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Tenth Dems U Takes a Semester Break

by John Hmurovic

The faculty, staff, and students of Tenth Dems University are heading off for a semester break. No, they're not on their way to Florida beaches. To the contrary, many of them will be walking in the cold and snow of Illinois or Iowa in support of their candidates as the 2008 election season formally begins.

Tenth Dems U classes will resume in February, just days after the February 5, 2008, primary election in Illinois. The semester break is timed to allow everyone involved with Tenth Dems U to have more time to spend on the election campaign in the weeks leading up to the primary.

Tenth Dems University held its first class in July and has offered 15 classes overall. These have included classes on issues, such as preventing gun violence, reproductive choice, Israel, and the War in Iraq. Other classes were designed to

give volunteers practical campaign skills, such as political research on the Internet, getting out the vote on election day, and dealing with unsympathetic voters when going door-to-door. The classes have been led by a variety of experts in their fields, including former Congressman Abner Mikva ("How To Win An Election in the 10th District"), comedian Aaron Freeman ("Comedy and Politics"), and WGN radio political analyst Paul Green ("Is This Any Way to Elect a Commander-In-Chief? The 2008 Presidential Election").

All Tenth Dems U classes are free, and they are open to all. The classes are held in various locations across the 10th District, and are designed to give residents of our area a chance to become better educated on the issues and better trained to help with a political campaign. In short, TDU is designed to help all of us

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Tenth News

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TDU Students Learn About Politics and Laughter

by Marla Sundh

Bet you didn't know that TDU has some up-and-coming improvisational comedians in the classroom. At TDU's Tuesday, October 16 program, comedic minds were sparkling, and creating faster than you could say "Mark Kirk."

Politicians have always been fodder for humor, as we work off our frustration with them by making jokes at their expense. Political comedy is growing more popular today as the lines between entertainment and news blur. No one knows this better than Aaron Freeman, noted political comedian, cartoonist, and writer, who served as professor of Tuesday's class.

Freeman pointed out that when exaggerated portraits of politicians are painted with the comedic brush, voters see with greater clarity some of the foibles of the elected officials and make more informed decisions as a result.

Professor Freeman took the class on a journey through the history of political comedy, starting with the Yippies' theatrical protests at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. He talked about several other troupes, and discussed today's Internet-based programs for biting sarcastic humor at the expense of politicians, such as TheYesMen.org and BillionairesforBush.com.

As an in-class exercise, six small groups were formed out of a total of more than 60 participants. Each group was charged with devising a "marketing plan" extolling the virtues of Congressman Kirk in a comedic manner, bringing to light his true weaknesses.



TDU Professor Aaron Freeman is joined by Shelagh Collins, whose prop puppet is intended to make the point that Rep. Mark Kirk is a puppet himself.

The "Tenth District Tap Dancers" portrayed the congressman as someone who excels at tap dancing around the issues.

The "Society of Landscapers" gave vocal approval to Kirk's skill at hiding behind Bushes.

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Branding Democratic Foreign Policy by Mark Paul

The buzz about Prof. Drew Westen's *The Political Brain: The Role of Emotion in Deciding the Fate of the Nation* is a bit bewildering to someone who has worked in advertising for decades. Some Democrats are impressed that Westen endorses branding, but there are, after all, thousands of think tanks across the country dedicated to the study of branding. They are called advertising agencies and the largest ones, in fact, actually include on their staffs social psychologists, cultural anthropologists, and other doctorate-level social scientists trained to deduce psychological and cultural motivating factors through close observation.

A complex combination of issues in the late 1960s led Democrats to become reticent about collaborating with advertising artists who employ modern techniques, but it wasn't always this way. In the late 1950s, among the founders of the Democrats of South Lake County were a copywriter from Leo Burnett and an art director from Young & Rubicam, who created the group's visual identity, as well as its ads, mailers, and flyers.

John F. Kennedy relied heavily during his campaign on advisors drawn from commercial advertising. Richard Nixon had won his senate seat by smearing Sen. Helen Gahagan Douglas as soft on communism, and Dwight D. Eisenhower had chosen him as his running mate to mollify anti-communist extremists like Sen. Joe McCarthy. Nixon certainly had no reason to expect a challenge to his credentials as an anti-communist. Yet that's exactly where JFK attacked, campaigning on the issues of a perceived missile gap with the Soviets and a potential conflict with the Chinese over two obscure off-shore islands.

Four years later, and facing another right-wing extremist, Lyndon Johnson and his aide, Bill Moyers, turned to Bill Bernbach, the father of modern advertising and the genius who figured out how to sell to Americans an undersized, underpowered, weirdly shaped car built by people with whom we had been locked in desperate combat only 10 years before.

