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A Woman’s Right to Choose—Not for Much Longer

by Carol Hillsberg

In his 30 years of championing reproductive rights, Terry Cosgrove has never encountered anyone more right-wing than Bill Brady, the Republican candidate for Governor of Illinois. In fact, Mr. Cosgrove’s goal this election year is to spread the word far and wide of how inimical Brady’s views are to the well-being of women. As the instructor at the Tenth Dems University class held Monday, July 19, at the Deerfield Public Library, the President and CEO of Personal PAC spoke at length about the wide disparity between Brady’s positions and those of the Democratic incumbent, Pat Quinn.



Distinctions between the candidates couldn’t be clearer. Pat Quinn is pro-choice, believing that abortion is a private decision between a woman and her doctor. Bill Brady not only supports a law making abortion illegal in Illinois, even in cases of rape and incest, but he also supports amending the U.S. Constitution so that abortion is illegal nation-wide. Pat Quinn opposes, and Bill Brady supports, a law allowing a pharmacist to refuse to fill prescriptions for birth control based on moral or religious objections. These are just two examples of the stands Brady has taken that are against the interests of women, positions that would negate so many gains of the past 50 years.

Since 1989, when Terry Cosgrove was hired as Executive Director of Personal PAC, he has implemented a political strategy that has succeeded in electing pro-choice candidates across the state, transforming Illinois from an

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Bill Brady and Guns

by Jennifer Bishop Jenkins

In this election cycle, we need to be talking about Bill Brady and guns. The Republican gubernatorial candidate, Brady wants to make sure that anyone can carry around a concealed gun in our state. And, while we’re getting to the heart of Bill Brady’s favorite issue, it’s worth noting that he opposes pretty much any regulations on guns at all.

Look at his website now, and the issue is nowhere to be found. But don’t let anyone kid you—Bill Brady has long been the Illinois Legislature’s strongest gun proponent or, as I call him after witnessing his work in Illinois politics on this topic for years—a gun nut.

Full disclosure: my perspective on this issue is one of deep personal interest, as my pregnant sister and her husband were shot and killed by a teen who was fascinated by guns. Since their murders in 1990 in Winnetka, I have devoted much time to working to prevent such tragedies from happening to others.

Bill Brady might want you to believe that his political strength is fiscal management and ethics in government. But examination of his record makes it clear these areas are not his expertise nor his history. In fact, he has not shown any leadership or particular experience on those issues at all during his tenure in Springfield.

What Brady has done for years in Springfield is work very hard to make sure we all have access to military-level assault weapons and that there are no restrictions on who can have guns, where they can have them, or how many guns and what kinds of guns they can have.

Every single major law enforcement initiative to monitor the trafficking of guns in the unregulated secondary market and to close the loopholes in the background check system Bill Brady has opposed. Yet, what we know nationally is that many so-called “law abiding” gun owners with concealed carry permits often act impulsively and end up killing or injuring someone. The more guns we have floating around Illinois, the more people are going to be hurt. Guaranteed.

It’s hard for me to watch Bill Brady running around the state now marketing himself on economic and ethics issues when he has never shown leadership or accomplished anything in those areas while in the State Senate. Conversely, he has not been up front about the issue he’s most passionate about—guns. I have been watching Bill Brady work to eliminate even the most basic regulation of guns in Illinois for years. He does it with a passion I have seldom seen. It’s a little scary.

Illinois is one of only two states in the nation that have been able to stand strong against the mighty gun lobby to prevent some version of concealed carry from becoming law. And most states that do have concealed carry laws also have something called “may issue” laws that allow law enforcement to decide who qualifies for permits to



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Uncommon Need for the Common Good – Part 1

by Ron Levitsky

When it comes to immaturity, I take a backseat to no one (just ask my wife). Recently, I went with some friends to see *Hot Tub Time Machine*, a sophomoric film dealing with three losers in their forties who are transported back to the 1980s for a second chance at life. Using their knowledge of the future, they become wealthy and famous. The audience leaves the theater chuckling at this happy ending. Only later did I realize how self-centered the movie was. Why didn't these time-travelers use their prescient knowledge to prevent the AIDS epidemic, the Bosnian and Darfur genocides, or the destruction of Hurricane Katrina? Instead, they used their insider knowledge for the sole purpose of getting more for themselves.

