems, who comprise the vast majority of the Islamic world and, indeed, the Third World, are the true prize for these radicals, since only by controlling the conservatives can Islamic radicalism establish its primary goal, the establishment of a radical Islamic state across the land of Islam. Many in the West agree to these lines of battle, and argue that conservative Islamicists must be won over for radicalism to be

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Schumer's Wisdom: *Positively American*

by Steve Sheffey

Senator Chuck Schumer's new book, *Positively American: Winning Back the Middle-Class Majority One Family At A Time* (Rodale, 2007) is an excellent guide to what we Democrats need to do to win in 2008 and beyond.

According to Schumer, who was chair of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee for the 2006 election cycle, the Democratic victories in 2006 were more a reaction to George Bush than a realignment by the voters, and unless the Democrats can answer the question, "What does the Democratic party stand for?" voters will go back to voting Republican.

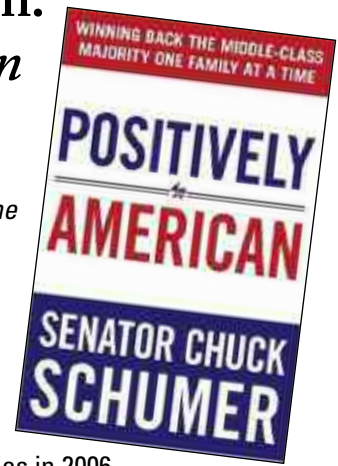
Democrats must do a better job of reaching the middle class while reaffirming their commitment to protecting civil rights and speaking for the voiceless and downtrodden. Schumer says it all boils down to trust: "Who does the middle class trust to protect America against a heartless and fanatical foreign enemy? Who do they trust to keep America on top in this new global economy and to fight for their jobs? And who do they trust to protect their families against the cultural forces that mock their traditional ways of life?"

Schumer identifies two groups that form the backbone of the Republican party: theocrats, who want to impose their faith on government, and economic royalists, very wealthy people who are driven by greed and see government as nothing more than a barrier to unfettered property rights. The theocrats and economic royalists do not represent most Americans, but they have been successful because they have built a sophisticated message machine that includes think tanks and media outlets. They choose candidates who are not ideologues, but who—like George Bush when he was elected—appeal to the middle class. They do not hesitate to practice the politics of fear and division. Finally, and most important, the Republicans are very good at identifying clear issues that connect to their values and simply and repeatedly returning to them. In 2004, they did it with eight words: War in Iraq (strong and interventionist foreign policy). Cut taxes (limited government). No gay marriage (traditional values).

The Democrats won in 2006 not by creating a coherent vision, which they must do for long-term success, but with these eight words: No war in Iraq. No corruption. Bad economy. That was a recipe for success in the last election, but we need more than that to maintain and build on our victory.

Issues like global warming are important, says Schumer, but they work for the choir, not the middle class we need to reach. Leaving Iraq is a popular policy, but does not connect to a broader Democratic world view. Universal health care does describe a specific Democratic world view but does not tie to a specific policy we are going to implement.

According to Schumer, since we don't have our eight words yet, we should start with specific proposals and then try to develop



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The Last Resort by George Rosenblit

There are good wars and there are bad wars. World War II was a good war. The Iraq War is a bad one. Read on.

At age 19, I willingly volunteered to join the U.S. Navy because Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Germany as well as Japan because Germany had overrun Europe, it had attacked England by air, and was a threat to England by land invasion. Japan and Germany were called the "axis," a true axis of evil, which cooperated militarily to conquer as much of the world as they could. Everyone I knew wanted to join the fight for survival and for freedom. We knew who our enemies were, and we went after them.

America had no valid reason for starting a war with Iraq. The Downing Street Memo stated Bush had decided to invade Iraq but knew that Congress would not condone war based on regime change. That led to the prefabrication of reasons that Congress would accept. A quote from the Downing Street Memo: "Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy." When I recently heard Senator McCain on television say that the Democrats in Congress were very happy with the vote to go to war, he failed to mention the cloud of lies and deceit that preceded the vote in Congress.

The attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon, and the hijacked Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania, did require a response. We knew that al Qaeda was behind it all and we attacked them at their base in Afghanistan. But we were not effective in preventing the escape of Osama bin Laden and his inner circle because of poor planning and execution by our government. Instead of starting the war in Iraq, we should have concentrated all our efforts to seek out our true enemy, al Qaeda. Instead, we generated insurgency in Iraq where there was none.

Now, let's look at the human cost of waging the ill-advised war in Iraq. The Department of Defense reports that as of April 11, 2007, 3,294 American military personnel were killed, and as of February 3, 2007, there were 26,188 non-mortal American casualties. These were brave men and women who served their country when called upon to do so.

Those who died left grieving mothers, wives, husbands, fathers, and children behind, all broken families left with dreams of what their lives might have been if their loved ones returned safely.

The non-mortal casualties, those who were maimed physically and mentally, have recently been reported in the media. Walter Reed Hospital and the Veterans Administration have been unable to cope with the volume of injured, and unwarranted delays have denied returning veterans proper and timely care. The American Legion has provided manpower to help veterans cut through some of the red tape.

According to *The Washington Post*, about 1,800 American troops have traumatic brain injuries caused by penetrating wounds, which are obvious. Of greater concern to neurologists, hundreds of thousands, at least 30 percent of the troops who have engaged in active combat for four months or longer in Iraq (and Afghanistan), are at risk of potentially disabling neurological disorders from the blast waves of IEDs and mortars, without outward signs of injury. We do not have the resources to treat this type of injury in the large numbers projected.

And let's not forget the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, innocent men, women, and children who were killed as "collateral damage." Every life is precious.

The human cost of war should always raise a red flag of warning and enter into the equation. Engaging in a war should never be considered until all other options have been explored and exhausted in a process that provides an honest and transparent appraisal to Congress and to all citizens. And then, no war should be waged without the approval of Congress.

War should always be the last resort.

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Moraine Dems Gather to Watch First Presidential Debate



Some of those who got together in a Highland Park home on April 26th to watch the first of the ten or more Democratic presidential debates scheduled for this primary season. More than 30 attended the gathering, which was sponsored by the Moraine Township Democratic Organization.

Options On The Table *by Lee Goodman*

In a frantic effort to reassure independent voters that they are not really against war, Democratic presidential candidates are lining up to pledge that they would not take any options off the table in pursuing the so-called war on terror. Apparently these candidates believe that liberal voters will vote for them regardless of how hawkish they are. Or perhaps, like former Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman, they figure it is more important to get the votes of Republican and independent voters than those of liberal Democrats.

The option that most people think of as having to remain "on the table" is the option of using a nuclear bomb against Iran. It is difficult to imagine why anyone would ever think this would be a good idea. Dropping a nuclear bomb on Iran would unite the Arab world, and most of the rest of the world, against the U.S. in a way that would make our disastrous occupation of Iraq look like a minor public relations misstep.

Another option in the U.S. arsenal that should be taken off the table is the use of cluster bombs. These bombs trap people in an inescapable blanket of destruction. They are already illegal under international law, but we still manufacture them and even supply them to friendly nations, at least one of which has used them in attacks on civilians.

Still another weapon the U.S. has been illegally using on a daily basis is chemical poison, which we deploy to destroy crops in our so-called war on drugs. These weapons, which are harmful to plant, animal, and human life, have devastating effects on the environment.

The U.S. also continues to produce land mines, weapons that indiscriminately kill and maim civilians, especially children. Parts of

the world are still littered with millions of these devices years after conflicts have ended. Every day, innocent people lose their legs and sometimes their lives to these leftover weapons.

Aside from illegal weapons, the U.S.

has also been employing illegal practices in recent years. Our torturing of prisoners has long been outlawed by the international community. Our indefinite detention of suspects without access to family or counsel, and our kidnapping of people and secretly transporting them over international borders, are also illegal.