The Johnson campaign's signature spot, "Daisy," featured a little girl picking petals off a daisy in a field and counting out of sequence before a male voice began a military countdown, which was followed by stock footage of a nuclear explosion. Then Johnson's voice was heard saying: "These are the stakes – to make a world in which all of God's children can live, or to go into the dark. We must either love each other, or we must die." (An excellent article and link to the spot is at <http://www.conelrad.com/daisy/index.php>.)

This was powerful stuff, especially since it aired less than two years after the Cuban missile crisis. No one was a stronger anti-communist than Barry Goldwater, but "Daisy" transformed that strength into the weakness of a reckless zealot. And the result was an historic landslide.

Kennedy, Johnson, and their campaign strategists and advertising agencies knew this: Winning foreign policy positions express strength and prudent judgment, and of all the brand positions that can be pursued, the one that should always be avoided is the "me-too" brand, which is so weak it doesn't even qualify as a strategy. For example, try to even find Powerade on a store shelf. (Powerade is owned by Coca-Cola. Marketing money isn't the problem; finding a branding strategy is.)

The danger of a Goldwater presidency was only hypothetical, but

his heirs have run the country for nearly seven years; and the U.S. is now in the midst of the worst foreign policy disaster in its history. It is hardly bad strategy to attack our opponents for creating these fiascos, and Mark Kirk's Middle East positions are neither strong nor prudent. On Kirk's watch, Hezbollah and Hamas have grown stronger, and hundreds of thousands, perhaps a million refugees have flowed into Jordan and Syria from Iraq while millions more Iraqis are refugees within their own nation. With no homes, jobs, or schools, they are all prime candidates for terrorist recruiters.

The road toward a Democratic foreign policy brand can be found in the concluding paragraphs of a recent essay on relations between Israel and the Israel lobby in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* (<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=910199>), written by Daniel Levy, a senior fellow at the New America and Century Foundations who was previously an adviser in prime minister Ehud Barak's office and is the lead Israeli drafter of the Geneva Initiative.

In what is ostensibly a review of *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, Levy notes the rightward drift of the Israel lobby since the 1970s, leading to an almost seamless cooperation with the neo-conservative movement. It has not been a healthy development for Israel, he says.

On Iran, the authors draw our attention to two missed opportunities, both under former-president Mohammad Khatami, for a comprehensive U.S.-Iranian dialogue, and suggest a diplomatic way forward out of the current impasse. They contend that Israel and the lobby are driving policy in the opposite direction. If that is true, and evidence is certainly out there, then it suggests the neocon

world view is still in the driver's seat, and that Israel and the lobby have learned nothing from the last years. Israel, declaratively at least, prefers a diplomatic solution, and both Israel and her friends should be pushing actively for enhanced diplomacy, not the ratcheting up of military threats that so play into the hands of Ahmadinejad.

Syria is the arena in which the neocon-inspired U.S. position and the Israeli position seem most at odds: a policy of promoting regime change versus one that says, we are ready to negotiate with you (when we're not conducting military missions inside your territory). The book also makes the case that in the Second Lebanon War, the Israel lobby helped prevent early U.S. intervention to end the war. If that is true, it would present a particularly glaring example of the lobby working against the Israeli interest, and another reason why Israelis should follow this issue closely. Analysis of key ministerial testimonies to the Winograd Committee and the Interim Winograd Report itself suggests that very senior Israelis based their calculations and decisions on an expectation that the U.S. would pursue an early diplomatic solution. The neocons implacably opposed this, the lobby fell into line and Israel "reaped the rewards," all the way to the cemeteries.

...

For liberal American Jews who care about Israel, that means ending the outsourcing contract with neocons and right-wing evangelicals.... It will take though a greater commitment of time and resources from liberal Jews who pursue multi-issue



Politics and Laughter *continued from page 1*

The other groups were similarly clever in skewering the congressman.

What the class took away from the experience is that political comedy is a rich blend of insight and humor that can be tapped to make the point that a lengthy oratory or dissertation might not.

Tragedy Tomorrow, Comedy Tonight!

by Ellen Beth Gill

Hello. I'm Dr. Marjorie Bellows from the College of Bi-Facial Reconstructive Surgeons. As a group of physicians, we are deeply committed to helping struggling politicians who need two faces to mingle with both Democrats and Republicans at the same cocktail party. Take Mark Kirk, for example. He has to be able to say to the person on his right that he "saw the intelligence and he knows that there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq" and then turn around and tell the person on his left that it is time to "wind down the mission."