But is this really so surprising? Shortly after 9/11, President George W. Bush told Americans to face this terrorist attack against our nation by going to Disney World. As Boston University Professor Andrew Bacevich noted in a 2008 *Washington Post* article, "He Told Us to Go Shopping, Now the Bill Is Due," President Bush "... chose not to mobilize the country or summon his fellow citizens to any wartime sacrifice" ... "Instead of sacrifices, it [his administration] offered tax cuts." Distracted by an Energizer Bunny economy, Americans went shopping, ignoring two wars and a national debt that grew during Bush's two terms from six to ten trillion dollars.

Of course, Bush counted on our "patriotic" compulsion to keep on consuming. In her wonderful 20-minute animated film, *The Story of Stuff* (please go to www.storyofstuff.com and be one of the nearly eight million people who have viewed this video), Annie Leonard traces the interconnectedness of international capitalism while showing that many people throughout the world are exploited for the benefit of a few—most Americans included in the latter category. Since World War II, Americans have been conditioned by government and business leaders to be consumers rather than citizens. She also shows how this exploitation in a world of finite resources eventually will become unsustainable. In other words, for the survival of the planet and of the human race, we can no longer afford to be selfish.

Yet, most of our society glorifies the selfish, masked in such euphemisms as "individual" and "self-made." A look at the Tea Party movement is instructive. According to a recent *New York Times*/CBS News poll, most Tea Party supporters are conservative, Republican, white, middle-aged males who oppose government spending, especially on healthcare and assistance directed toward the poor. The poll found that, among Tea Party backers, there was a "... conviction that the policies of the Obama administration are disproportionately directed at helping the poor rather than the middle class or rich." However, these same people are whole-heartedly in favor of both social security and Medicare, two giant government entitlement programs that directly benefit them. In fact, Matthew Rothschild, editor of the *The Progressive* magazine, recently suggested that Tea Party supporters aren't against big government per se but rather big **Liberal** government. "After all," notes Rothschild, "there wasn't a middle class rebellion over the government's trampling on our rights when Bush approved the spying

on Americans, or when he passed the Patriot Act, or when he pushed through the Military Commissions Act."

Looking out for oneself will only grow stronger, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down campaign finance laws that had imposed limits on political contributions from corporations. More money will be spent influencing government officials to work for special interests rather than for those of the general public. Jim

Hightower accounts for the weak financial reform bill, because "...while Congress's banking committees have been writing the reform bill, Wall Street executives and lobbyists have held 845 fundraising events for the members of those committees...." Even the judiciary is not immune. The Associated Press has reported that, in districts where most Gulf oil spill-related lawsuits are pending, 37 of 64 federal judges have financial connections to the oil and gas industry.

Are self-centeredness and all-consuming consumerism simply part of

human nature? Are they, indeed, inevitable for any nation that becomes a world power? It's useful to look at history to remember that a nation, like its people, has many choices. The best choices are usually the most difficult.

In his 1988 book, *Liberty, Virtue, and Progress: Northerners and Their War for the Union*, Earl J. Hess discusses traditional republican (note – small "r") ideology, the philosophical glue that, from the time of the Revolutionary War's Great Generation, bound our nation together and, later, motivated people of the North to carry the Civil War to its conclusion. Hess juxtaposes this traditional belief that public virtue was needed to safeguard political liberty versus a newer desire to accumulate personal wealth. Republican virtues included democracy, egalitarianism, and individualism. While Americans feared tyranny, they equally feared anarchy, which occurred when people thought only of themselves. A balance was needed—a balance provided by the American people through their own self-control.