When a Democratic candidate tries to polish his image as a strong leader who can appeal to middle America by blustering that he would not take any options off the table, the response of people who believe in adherence to international law, who value human life, who respect the environment, and who have learned the lessons of history, should be to remind that candidate that some options were taken off the table years ago, for good reason, and should stay off the table.



“He’s Leaving Soon Anyway...” – The Case for Impeachment

by Ron Weiner

I’m having a problem. People whose opinions I respect, people whom I’ve always considered to be erudite and highly informed observers of the political scene, people I have always placed far above me in their ability to calmly peruse all options in any political crisis and make solid and reasonable choices, people like this are telling me that impeaching George Bush would be an exercise in futility and a total waste of time and money, that Congress has too many more important matters with which to concern itself. Well, it may be that I’m a vindictive, puritanical old curmudgeon, but I stubbornly insist that they are missing the point, which is that justice must be served and that there can be no more important nor timely endeavor by Congress than to vigorously defend the Constitution and to preserve intact its existence as the most perfect instrument of self-government man has yet devised.

I, for one (and I’m not alone: see Ramsey Clark and Elizabeth Holtzman and a host of others), strongly feel that a movement toward the impeachment of this failure of a president and his even more arrogant vice president is both vital and necessary (regardless of its probability of success), if only to focus even more heat on this dangerous megalomaniac and his administration. There are many who have said that such a movement would be without merit since, “Well, he’s going

to be gone in a year and a half and, besides, the Senate as presently constituted would never bring in a guilty verdict anyway, and I’m satisfied just knowing that he’ll be remembered as the worst president in our history.” So they are saying.

But suppose we looked at other crimes that way. Suppose, for instance, an outrageous crime (brutal assault, rape, murder, etc.) were perpetrated against a close friend or family member, and suppose the criminal were known, but for whatever reason was still at large. Now, suppose further that this criminal were diagnosed with a terminal disease and arguably had no more than 18 months to live. Would you be willing to say, “Well, he’s going to be gone soon, anyway; why waste the time and money it would take to bring him to justice?” or, “No, it’s just not worth it, and I’m satisfied knowing that he won’t be around too much longer?” Would you be willing to say that? Would you be satisfied with that?

I find that position equally untenable, whether it concerns an act of violence against a loved one or an act of violence against the Constitution. This amazing document, under the precepts and logic of which we have lived for generations, has been for six years systematically placed under attack, figuratively torn asunder, repeatedly and violently raped, to use not nearly strong



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The Gifts of Nature by Debra Shore

This is the season, with Earth Day past and as Mother's Day approaches, when I reflect on the gifts we've received from Mother Nature.

Without a doubt, nature is our life support system. We are 70 percent water. Air is our life's breath. The fruits of the land sustain us each day. The tonic of wild nature refreshes our spirits. Woods, prairies, and wetlands are our first and best playground, the real Discovery Zone.

We receive so much from nature. But what do we give back?



Linda Masters, a friend of the author, holds a blue-spotted salamander.

What do we do not only to ensure that we will continue to have clean air and abundant water available for our own use, but also to provide for the needs of the rest of creation?

For 15 years or so, a little bit of what I do to give back – indeed, the roots of my own political activism – is to volunteer in our local forest preserves to restore the woods and grasslands that have become degraded due to years of neglect. It is worthy work – good for the body and good for the spirit. This is a form of reciprocity, for sure, when caring humans act on behalf of birds and butterflies, frogs and voles.

Almost magically (and through dint of collective effort), in those places where I and other volunteers are able to remove invasive weeds and shrubs, sow native seeds, open up the woods to life-giving sunlight, we see Cooper's hawks and trillium and wild white indigo coming back. (Find out about habitat restoration opportunities near you. In Lake County, go to www.lcfpd.org and click on "Get Involved." In Cook County go to www.fpdccvolunteers.org.)

Last week, at Somme Woods in Northbrook, we found a blue-spotted salamander reviving from its wintery dormant state. Woodcocks have been whirling in their spectacular mating flight. The green shoots of May apples and trout lily are springing forth.

The great naturalist E. O. Wilson has said, "There is no purpose more enspiriting than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us."