Mark Kirk is one of our biggest success stories! He received our help and can now say that veterans' benefits are bad for national security in one moment and, in the next, say he saved the VA Hospital. He can say he believes in separation of church and state and then support Bush in promoting fundamentalist Christianity. He can say he's for the environment and vote for enough anti-environmental proposals to get dropped as an endorsed League of Conservation Voters candidate. He can go to a senior event and say Medicare Part D (prescription drugs) is simple and ignore the chaos that ensues when people try to sign up for coverage.



Following Prof. Aaron Freeman's instructions, small groups have fun devising "marketing plans" for Rep. Mark Kirk.

So, support the College of Bi-Facial Reconstructive Surgeons. We're here for those times when consistency gets you in trouble.

That was the long (and sort of fixed up) version of the bit created by my group in Aaron Freeman's Tenth Dems U class, "Comedy and Politics." Since Tenth Dems U is a school, we had to start out with a moment of silence. I'd say it was a moment of sort of silence because a room full of Democrats is not the place to seek any silence at all. One attendee said we should all focus on Bush's accomplishments. Done?

Freeman, a comedian, writer, blogger, cartoonist, and all around good guy spoke on October 16th at the Vernon Area Library. Freeman feels right at home in the library because comedians use language. He says he's a groupie of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Freeman's goal with political humor is "to persuade us to and help us become more effective advocates for Mark Kirk." He talked about a

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10th District Wind Sock Manufacturers Back Kirk Re-Election

More Politics and Laughter...

by John Hmurovic

The 10th District Wind Sock Manufacturers Association has announced that it is throwing its support behind Mark Kirk in his 2008 bid for re-election to Congress.

"We are not a political group, and we were reluctant to breeze into the political arena and make an endorsement," says Harley Blaaskaak, president of the local Wind Sock Manufacturers, "but we feel we have to make an exception in this election. Every time our members meet, the conversation comes around to Mark Kirk. We are extremely impressed by him."

Blaaskaak says that most members of his group have spent a lifetime studying ways to detect which way the wind blows. Kirk, by contrast, with no apparent training in the science of wind, seems to have "an innate ability to judge which way the wind blows, and to act accordingly," Blaaskaak says. "We are in awe of his talent."

Philip F. Lopper, known to his friends as Flip, is the owner of Put A Sock On It, a Palatine-based manufacturer of wind socks, and a member of the 10th District Manufacturers group. Sitting down to shoot the breeze for a while, Lopper echoed Blaaskaak's comments. "I always say that there should be a wind sock on every city block so that people can gauge the wind and make decisions based on that knowledge. People laugh at me for saying that, but Mark Kirk is living proof that the best way to survive in this world is by constantly studying which way the wind blows and acting accordingly."

When asked for specifics, Lopper quickly cited Kirk's full-fledged support for President Bush's war in Iraq. "He stuck with that, but then, I think it was around November 2006, Congressman Kirk detected increasingly balmy conditions and began to shift accordingly. Only a person who spends a lot of time studying the winds can make a shift like that...and his ability to do it so often is masterful."

Lopper elaborated by citing Kirk's initial opposition to the children's health care program, followed by his shift to support it. He then cited Kirk's votes against the minimum wage, followed by a vote in support of it. He then cited Kirk's votes in favor of oil drilling in the environmentally sensitive Alaska wilderness, followed by votes against drilling in the Alaska wilderness. He then cited Kirk's votes against student aid, and his vote for it. He went on and on and on, before he confessed that he was getting winded from his rapid recitation of the long list of examples of how Kirk has shifted with the breeze.

"The wind is a powerful thing," Blaaskaak said, moving the conversation to a more serious tone. "If you understand it, you know you need to constantly move this way and that way. You may believe that you need to stick to one spot, but what you believe doesn't matter. What matters when you face the wind is survival. So, you need to keep shifting your position to avoid being blown away, regardless of what you may believe. Congressman Kirk understands that, and that's why the Wind Sock Manufacturers back his re-election in 2008."

Impeachment Is the Cure

by Carmen A. Corbett

When the “I” word, “Impeachment,” is mentioned, the common response is that it would be a waste of time. No doubt, we conjure up memories of the Clinton impeachment era, and we don’t want to relive that horrendous experience. What is implied by this response and its attendant uneasiness is that “impeachment” will cause a crisis in our country. But the fact is that our country is already “in crisis,” a constitutional crisis, and impeachment is the cure to this dread malady.

The constitutional crisis to which I refer includes countless examples of the “high crimes and misdemeanors” perpetrated by Bush and Cheney and their administration. First, they misled the Congress and the country about the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to justify waging a preemptive and illegal war on Iraq. Their lies have been followed by numerous acts and omissions that have ignored our country’s “rule of law.” These include: surveillance of U.S. citizens without FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) warrants; ignoring the Geneva Conventions and using torture on captives, e.g., the horrors at Abu Ghraib; detaining enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay without due process; outing U.S. operative Valerie Plame and lying under oath; firing U.S. attorneys without cause and lying about it; and, above all, failing to consult with Congress on any of the above.