In the North during the Civil War, soldiers on the battlefield, as well as their loved ones back home, pondered this tension between thinking only of themselves versus sacrificing for their nation and its ideals. As Hess notes, "Northerners had to have a powerful belief in the principles they fought for and a regard for life that was not so overwhelming as to kill the acceptance of sacrifice." Many of them went into battle, fought, were maimed or killed—not for personal gain, but for unselfish beliefs—first to preserve the Union, and later, for something far nobler. Although by today's standards most Northerners were racist and hostile to abolitionism, nevertheless they warmed to the idea of emancipation as spreading liberty throughout the land. "Even though individualism held the potential to foster selfishness, it also held the potential for an even more giving of self."

This "giving of self" or civic virtue—not materialism and consumerism—is what has made the United States great and what is in danger of being lost. Moreover, it is a value held by both Liberals and Conservatives who love their country. Margaret Thatcher, Great Britain's Iron Lady and conservative icon, famously criticized entitlements by saying that there is no such thing as society, which would seem to support a Tea Party-style selfish individualism. But one needs to read more of her statement: "There are individual men and



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TD Interns Practice the Politics of Hope

by Monica Petrescu

As August approaches, Illinois is buzzing with politics. It is once again time for parades and forums, TV ads and bumper stickers, door-to-door canvassing and house parties. With campaign season officially under way, it is the best time to be a Tenth Congressional District Democrats intern.

This summer, 18 interns from all around the district and beyond had the opportunity to get involved with local politics, learning about campaigns, issues, and grassroots organizing. Together, interns hope to shatter the stereotype of young people being apathetic towards politics or cynical about our leaders.

A unique aspect of an internship at Tenth Dems is the constant supply of new and exciting projects. Interns have no trouble finding something to match their interests; there are always opportunities to blog, plan events, work with fundraising or publicity, and help directly with local campaigns.

"I have learned so much about all the different candidates," says Bre Moore, who will be attending DePauw University as a freshman in the fall. From canvassing alongside candidates on the weekends, to marching with them in parades and doing office work, interns have had many chances to learn about and engage in local campaigns. After seeing the dynamics of local races, many interns became even



more passionate about politics. "Many of the candidates, I hadn't even heard about," Bre says. "Now I'm telling my friends about them."

For Kevin Kim, "politics has always been intriguing," and working with Tenth Dems provided him the opportunity to engage and interact with individuals holding a variety of political viewpoints. Kevin, a New Trier

Brady and Guns *continued from page 1*

carry. "Shall issue" states that allow almost anyone to carry without regulation are fewer in number. Bill Brady wants "shall issue" for Illinois. If he becomes governor, he may get what he wants.

I attended a press conference a few years ago in Springfield on the issue of regulating military-style assault weapons in Illinois. One image that I will never be able to erase from my mind was that of Bill Brady on that Ash Wednesday.

Brady arrived at that press conference just after a morning service at which he had received ashes on his forehead in commemoration of



Interns from the class of 2010 have had a busy summer learning about current political issues, meeting local and state officials and candidates, and planning, coordinating and attending many Tenth Dems events.

High School senior, spent a weekend in downtown Winnetka distributing essential information to voters. Whether canvassing or volunteering at a sidewalk sale, time in the community gives interns valuable insight into how political issues affect local groups.



Through participating in Tenth Dems events, interns have had the chance to meet local and state officials. "It is so important for people not only to be educated by the literature, but to interact with the candidates themselves," says Jilly Gokalgandhi, who will be attending Marquette University in the fall. At a Tenth Dems University event Jilly heard from and met Alexi Giannoulis. TDU events are an exciting place for interns to learn about current political issues directly from Illinois' leaders.

Working with Tenth Dems means being part of a dynamic environment. For Kenneth Broady, a senior at Rolling Meadows High School, getting involved in politics this summer was not only an opportunity to help in his community, but also to "learn from different kinds of people." Mentors have inspired a group of young college and

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Jesus' suffering. A practicing Christian myself, I experienced a strong cognitive dissonance as I watched him lead a press conference and passionately defend the six Illinois manufacturers of assault weapons who stood alongside him.