Why not make a pledge, this Mother's Day, to spend a morning giving back to Mother Nature? I suspect you won't be sorry.

Positively American continued from page 3

our general principles based on them (instead of using deductive reasoning to move from general principles to specifics). "Some may say that politics should not start with pleasing the average person. I strongly disagree," writes Schumer. "Pleasing regular people – if it means making government work to improve their lives – is what democracy and Democrats are all about."

Schumer then outlines what he calls *The 50% Solution*:

1. Increase reading and math scores by 50% by tripling federal spending on education and using federal testing standards.
2. Reduce property taxes that fund education by 50% (more about that below).
3. Increase the number of college graduates by 50% with tuition credits and federal loans.
4. Reduce illegal immigration by 50% and increase legal immigration by 50% by increasing enforcement, issuing more green cards, and offering earned citizenship to those who are here.
5. Reduce our dependence on foreign oil by 50% by increasing conservation and fossil fuel production in the short run and ending dependence on fossil fuels in the long run.
6. Reduce cancer mortality by 50% through screening and research.
7. Reduce childhood obesity by 50% through education.
8. Reduce abortions by 50% through education, increased availability of contraceptives, and increased funding for family planning programs.
9. Cut children's access to internet pornography by 50% by holding credit card companies accountable for age verification and taxes on porn sites.

10. Reduce tax evasion by 50% by restoring enforcement for high earners and corporations.

11. Increase our ability to fight terrorism by 50% through international alliances and expanding special forces.

This short summary does not do any of the programs justice, but you get the idea, and Schumer intends these as a starting point. Number 2 is among the most interesting. Since the middle class hates property taxes but likes education, Schumer would allow localities to get significant federal dollars for education if they pledge to freeze their property tax contribution to schools. Democrats will be for education and for tax relief the middle class really cares about. For similar reasons, Democrats should support energy independence, but not by means of gas taxes, which may reduce consumption but will hit the middle class hard.

On issues like abortion, Schumer says that the middle class is concerned about abortions from a moral perspective, but does not believe that values should be imposed on others: they are pro-life and pro-choice, which is why the message must be that abortions should be safe, legal, and rare.

On foreign policy, Democrats must be careful that our criticism of the war in Iraq is not mistaken for weakness. Schumer points out that every Senate Democrat voted for the use of force in Afghanistan, and he declares, "Democrats must agree, and must make clear, that we would never wait for enemies to attack us...If there's a threat, we must be proactive – the risks of waiting are too high." But instead of the Republican principles of preemptive strike and going it alone, "Democrats should focus on a Trumanesque synthesis of aggressive deterrence, strategic alliances, targeted strikes and, as a last resort when necessary, the use of all-out force."

Schumer's wisdom helped us win the Senate. It is now up to us to maintain and build on our victory.

Case for Impeachment *continued from page 5*

enough a metaphor. From a disastrous, undeclared, youth-killing war, to recess appointments, to warrantless wiretaps and other egregious curtailments of our civil liberties, to those manipulative, self-serving “signing statements,” the many crimes against the Constitution and its carefully juxtaposed balances of power have been both overt and insidious. Those crimes must be brought under the harsh light of investigations, followed by a House vote for or against impeachment.

And the House need not be greatly distracted from the vital business that others fear might be sidelined due to such action, since the impeachment process could begin with appointing a prosecutor to carry out his or her ongoing investigations while the Congress continues on its important way. Such a step would go far in giving Americans a sense that a remedy was at least underway, that the frustrating feeling of powerlessness might perhaps be at an end, and that our country was at last rebuilding in the eyes of the world the wrecked reputation that has so undermined our responsibility to hold

other nations to a higher standard of morality. Perhaps most important of all, beginning the process might make this insufferable administration think twice before entangling us in still another war – this time with Iran.

While I agree that the Senate, nearly balanced as it is now between Republicans and Democrats, would probably never reach the verdict of “Guilty!” that would remove Bush from office, a move toward impeachment by the House is vital, if only to keep his crimes in the headlines. Even Fox News would be forced to give a move toward impeachment priority position in its newscasts.