So what is Congress doing with this precious time that we shouldn’t waste?

Endless hearings are being conducted by various Congressional committees that have uncovered additional illegalities by the Bush/Cheney administration that have compromised our Constitution – and to what end?

When the House and Senate are successful in getting legislation through the respective chambers, it is met with a resounding VETO by President Bush. Without the needed “super majority” nothing is getting accomplished despite the majority’s best efforts.

How do we hold the Bush administration accountable for countless violations of the Constitution? What can we do in the weeks and months until January 20, 2009, when Bush/Cheney will leave office?

I propose that the House of Representatives initiate impeachment hearings to put Bush and Cheney on notice that their power grab will no longer be tolerated. We must reinstitute the checks and balances in our federal government as intended by our Founding Fathers. It is the responsibility of the Congress to protect and uphold the rule of law, i.e., our Constitution. There is no greater Congressional duty.

In order to accomplish this, “statesmen” rather than politicians are needed, statesmen who will put the good of our country and its citizens above their own political ambitions. True leaders are desperately needed at this time in our country’s history to ensure our civil liberties and freedom for the generations to come.

Only through the impeachment process can we bring to an end the constitutional crisis created by the arrogant, hypocritical, and illegal conduct of the George W. Bush administration. Impeachment will restore the checks and balances that have been relinquished by our unwillingness to act.

The Great 2009 Sing-Along

by Barbara Polikoff

Music is a place I often choose to go. Sometimes, once there, it becomes the whole world. The film *Pete Seeger, The Power of Song* created one of those times for me.

The film took me back to volatile union and civil rights days as Seeger, lanky with a wide smile and voice that could pound like a



hammer or coo like a dove, sang “Joe Hill” and “We shall Overcome.” And it took me back to the days of protests against the war in Vietnam with “The Big Muddy.” But it was “This Land is Your Land” that reduced – no, elevated – me to tears.

With his irresistible coaxing, Seeger has always managed to get an audience to sing along with him, whether sprawled on the banks of the Hudson or ensconced in Carnegie Hall. As I heard the Seeger-led voices swell, “From the Gulf Stream waters, to the New York Island,” I was overcome with a love I had lost track of in the years spent struggling to keep my bearings in the Bush outback – a love of this country, my country, my America, which our family had driven from sea to shining sea, camping in the Wind Rivers, the Beartooth, the Sierras, stars overhead, wildflowers beneath, walking among blooming cactus in the Sonoma and Big Bend deserts, stopping in the tucked-in towns (like Buelah, its welcome sign, “Population 43 Nice People and One Sorehead”), each with its one or two-room library, and a love for the people with whom we shared stories, laughter, and campfires.

Both my grandfathers fled Russian pogroms and came here penniless. My grandmother’s impoverished parents had been forced to sell her as a servant. At seventeen she was rescued by an older brother who had earned enough to buy her passage. I grew up a child of the Great Depression. My father, who dreamed of being a professional photographer, had to pump gas, but on Sundays we drove happily out of Chicago and along the lake to “the country,” where in Wilmette we bought our one treat of the week, a double scoop Homer’s ice cream cone. It is still astonishing to me that I have been able to raise my family in one of the paradisiacal towns we passed through on these weekend drives, with comforts my grandparents and parents could not have dreamed of.

Only in America. Now we often say these words with cynicism. Pete Seeger reminded me of when these words were said with pride. I suppose when I heard “This Land is Your Land” I was elevated to tears because I have been grieving that my America has been taken from me, and from my children and grandchildren. And I want to reclaim it. I want to stand up in a nation-wide sing-along with the Pete Seegers still among us and belt out, “This land belongs to you and me.”

And I believe we can reclaim it. I envision someone standing beside our Pete Seegers, and singing out with an honesty born of commitment to our better natures. To me, that someone is Barack Obama.

Barack, we believe in you. We will work our heads off for you. And come that day in 2009 when you are inaugurated, and we have turned away from those who have defiled our beloved country, we will all sing together, “This land belongs to you and me.”

Mukasey Must be Denied Confirmation

by Jane Goldenberg

While at first it seemed that Michael Mukasey would be a shoo-in to be the next Attorney General of the United States, his status as heir apparent may be slipping away. His testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee presents two huge problems. First, he refused to call "water-boarding" torture. Then he told senators that he holds the president above the law when it comes to protecting national security.