Brady was the only Illinois legislator to attend that press event, and he spoke about how important it was for all Illinoisans to have free access to AK-47s, Uzis, and .50 caliber sniper rifles capable of downing an airplane on takeoff or landing. As he spoke, I could see

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Giannoulas Shares His Philosophy of Public Service With TDU Audience

by Barbara Altman

On July 7, an overflow crowd of Tenth Dems had the opportunity to meet Alexi Giannoulas. Sponsored by Tenth Dems University, this session, that included nearly 30 minutes of questions and answers, revealed to all in attendance a smart, engaging, mainstream Democrat seeking the opportunity to serve in the United States Senate—the country that’s given his family so much.

The candidate began his prepared remarks by talking about his parents, who came to the United States with nothing—no money, no education, and no English. He referred to the “promise of America,” which, he argued, is illustrated by his own nomination as a candidate for high office.

Giannoulas then talked about his own history. He said that he ran for State Treasurer to make a “tangible impact on people’s everyday



schools equitably, increasing Pell grants, and cutting out the corporate middlemen by making direct student loans. On this last point, he observed that his opponent voted against this reform. Giannoulas also stated, categorically, that it is a mistake to lay off teachers. As his third priority, he cited making more loans to small businesses as a way to stimulate job creation.

On the recently passed financial reform bill, he expressed regret that it did not go far enough and posited that it had been watered down by lobbyists.



lives,” and he touted his accomplishments in that office. He said that we are at a “seminal moment” in our history, that the “promise of America is under assault,” and that he offers the “fresh leadership” the times demand. This Senate race, Giannoulas said, is about nothing less than “the future of the United States.”

Alexi then opened the floor to questions. Asked to state his priorities, he first cited clean energy and reversing global warming and a moratorium on offshore drilling. Next, he listed education—funding



Giannoulas took that opportunity to point out that his own campaign was not accepting any donations from federal lobbyists or their PACs. This, he said, was in sharp contrast to his opponent.

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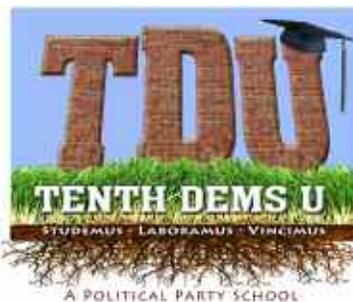
Another question touched on immigration policy, Giannoulas saying that he supported secure borders but that he also wanted to create a “responsible path to citizenship.” He decried the fact that we attract to



our universities “the best and the brightest” from all over the world, but that once they’ve earned their degrees, “we kick them out.” Alexi condemned giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas.

Giannoulas fielded a number of questions about the economy including the possibility of an estate tax, about which he said plainly and directly that “we need an estate tax,” given our budget deficits. About the deficit, Alexi said that he would first stimulate the economy with a payroll tax holiday for small businesses that would infuse them with capital. He would end federal tax subsidies to oil companies. He favors PAYGO, the rule that funding for new federal expenditures has to be offset by cuts, characterizing this approach as “responsible leadership” and “common sense.” He opined that the defense budget is too

big and, when asked about Afghanistan, expressed his opposition to nation building. He said federal funding for clean energy was not only



“morally right” but also good job-creation policy, pointing out that China has become the largest producer of solar panels in the world.

Giannoulas summed up his economic philosophy by saying that government’s job is to “look out for the little people.” Thus, job stimulus expenditures must be made—“not recklessly or wastefully, but wisely and with a sense of urgency.” He stressed that he is running for the Senate to “serve” and that leadership is “taking tough stances,” citing as an example supporting marriage equality.



Alexi ended the session as he had begun, with some personal reflections. Referencing the failure of his family’s bank, he observed that it was a community bank that had made loans to small businesses and that, like other small banks, was not eligible for TARP funds. Turning to his own record, Giannoulas said, “I can’t promise I won’t make mistakes.” Then, reminding the audience how he had

saved 600 jobs after Wells Fargo Bank took over HartMarx, he pledged, “I’ll always fight.”

Let’s Talk Politics Online

by Stephen Ark

For many Tenth Dems interns and students, August means an end to summer vacation and a start to another school year, new classes, and new friends. For the Tenth Dems, it means an updated website and a smorgasbord of new technologies.