An impeachment debate is what America needs to see, hear, and read about every day. It’s what those who still stubbornly cling to some misguided traditional sense of loyalty to the presidency – any presidency at all, or so it would seem – need to be engaged in so that they can understand that we have been in the hands of criminals.

And that none of us will stand for it – not for even one day longer.

Culture Wars *continued from page 3*

calmed and defeated. The West has already won over the liberals of Islamic society, but these are too few and too cowed to be a bulwark against the radicals.

Even more insulting to many conservative Moslems than the decline of their status in the world over the last millennium is what they perceive as the moral depravity of the triumphant West. According to d’Souza, conservative Moslems see us as a society without morals and without standards, literally the enemy of Divine Revelation (through Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed), awash in a revolting cesspool of sexual immorality. Conservative Moslems see our American culture as rejecting the traditional paternalistic family, which is based on preservation of the virginity of its most valued asset, its daughters. Equal political rights for women are unthinkable to these conservatives because they would allow their daughters to associate with the sexually and physically dangerous world of men. Our clothing and fashions, the use of sex and the exposure of the female body by Hollywood and Madison Avenue, and especially the campaign of Western states in the United Nations to liberalize views toward homosexuality and the availability of abortion, strike at the vitals of this paternalistic, controlling society.

Because many on the left are secular proponents of the strict separation of church and state, intellectual heirs of Thomas Jefferson and the anti-clericalists of the French Revolution, their ideas are portrayed in the Islamic world as anti-religious. Yet the essence of liberalism since the 18th century has been the notion that no one, especially not the state, can tell the citizen what he can believe and how he can worship. Here the argument comes full turn, since the culture wars in our country are based on this same distinction between freedom to practice religion and freedom from religious interference in the lives of those with different beliefs. D’Souza would have the American right make common cause with those religious conservatives in Islamic countries, as they share the goal of preserving the primacy of religion in controlling the thoughts and actions of the worshiper. Freedom of religious thought here and abroad is anathema to both groups. Thus, D’Souza allies himself with the Islamic conservative majority that liberal Americans must win over if we are to defeat Islamic extremism.

We can disagree with D’Souza’s fantasies of leftist responsibility for terrorism and a world-wide bund of religious conservatives without

rejecting the importance of an open dialogue with those in the Islamic world who represent not only the majority, but also our best hope to quell radicalism. The coarseness of our society, its insistence on rubbing the noses of Moslem clerics in what they call sexual immorality and what we call sexual expression, and the export of our society’s worst excesses through our commercial and entertainment culture are obvious examples of our society’s blindness towards the sensitivities of others. A cultural dialogue emphasizing our common heritage, and integration of students from Islamic countries into the intellectual life of Europe and America, such as is now underway in Rome, are examples of ways in which we can learn to live in one world.

Most disturbing of D’Souza’s fantasies is his attempt to separate the left, consisting of European radicals and our own liberal Democratic leaders, from the bulk of the Democratic Party. This is the same division attempted by McCarthy in the 1950s, Nixon-Agnew in the 1970s (with the “silent majority” campaign), and George Bush in 2002 (Congressional authorization for war in Iraq). In each case the right wing laid claim to the center left of the political spectrum, the heart of the Democratic party, by attacking the patriotism of the left wing, the intellectual core of radical thought. The attacks on George Soros, Howard Dean, and John Murtha (who would be shocked to be thought of as a radical!) are examples of the most modern incarnation of this phenomenon.

If we conceive of the danger of Islamic extremism as an existential danger to western society, we must do our best to learn to live with Moslem conservatives, who represent the vast majority of their society. Points of common interest include the self-governance of society rather than the rule by an autocratic clergy, the common intellectual heritage of the past three thousand years from Egypt, Rome, and Persia, and our spiritual heritage as children of Abraham. We need not censor our society to prettify it for Moslems. The West will benefit from a refinement in our cultural output. It is conservative Islam that is most at risk from the paranoid ragings of the extremists in their midst, for it is primarily their society that the extremists seek to transform. As we pursue understanding with the Islamic world, we should also seek détente in the culture wars in this country. The Moslem world is not the only one at risk of cataclysmic civil strife.

course." Later in the evening, Schakowsky declared that she favors redeploying our troops now. She praised Congressman John Murtha for his leadership in that regard and observed that our presence contributes to and exacerbates the violence in Iraq. Of President Bush she said, "One of the tragedies of this administration is loss of moral authority [abroad] and our capacity to lead..."