Almost everything the government does can be characterized as promoting our safety and security. Mukasey's positions are incompatible with our Constitution.

We must not be so grateful to have gotten rid of Alberto Gonzalez that we let a wolf in sheep's clothing slide under the radar. We do not want to elect a mini-dictator as president every four years. Contact Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama today and ask them to vote no on Mukasey.

Will Mark Kirk Ever Learn That Honesty is the Best Policy?

by Mark Kraemer

"Honesty is the best policy." We've heard this wise old saying for years and most of us believe it's true. We certainly hope and expect our elected officials will live by this saying, for in truth, an honest assessment of the facts promotes the best public policy.



That's why Mark Kirk's recent comment about pollution in Waukegan Harbor and George Soros was such a disappointment. Echoing other misleading statements he's made in the past, Kirk recently stated in public that industrial pollution in Waukegan Harbor was caused in large part by George Soros, a wealthy financier known to support the Democratic Party. Kirk also accused Soros of bankrupting a Waukegan-based company that Soros briefly owned, the Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) – a company situated on the shore of the Harbor that manufactured outboard motors for powerboats.

Kirk stated in a recent mailing to constituents that "when George Soros bankrupted Overboard (sic) Marine Corporation, our community was left with a polluted Harbor and no one to clean it up."

Kirk's misleading statement seeks to associate Soros, a prominent Democrat, with industrial pollution and financial malfeasance toward the company responsible for the clean-up. But a closer examination shows that Kirk's statement twists the facts to the point of dishonesty. Being a Republican, it is understandable that Kirk would want to embarrass a prominent Democrat. Indeed, Soros recently has become a target of Kirk and the Republican "talking points" machine. Other Republicans in the media such as Fox News's Sean Hannity and CNN's Glenn Beck have made disparaging (and inaccurate) comments about Soros recently.

But what is unforgivable about Kirk's comments about Soros and Waukegan Harbor is that they are dishonest.

The truth is that George Soros had NOTHING to do with the pollution in Waukegan Harbor caused by Outboard Marine Corporation.

Soros and his financial partners bought OMC in 1998. But the problem of industrial pollution in Waukegan Harbor began long before then. Back in the 1950s, OMC began discharging hydraulic fluid containing PCBs that eventually flowed into the Harbor and wound up in the soils and sediments there. OMC's PCB discharges went on undetected for almost 25 years. The pollution was finally discovered in 1975, and a clean-up effort was actually launched in 1990 under the auspices of the EPA's Superfund program. This effort removed some of the pollution, but some still remains. It is this remaining pollution that is at issue now – how to pay for removing it from the bottom of the Harbor.

By 1998, when Soros and his partners bought OMC, the company had ceased to be a major (or even minor) cause of pollution in the Harbor. Kirk is now simply manufacturing a link between Soros and OMC's pollution of the Harbor in the distant past, long before Soros' association with the company.

And Kirk's claim that Soros bankrupted OMC is easily disproved by an examination of the facts.

By the beginning of the 1990s, OMC was already in financial trouble, losing money and cutting jobs. Soros and his partners bought the company in 1998 and spent over \$120 million in 2000 alone in an attempt to revive it. But technical problems with new OMC products and other problems in financial markets (that were beyond Soros' control) accelerated the company's decline, and it was forced to declare bankruptcy in late 2000. Soros' investment in OMC was unlucky, but Kirk's claim that Soros bankrupted the company is misleading at best and dishonest at worst.

To be sure, remaining PCB pollution in Waukegan Harbor is a lingering problem and is hampering efforts to develop the Harbor for recreational and residential use.

But Kirk's effort to blame pollution in Waukegan Harbor on George Soros is a dishonest attempt to discredit a prominent Democrat who, in fact, bears no responsibility for the problem. In doing so, Kirk seeks to avoid an honest analysis of the issue – the very thing most needed now if the task of cleaning up the Harbor is to be accomplished.

In addition, despite his claims of success, Kirk has been unsuccessful in convincing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (controlled by his own Republican Party) to provide funding that would help Waukegan clean up the Harbor. The EPA officially turned down funding for the Waukegan Harbor clean-up on August 21, 2007. By using Soros as a scapegoat, Kirk obviously wants to deflect scrutiny of his own unsuccessful efforts to procure federal funding from the EPA. To be sure, the issue is complicated and requires collaboration and compromise if the Harbor clean-up is to move forward.

But Kirk's dishonest effort to blame George Soros for the pollution in the Harbor is an example of petty politics intruding on what should be an honest discussion of an important local issue.

Is honesty the best policy as far as Mark Kirk is concerned? Obviously not.