The official Tenth Dems site is re-launching with a fresh look and dozens of features.

Check out tenthdems.org and see our *Let’s Talk Politics Online* blog. Now, Tenth Dems University—which regularly hosts our Let’s Talk Politics sessions where voters can talk with one another about today’s issues—is offering online classes, or at least an online community to keep the conversation going.

Let’s Talk Politics Online boasts articles by prominent local bloggers and contributions from Tenth Dems volunteers, bringing the current events discussion from the Let’s Talk Politics’ roundtable to the Internet.

Everyone is invited to contribute, and everyone is invited to comment. And just like Tenth Dems University, enrollment is free! Simply register for an account at <http://tenthdems.org> and share what’s on your mind.

“The great thing is it’s incredibly easy to use,” said David Mandel who helped create the site. “So anyone who’s interested can make it a one-stop shop for blogging, finding out about events, or just learning more about local politics.”



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On Jobs

by Ravi Ganapathy

I came to this great land of opportunities from India 21 years ago to work on my graduate studies. After waiting many long days for my interview at the American Consulate in the city of Chennai, I still cannot forget the moment the visa officer told me that my student visa was approved. It was a huge turning point in my life and a moment of extreme happiness and sadness. I was happy to be heading to the land of dreams, which I had aspired toward for the previous five years; and I was sad that I would be leaving behind everyone I knew.

When I started to look for a job after school, as a foreign national, I had to apply for a work permit (known as the H-1B visa), during which process I had to prove to the Immigration and Naturalization Service that I would not replace an equally skilled American. These rules still exist, to make sure that U.S. citizens are able to maintain their standard of living and that their salaries are not diluted by businesses hiring lower-paid foreigners.

Once I was approved to work legally in this country, I was eligible to apply for permanent residency status (also known as the Green Card). I had to go through another lengthy four-year process before the Green Card was in my hands. During this process, too, I had to prove that I was not replacing an equally skilled and qualified job candidate.

I was in the IT industry until 2008, when I was laid off due to outsourcing to India. The same thing had happened to my job in 2006; the company outsourced 96 percent of the IT department to India.

An individual from abroad has to go through so much scrutiny before being allowed to take a job in this country. Yet, corporations can lay off thousands, and even tens of thousands, of skilled workers and take

jobs overseas where the labor is cheaper. When are we going to take action to stop this outflow of jobs?

In the meantime, Republicans unite to say "NO" to extending unemployment insurance benefits, stating that it is adding to the deficit. The extension of these benefits is at a cost of \$33 billion. Yet the Bush tax cuts to the wealthy have added to the deficit approximately \$700 billion, and I do not see any objection from the Republicans.

Tax revenue is a necessary component of the government, so that it can provide the services the people need. One goal of government is to help ensure all citizens are gainfully employed, and to craft policies that will take people to a higher level. Republican policies achieve just the opposite. Regardless of the deficit, it is essential at this time of deep recession to work harder to lift ourselves out of the sinkhole that we're in today. This sinkhole was created by Bush & Co. Where were these folks with their "NO" policy during the Bush years?

How do we stop the outsourcing of jobs? Let's start by enforcing legal immigration. And let's require corporations to abide by these laws, too. Let's also make sure that corporations that have moved their headquarters to tax havens like the Cayman Islands are penalized for such anti-nation practices. A nation's strength resides with its responsible citizens. If a corporation is a person, then let corporations live by the same rules you and I live by. Let them pay the same taxes you and I pay. Hold them responsible for their actions, just as you and I are.

Let's work together to bring our country back to its glory days. This country was founded to escape from monarchy. Let's make sure that the Republicans do not turn this wonderful democracy of ours into "corporate monarchy" or "corporate communism." We owe it to ourselves and, most important, to our children, to ensure that they're able to lead better lives than ours and not the other way around.

Rethinking Afghanistan

by Roberto Luna

On July 20, I had the opportunity to view a documentary film at the Wilmette Public Library, *Rethink Afghanistan*. The event was sponsored by the North Suburban Peace Initiative (NSPI), whose main objective is to work together for a peaceful world, to obtain peace through justice. NSPI sponsors events and discussions about prevention of armed aggression, reduction of nuclear arms, and any other topic related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and how to help end them.