Regarding the electorate's second message last November, Schakowsky explained that reintroducing civility to partisan politics requires neither compromising values nor rolling over but just demands a different level of engagement. She predicted that given the mood of the country, whoever wins the Democratic presidential nomination will be elected in '08.

Schakowsky outlined with pride the House's accomplishments during the first 100 hours after Speaker Pelosi took office. The House voted to raise the minimum wage, fund stem cell research, and to enact all the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, as well as to reverse tax breaks for oil companies and repeal the prohibition on negotiating prices with drug companies under Medicare Part D. Schakowsky welcomed the return of Congressional oversight, checks and balances, separation of powers, and exercise of investigative authority – all tools necessary to hold the executive branch accountable to the people.

Following her remarks, Schakowsky took questions from the audience. Asked about healthcare, Schakowsky remarked that Congress is forming a study group on universal access to "quality, affordable healthcare." She also cited a bill she is co-sponsoring with Senator

Durbin that would allow the Medicare program directly to provide the prescription drug benefit, without going through insurance companies, as a potential model for a "Medicare for all" health care plan.

Asked about American industry moving abroad, Schakowsky described a proposal she is sponsoring to reward "patriot corporations" with tax incentives for keeping jobs in the United States. Schakowsky also touted the importance of federal investments in higher education and renewable energy as ways to create new jobs and new industries. Schakowsky remarked that she recently has abandoned her long-time opposition to nuclear energy, which she now sees as a necessary alternative to carbon fuels.

In response to a student's question about the high cost of college, Schakowsky characterized this as a "crisis." In response to a question about earmarks, Schakowsky remarked that one person's pork is another's important community project. She emphasized that there is nothing wrong with funding local projects, as long as the process is open and not secretive.

Overall, the evening was a paradigm for constituent access to a member of Congress. For now, we Democrats in the 10th District can only envy our neighbors in the 9th, as we look forward to similar events with a future 10th District representative, once Mark Kirk becomes our former congressman.

**Tenth Dems has tables at Jan Schakowsky's
Ultimate Women's Power Lunch**
featuring Hon. Nancy Pelosi and Hon. Geraldine Ferraro on Friday,
May 4th, 12 pm, at the Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan. Please join us.
Call 847-266-VOTE (8683) or email laurenbethgash@aol.com.

Republican "Logic" *continued from page 1*

Now add to that the new Republican "logic" of war everywhere, all the time, without end. Otherwise the terrorists "win." Just listen to Vice President Dick Cheney talking to Rush Limbaugh on his radio show: "[The Democrats] seem to think that we can withdraw from Iraq and walk away from it. They ignore the lessons of the past. Remember what happened in Afghanistan. We'd been involved in Afghanistan in the eighties, supporting the Mujahadeen against the Soviets and prevailed. We won. Everybody walked away, and in the nineties, Afghanistan became a safe haven for terrorists, an area for training camps where al Qaeda trained 20,000 terrorists in the late nineties, and the base from which they launched attacks on the

United States on 9/11. So those are very real problems, and to advocate withdrawal from Iraq at this point, it seems to me, simply would play right into the hands of al Qaeda." This "logic," the "logic" of the Republican party, leads to a permanent occupation of countries in which we intervene militarily. Withdrawal after invading only emboldens the terrorists, even if we "win." "We won," Cheney says of Afghanistan, but we "walked away." What Cheney proposes is that after we "win" in Iraq, or anywhere else, we can't just "walk away" – we have to stay there forever. And since military action and occupation inevitably create more terrorists, we must stay to fight them as well so they cannot claim victory. Cheney's "logic" is so exquisitely circular that it makes Catch-22 seem like a reasonable proposition.

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