It is difficult to imagine either Democratic congressional candidate, Dan Seals or Jay Footlik, playing politics with an issue as important as Waukegan Harbor. In November of 2008, 10th District residents have an opportunity to reject the misleading and dishonest rhetoric Kirk employs to score cheap political points.

We can elect a Democrat to Congress in 2008 and restore honesty and integrity to public policy deliberations in the 10th Congressional District.

Democrats Take Action on Iran

by Steve Sheffey

One of Rumsfeld's and Cheney's rationales for invading Iraq was to end what some call the "Vietnam Syndrome," the idea that our experience in Vietnam made us irrationally reluctant to exercise military power. Ironically, our failure in Iraq has only increased public skepticism about military responses to real threats to world peace, most notably Iran.

A nuclear-armed Iran would destabilize the region, put the world's energy resources at risk, and pose an existential threat to Israel. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has publicly declared that "Israel must be wiped off the map." This is not fear-mongering; this is a fact. Yet many Americans are rightly concerned that the little president who "cried wolf" in Iraq cannot be believed or trusted to exercise restraint.

Yossi Klein-Halevi, senior fellow of the Shalom Center in Jerusalem, cites the French philosopher Andre Glucksmann's observation that by threatening to destroy Israel and by attaining the means to do so, Iran violates the twin taboos on which the post-World War II order was built: never again Auschwitz; never again Hiroshima.

The best solution is to remove or delay the threat through means other than war, resorting to war only if all else fails, but the Bush Administration has been doing little to increase pressure on Iran.

Fortunately, the Democratic Congress has taken action. Democrat Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor in Congress, chairs the House International Relations Committee. Because the Bush administration is crippling the Iran Sanctions Act by exercising its authority to ignore key sanctions provisions, Lantos introduced the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1400), which would

prohibit nuclear cooperation between the United States and any country that provides nuclear assistance to Iran. It would also increase economic pressure on Iran by expanding the types of investment subject to sanctions, severely limiting the export of U.S. items to Iran, ending all imports from Iran, and preventing U.S. subsidiaries of foreign oil companies that invest in Iran's oil sector from receiving U.S. tax benefits for oil and gas exploration.

On September 25, 2007, H.R. 1400 passed the House 397-16. Lantos said when he introduced the Act on March 8, 2007, that the Act will "exponentially increase economic pressure on Iran and empower our diplomatic efforts by strengthening the Iran Sanctions Act. Iran's theocracy must understand that it cannot pursue a nuclear weapons program without jeopardizing the political and economic future of the Iranian state."

"Until now, by shamelessly exploiting its waiver authority and other flexibility in the law, the Executive Branch has never sanctioned any foreign oil company which invested in Iran. Those halcyon days for the oil industry are over," Lantos said.

Meanwhile, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2007 was introduced in the Senate by Barack Obama and in the House by Democratic Reps. Barney Frank and Tom Lantos. This Act would protect fund managers and state pension programs from shareholder lawsuits if they divest stakes in energy companies that do business with Iran.

The ascendancy of Iran was in large part made possible by the Bush Administration's strategic miscalculations. By eviscerating Iraq and Afghanistan, Iran's natural enemies, the Bush Administration freed Iran to focus on its nuclear program. This is a real threat. Democrats in Congress recognize this and are helping the country respond.

Kirk Unmasked: Pretending to Be a Friend to Children, Kirk Casts Procedural Votes Against Children's Healthcare

This is the sixth in an ongoing series of reports on Mark Kirk's voting record in the 110th Congress

Mark Kirk must think he's smarter than the voters in the 10th Congressional District. He must think voters won't notice, or understand, the political maneuvering he did on October 25th. In the aftermath of Bush's veto, the Democrats brought a new State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) bill (H.R. 3963) to the House floor, in a renewed effort to guarantee basic healthcare to 10 million uninsured children. And, wow, did Mark Kirk do some maneuvering to try to prevent this bill from coming to a vote!

Just as he did last month (see report in October's Tenth News), in the final vote on SCHIP Mark Kirk voted in favor of providing health care for our nation's poorest children. What he doesn't want voters to know is that at every step in the legislative process that led up to that final vote, Mark Kirk did everything in his power to kill SCHIP.

Here's the whole story. Here, roll call by roll call, is how on October 25th Mark Kirk maneuvered to keep the SCHIP bill from coming to a vote:

Roll Call 1002: Knowing that the Democrats were planning to bring SCHIP up for a vote, Republicans tried to keep the bill from coming to the floor by moving to adjourn. Kirk voted for adjournment. If

Mark Kirk really supports healthcare for children, why did he support adjournment before the measure could be considered?