The seven-part film ran for an hour, with a brief discussion afterwards. In the first segment, "Troops," politicians were shown discussing how it was wrong to be in Afghanistan. We saw bombs dropping, civilians distressed, and many other terrible images of war and famine. Statistics were thrown out alongside the images; for example, there are currently one million combat forces stationed in Afghanistan. As recently as 2009, 47 percent of Afghans had an unfavorable view of the United States in Afghanistan. Many former Afghan insurgents are now joining the Taliban because of the disruption made by American troops in Afghanistan. Much of the terrorism perpetrated against American troops in Afghanistan is because citizens do not want them there anymore.

The second segment, "Pakistan," focused on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which is essentially nonexistent. On one side are the buildings of Afghanistan, and a few steps beyond is the mountainous region of Pakistan. The Pashtun people who occupy the small space between Pakistan and Afghanistan are upset with American troops openly crossing borders, trespassing on property of two different sovereign nations. Professors, authors, and journalists opined that Pakistan should be considered the most dangerous country in the world as it has a strong nuclear arsenal.

The segment on "Cost of War" supplied numbers. It costs the United



States \$500,000 per troop per year, while in Afghanistan the annual cost is \$800,000 per troop. In fiscal year 2009, the United States either committed or spent \$185 billion in Afghanistan. Broken down by U.S. state, this means that the State of Alabama contributed \$1.695 billion to the war in Afghanistan, while New York's share of tax dollars spent totaled \$17 billion.

In the segment on "Women of Afghanistan," filmmakers showed how Afghan women were not liberated by the war. Under the Taliban, women had only two "rights," to obey their husbands and to pray (but not in a Mosque, which is for men only). Now, women are in a war zone, with no protection. Many are left to support themselves after their husbands are killed, and those with no education, or even literacy, are left with nothing. Educational opportunities continue to be withheld; some women who want to go to school are punished by attacks with acid.

In the segment called "Casualties," Afghan citizens told stories about homes and families destroyed, air strikes on villages and mosques, and the many children who were casualties of the war. Over 235,000

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Robert Dold is NOT Pro-Choice

by Steve Sheffey

Let's be as clear as we can be: Dan Seals is the only pro-choice candidate running for Congress in the 10th Congressional District. Republican Robert Dold of Kenilworth is NOT pro-choice.

Dold's claim that he is pro-choice is disingenuous at best. Maybe Dold has his own private definition of "pro-choice," but no legitimate pro-choice organization considers Dold pro-choice.

Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA), the political arm of Planned Parenthood of Illinois, said on July 14, 2010, that "there is only one pro-choice candidate running in the Illinois 10th Congressional District: Dan Seals."

Planned Parenthood is one of the most respected pro-choice organizations in the country. It supports pro-choice Republicans and Democrats. Planned Parenthood even endorsed Mark Kirk when Kirk took pro-choice positions in previous elections. But Dold has so little respect for Planned Parenthood that he chose not to fill out their questionnaire, and he declined an invitation to be interviewed by the Planned Parenthood board. Would any genuine pro-choice candidate dis Planned Parenthood?

Dold is backed by the anti-choice Right to Life PAC. His anti-choice positions earned him the Right to Life PAC's support. Dold opposes government assistance for women who cannot afford abortions; he supports the ban on late-term abortions; he supports parental involvement laws; and he supports the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (which requires that a script be read to women before an abortion). Dold also supported the Stupak-Pitts Amendment which would have resulted in women losing whatever health benefits related to abortions they have today. Yes, Dold did find the time to fill out the anti-choice Right to Life PAC questionnaire.

<http://www.ifrl-pac.com/elections/2010/primary/endorsements/>

Asked whether he would like to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned, Dold replied, "I think, right now, the way it works with the Supreme Court is that *Roe v. Wade* is precedent at this stage of the game and it would be tough to do so. So, I just don't think that is realistic at this stage."