Roll Call 1003: In order to call for a vote on SCHIP, Democrats needed approval from the full House to bring the matter up. Republicans tried to kill the measure by withholding approval. Kirk voted with the Republicans to kill SCHIP. If Mark Kirk really supports healthcare for children, why did he try to keep the measure from reaching the House floor?

Roll Call 1004: When the vote to prevent approval to bring SCHIP to the floor failed, Republicans moved to table the bill and let it die. Kirk again voted with his Republican friends. If Mark Kirk really supports health care for children, why did he vote to table the issue and let it die?

Roll Call 1005: Republicans tried once again to adjourn before SCHIP could come to a vote, and Mark Kirk once again voted with his fellow Republicans. If Mark Kirk really supports healthcare for children, why did he try to prevent any consideration of SCHIP?

Roll Call 1006: After an hour of debate on the SCHIP bill, Democrats called for a vote. Those opposed to SCHIP re-authorization tried to kill it by letting the debate drag on. Again, Mark Kirk voted in



ROLL CALL NUMBER	ACTION	REPUBLICANS	REP. KIRK
1002	Adjourn	Yes	Yes
1003	Consider	No	No
1004	Consider	No	No
1005	Adjourn	Yes	Yes
1006	Consider	No	No
1007	Consider	No	No
1008	Send to Committee	Yes	Yes
1009	Final Vote	No	Yes

Source: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/index.asp>

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Moraine Township Democratic Organization Update

by Vicki Bailyn

The Moraine Township Democratic Organization (MTDO) continues to be a strong and active part of the 10th Congressional District. The township includes most of Highland Park, Highwood, and small pieces of Deerfield and Lake Forest.

A strong Democratic vote in Moraine Township in 2008 is key to electing a Democrat to Congress in the 10th Congressional District. In 2006, the overall Moraine vote for Dan Seals was 62 percent, and that includes the two Lake Forest precincts with 21 percent and 34 percent for Seals. During the last two election cycles, a large turnout of Moraine Township Democrats helped overcome the traditional Republican vote in Lake County to elect Democrats as the Lake County Recorder of Deeds, Lake County Sheriff, and Lake County Coroner. Also, in the last township elections, six Democrats were elected as Moraine Township officials. Never before had a Democratic slate or candidate run for a Moraine Township office, much less won.

To help make all this happen, MTDO organized political discussion group and candidate forums and spread the Democratic message at parades, festivals, and other community events.

MTDO's current office in downtown Highland Park serves as an important meeting place and worksite for area Democrats. Office hours are generally Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Call 847-433-8344 before coming, to make sure someone is there.

MTDO stands for work and change at the grassroots level. Please be part of this by contributing your money and your time and talents to your local Democratic organization. Your donation can be made by check payable to MTDO and mailed to Moraine Township Democratic Organization, P.O. Box 284, Highland Park, IL 60035. You can call the MTDO office at 847-433-8344 to talk about volunteering.

UPCOMING MTDO MEETING

All residents of Moraine Township, Moraine Precinct Committeemen, and other volunteers are invited to the next MTDO meeting Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m., at the MTDO office, 442 Central Avenue, Highland Park.

FUN-RAISER: FOOD, FRIENDS & POLITICS

LAUNCH MORAINE TOWNSHIP
DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION'S
2008 ELECTION YEAR EFFORTS –
AND LAUGH UNTIL YOU CRY!

CAPITOL STEPS

Uproariously Funny – Political Satire at its BEST!!!!

Centre East, Skokie

January 19, 2008, 8:00 p.m.

We reserved early and have the best seats in the house!

Tickets are \$65.00 and include the show (\$50 face value) and dessert following the show at 3325 Summit Avenue, Highland Park

Send checks made out to MTDO to:

Anne Bassi, 3325 Summit, Highland Park 60035

Laugh, eat, see old friends, meet new ones – mail your check today

Branding *continued from page 2*

agendas. This debate would become acutely relevant were the Democrats to re-take the White House in next year's election.

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[A]longside the undoubted benefits, the agenda pursued by the lobby in America has come at a great cost to Israel. NIS 45 billion could not have been wasted on settlements without U.S. complicity. As the book's authors argue, "Washington has helped insulate it [Israel] from some of the adverse consequences of its own actions," and that is a very dubious luxury indeed.

Levy is not a fringe peacenik in Israel. Barak is now defense minister and Labor holds 19 Knesset seats in the coalition led by Olmert's Kadima with 29 seats. The lobby's favored party, Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud, holds 12 seats, only two more than the Arab parties.

The right will attack a Democrat, no matter whom we nominate, so we may as well build our own brand, expect to be attacked, and give even better than we get. The right is panicking and becoming sloppy, as demonstrated by the backfire from its attacks on the 12-year-old boy from Baltimore covered by SCHIP health insurance. And like all bullies, the right wing doesn't play defense well.