<http://jeffberkowitz.blogspot.com/2009/12/getting-to-know-dold10th-cd-republican.html>

Not realistic at this stage? What does that mean? Dold's refusal to support *Roe v. Wade* speaks volumes.

Not realistic at this stage? The Supreme Court laid the groundwork for the repeal of *Roe v. Wade* in its discussion of precedent in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Committee*. Someone might want to tell

Mr. Dold that overturning *Roe v. Wade* is only one or two Supreme Court justices away from becoming very realistic.

Dold supports unreasonable restrictions on a woman's right to choose and cannot bring himself to support *Roe v. Wade*. Those are not pro-choice positions. No

wonder that on April 7, 2010, the bipartisan NARAL Pro-Choice America endorsed Dan Seals.

http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/elections/election-pr/pr04082010_endorsements.html

<http://dansealsforcongress.com/endorsements>

No wonder that on February 25, 2010, the bipartisan Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs Committee (JACPAC) endorsed Dan Seals, citing his commitment to the strengthening of the U.S.-Israel relationship and his commitment to reproductive choice.

<http://10thdistrictfordanseals.com/jacpac-joins-seals-campaign-in-il-10#more-2183>

<http://jta.org/news/article/2010/02/25/1010825/jacpac-backs-dem-in-kirks-old-seat>

"We've known Dan Seals for years, and we believe that Seals is the only candidate in this race who will stand up not only for Israel, but for women's rights and separation of church and state," stated Marcia Balonick, Executive Director, JACPAC.

No wonder that on July 14, 2010, Planned Parenthood endorsed Dan Seals. "Dan Seals will be a champion for women's health issues in Congress, and PPIA will be working hard to ensure his victory this November," said Planned Parenthood spokesperson Beth Kanter. Read the Planned Parenthood endorsement of Dan Seals here:

<http://plannedparenthoodillinoisaction.blogspot.com/2010/07/pro-choice-credentials-questioned-in.html>

We can't afford to lose this election. Please let us know if you would like to help the Seals campaign in any way, large or small, be it getting the message out, volunteering, or contributing money in any amount. Dan Seals will be an outstanding member of Congress. It's up to us to make sure the rest of the 10th District knows not only about Dan, but also about his right-wing, socially conservative challenger from Kenilworth.



Right to Choose *continued from page 1*

anti-choice state to one that protects women's reproductive rights. In fact, the legislature in Illinois is now one of the most pro-choice in the country. Terry Cosgrove is particularly proud that legislators were able to defeat misinformed consent laws that would disseminate erroneous conclusions that abortion causes breast cancer or depression. Terry is unequivocal that his mission is to elect pro-choice candidates, regardless of party affiliation. He recognizes the need for constant vigilance and campaigning in order for Illinois to maintain its pro-choice majority.

Personal PAC is a bipartisan political action committee dedicated to electing pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that on the national scene it is the Democratic candidates for the Senate and U. S. House of

Representatives in the 10th District who support a woman's right to choose. Dan Seals is the only pro-choice candidate for Congress in this district, endorsed by bipartisan Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America. "Dan Seals will be a champion for women's health issues," according to Beth Kanter, spokesperson for Planned Parenthood. Likewise, Alexi Giannoulas has earned the endorsement of Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America because of his "unwavering commitment to women's reproductive health issues" (Steve Trombley, President and CEO of PPIA). Because of his recent votes against federal funding for abortions, Mark Kirk is opposed by both of these pro-choice organizations.

It is crucial to those of us in the 10th District that Pat Quinn, Alexi Giannoulas, and Dan Seals win their contests in 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Meet the Candidates:

David Miller,
Democratic Nominee for Illinois State Comptroller
Wednesday, August 4, 7:00 pm
Glencoe Public Library
320 Park Avenue
Glencoe

Let's Talk Politics: Lincolnshire

Thursday, August 5, 7:00 pm
Vernon Area Public Library
300 Olde Half Day Road
Lincolnshire

For more upcoming event listings, visit our website at <http://www.tenthdems.org/calendar/>

Afghanistan *continued from page 6*

Afghans are in internal displacement camps. In a series of disturbing images, we saw kids barefoot, in mud, on a cloudy, cold day. Kids were eating dried-up bread that they found in the garbage. Many were dying of hunger. An Afghan father said he was willing to sell his child, but nobody was willing to buy her. We learned that this child later died. An elder said he'd rather die than live hungry and cold. The segment ended with a direct plea to President Obama that U.S. troops be removed from Afghanistan.

In the segment on "Security," the filmmakers argued that U.S. wars in

the Middle East are antithetical to this goal. There has been an increase in anti-American terrorism and suicide bombing. Al Qaeda is not in Afghanistan anymore, and the Taliban is a local, nationalistic organization.

The final segment proposed "Solutions" such as providing aid for education and Afghan jobs, rather than continuing to spend American dollars on war.

During the discussion that followed, one audience member remarked, "The President should see this movie." A petition was circulated to support Barney Frank's efforts to reduce military spending by \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.

Common Good *continued from page 2*

women, and there are families. And no government can do anything except through people, and people must look after themselves first. It's our duty to look after ourselves and then, also to look after our neighbour." Thatcher saw, as Lincoln did, that a nation is made up of individuals who must work for something greater than oneself.

Going to Disney World while our courageous young men and women die in two wars for oil and an attempt to impose American hegemony in the Middle East is not civic virtue. Nor is demanding entitlement programs only for oneself while seeking to deny government assistance for those weaker and far needier. It is selfishness.

After the Civil War, Hess notes how the heroes of that Great

Generation worried about their children's excessive interest in acquiring wealth. "Concentration of wealth in individual and corporate hands could seduce the possessor into forgetting the common good." Hess added, "... progress had never before appeared to be so easily divorced from virtue."

What would these virtuous citizens who sacrificed to preserve our Union have thought of today's financial institutions that made a shambles of our economy or corporations like BP that, in the name of greed, have turned a beautiful and thriving coastline into a death zone?

Next month, I will profile three individuals living within the Tenth Congressional District who epitomize civic virtue in the unselfish work that they do for the common good.

Brady and Guns *continued from page 3*

the ashes on his forehead. I will never forget that picture.

Democrats need to show political courage on this issue that some politicians are afraid to talk about. Perhaps the way to best approach this is to address it as an matter of honesty about identity.

Bill Brady is not an expert in budget management. Bill Brady's history is one of passionate leadership in the far right on social issues like gun ownership. He supports unlimited rights to guns, but he does not stand for other kinds of basic individual rights, such as a woman's right to reproductive control of her own body, or equal rights under the law for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation.

People can and do disagree on the gun issue, but it's actually not as

divisive as a few noisy extremists would have us believe. According to recent statewide polling, there is incredibly high agreement about the gun issue in Illinois, even among gun owners. Depending on the issue, public support ranges between 70 and 90 percent for commonsense gun laws requiring background checks, regulating the trafficking of guns, limiting civilian access to military firepower, and demanding responsible firearm ownership such as safe storage and the reporting of lost or stolen weapons.

Bill Brady opposes it all.

We need to be talking about Bill Brady and guns.

(Jennifer Bishop Jenkins is the Democratic Candidate for the Cook County Board of Commissioners, 14th District.)

Let's Talk...Online *continued from page 5*

"An active online presence is an essential part of any grassroots operation," said Andy Bookman, Volunteer Coordinator. "That's how Obama won in 2008, and it's how we're expanding voter outreach in 2010."

Additionally, Tenth Dems is on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/iltenthdems>), Flickr (<http://flickr.com/photos/tenthdems>), and Facebook (<http://facebook.com/tenthdems>).

Follow us! And be sure to check out our new website.

Interns *continued from page 3*

high school students to be stronger leaders, more committed activists, and better citizens.

Despite the incredible diversity in backgrounds and skills, this year's interns are all united by shared ideals and a commitment to liberal politics. Working alongside staff and volunteers, interns experience the "value and power in being able to work in a team of people who genuinely want to help," as Kenneth reflects. It is clear that our young generation of Tenth Dems engages in a politics not of cynicism, but of hope.