It's tough enough to market Powerade. But we don't compete with Gatorade. Our opponents are more like a Ford Pinto – flimsy and likely to explode.

Kirk Unmasked *continued from page 6*

lockstep with Republicans trying to kill SCHIP. If Mark Kirk really supports healthcare for children, why did he try to keep the SCHIP bill from coming to a vote?

Roll Call 1007: Democrats then tried to move the matter forward by getting the approval of the House to take a final vote on SCHIP. The vast majority of Republicans, still intent on blocking health care for children, voted against the motion. Mark Kirk joined them. If Mark Kirk really supports healthcare for children, why did he try to prevent SCHIP from coming to a vote?

Roll Call 1008: Republicans made a final attempt to kill the bill by sending it to a committee for more discussion. Had they succeeded, the measure would have died there. Mark Kirk voted to send the SCHIP bill to committee, to let it die. This was Mark Kirk's seventh vote of the day against healthcare for children.

Roll Call 1009 (the only one Mark Kirk wants his constituents to know about): When in spite of every Republican maneuver the SCHIP bill finally came to an up or down vote – the vote that inevitably would be reported in the pages of *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Chicago Sun Times* – Mark Kirk headed for cover and voted yea.

Kirk's constituents can count on his trumpeting this final vote – the only SCHIP vote he will talk about. He will never admit to, much less explain, his seven votes against SCHIP. He doesn't want 10th District voters to see his true colors. Since he can't possibly believe that 10th District voters are not smart enough to understand the parliamentary maneuvers the Republicans invoked to try to kill children's health insurance, Kirk has to bank on the voters not finding out that he supported these maneuvers.

The 10th District deserves a congressman who shares the voters' belief that government should play a role in making this a better America, who believes that finding ways to help those who are most in need constitutes not only good moral values, but also good policy. That's not what Mark Kirk believes. Seven times he rejected that idea. Next year, the voters in the 10th Congressional District should reject Mark Kirk.

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Tragedy/Comedy *continued from page 3*

certain form of political humor that particularly interests him these days – taking on issues from the extreme point of reference of the opposite of what we are advocating. He cited some examples throughout recent history including the yuppies running a pig for president in 1968, the San Francisco group calling themselves Ladies Against Women who protested women's liberation rallies with signs saying "Men are Nifty" and "We Want to do What We Are Told," and The Yes Men interested in "identity correction...to make them better." The Yes Men bought talking GI Joes and Barbies and switched the voice mechanisms. They also call themselves the WTO and surprisingly, or not, get invited to all sorts of economic events. If you don't want to read the book, there's a movie.

Then, Aaron put us to work. It was a class after all. We split into groups and came up with our own characters and an organization to support an extreme position against our conscience and make a statement. For extra fun, we took on Mark Kirk.

I have to admit, I was busy remembering my lines, so I don't have the best memory of the groups that went before mine, except a bit about the puppet society of people who support candidates with no brains of their own, and the Mark Kirk dance studio. If I remember correctly, the dance instructor said: take a small step to the left, a

large step to the right, and a gigantic step backwards. The groups that came after mine included:

- A group of boaters, fishermen, swimmers, water skiers, and such called the Coalition of Great Lakes Single Issue Voters. These voters don't want to be confused by all those silly unimportant issues like the Iraq War or the Constitution because "Kirk is Great on the Great Lakes." One of the presenters did a fabulous job of listing all the issues unimportant to this group and got everyone going at the end repeating that it doesn't matter because he's "Great on the Great Lakes." Everyone was in stitches. (We'll probably hear that this is Kirk's '08 campaign slogan.)
- A group called the Watchmakers of America. Kirk is an important figure to that group because he runs out of time for his constituents and has plenty of time for Bush. The group sells a watch on its website with Mark Kirk's hands to tell you the time.
- One of my favorites (because of the great acronym), SLUG, the Society of Landscapers Under God. Kirk is important to them because he's always behind the Bushes and wants us to have more Bushes like Jeb, Jenna, and Condoleezza.

Asked what his best Bush joke is, Aaron answered, "Bush in '08." "It's the scariest too," he quipped.

Semester Break *continued from page 1*

become more active and informed citizens.

In all, just over 500 students have attended Tenth Dems University classes in its first few months. To become a part of the student body, be sure to check out www.TenthDemsU.org in the months ahead as new classes are added – once the semester break comes to a close.

Coming Soon...

Tenth Dems Holiday Party, December 11th, 6-9 p.m.

10th District Democratic Convention

Sunday afternoon, January 20, 2008

Save the Date