

In This Issue:

Zane Smith	1	4th Photos	3
North Chicago	1	Stevenson	4
Leadership	2	Kirk/Moderate?	5
Student Conference	2	Drobny Event	6
Dist. Teens	3	Lakoff	7

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Zane Smith Says He's In The Race



Winnetka Park Board member Zane Smith says he's in the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 10th District. Several others are considering challenging Republican Mark Kirk in 2006, but Smith is the first to announce that he is running.

Besides being vice-president of the Winnetka Park District, Smith is an attorney with his own law firm in downtown Chicago. His firm specializes in such areas as personal injury, work-related injuries, and medical malpractice. He has also been active working with young people in Winnetka as a Scout leader.

The Tenth Dems Candidate Search Committee has interviewed several possible candidates interested in the Democratic Congressional nomination. It is continuing to talk with potential candidates, including Stevenson High School teacher Barry Bradford, former Clinton aide Jay Footlik, Attorney Clint Krislov, Lake County Councilman Angelo Kyle, and others.

Smith recently appeared at a public forum and introduced himself as a candidate as he spoke to the crowd about the need for a congressman who better represents the people of the 10th District. He has a website. It can be found at www.zanesmithforcongress.com, presently under construction.



www.tenthdems.org
Tenth News
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A New Day Arrives in North Chicago

by Jane Goldenberg

In the nearly three months since taking office as mayor of North Chicago, Leon Rockingham has been working closely with the City Council to bring to life his ideas for improving the quality of life in this diverse community that is home to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

Already, he has received attention for an anti-crime initiative to combat local hotspots of drug and gang activity. By coordinating several city departments, Rockingham is going after absentee landlords who have let their buildings fall into disrepair and which are, therefore, more susceptible to drug activity. Buildings that are determined not to be up to code are being boarded up until they are brought into compliance. The mayor is also trying to get additional funds to add police officers.

The safety of the community is not only good for its citizens, the mayor points out, but it helps make North Chicago more conducive to economic development.

"As I ran for this office, one of my top priorities was economic development," said

Rockingham, a Democrat, and a lifelong resident of North Chicago who served 12 years on the City Council.

Rockingham is actively pursuing development of a parcel of land, dubbed the "40-acre project," in which the city is hoping to convert former industrial properties into a new hotel, an office park and new retail development to help support the growth of jobs plus increase tax revenues. The city started acquiring land before Rockingham became mayor and has recently closed on a 19-acre section of land at Martin Luther King Drive and Sheridan Road.

"I'd love to see that hotel come up," Rockingham said. "That's one of my dreams... When you bring that on, working closely with Great Lakes to bring the people in to see their recruits graduate, that will be a big plus."

Rockingham said he is also actively pursuing a grocery store and pharmacy for North



Mayor of North Chicago, Leon Rockingham

Chicago. Currently, residents have to travel to neighboring Waukegan or Gurnee to do their shopping.

Together, these projects will "create those jobs to give that opportunity to our residents... where they don't have to travel as far to go to work, and also bring in those opportunities for those who are unemployed,"

Continued on page 8

“Run for the Hills” Leadership

by James Rosen

Unhappy about Judge John Roberts being nominated to the Supreme Court? Nervous about the national debt, budget deficit, environmental policy and the alternative minimum tax? Worried about the future of privacy rights? Concerned about health care issues like prescription drug and insurance costs? A little scared about how safe your next trip is on a plane, bus or train? Downright disgusted with White House political operatives publicly exposing a CIA operative and damaging national security? Angry that the war in Iraq continues without the hint of a coherent plan or exit strategy? You're not alone. But don't wait for the Republicans or the 10th own Congressman Mark Kirk to make things better; they won't. They are perfectly happy with the way things are going. As long as they keep winning elections things will not change. Want to change things? Defeating Kirk in 2006 is a good start.

Kirk is the careful and cautious politician. Careful and cautious not to say anything that might lose a constituent's vote in the 10th Congressional District. I'm sure he's for "strengthening Social Security" but who isn't? No doubt he's against terrorism and wants to work to keep America safe, but making things up as you go along isn't much of a plan. Bet he's for "tax fairness," but what does that mean? Giving tax breaks to Paris Hilton and Bill Gates? Do you really know where he stands on these issues? Has he communicated his position fully and clearly? I've seen photo-ops of him smiling with high school students and getting a Naval reserve promotion but why won't he spend as much time telling his constituents where he stands on issues that matter to them? A leader would do that, but Kirk is a follower.

Kirk will follow the Republican Party wherever it goes because that's the path of least resistance to get re-elected. Forget what his district wants—it's all about what Mark Kirk wants, and he wants to get re-elected for life without having to answer many questions. He gets very quiet after major issues hit the front pages of newspapers. His thoughts on Karl Rove and Lewis Libby outing a CIA officer working on weapons of mass destruction/non-proliferation issues? Not a word. Billions of dollars have gone unaccounted for in Iraq while our troops don't have enough armor, bullets or radios and Kirk is silent. The tax burden is being dramatically shifted from corporations and the wealthy to everyone else and Kirk is nowhere to be found. Our broken health care system? Nothing from Kirk. This isn't leadership. It's "run for the hills" leadership with Kirk leading the way.

The 10th District deserves better. In November 2006 we'll get the chance to vote for a change from the silent treatment Mark Kirk has given his constituents. In the next year or so there will be many opportunities to help make that change happen. Volunteer for anything. Write a letter to the editor. Read up on the issues. Donate to a Democratic candidate you believe in. Help get out the vote or be an election judge on election day. Join the Tenth Dems organization and help be a part of the change that is long overdue in our district. The bottom line is Mark Kirk and the Republicans aren't going to change things – are you?



Tenth Dems intern Brian Rosenberg with Georgia Congressman John Lewis at the Campus Progress National Student Conference.

Conference Provides Experience of a Lifetime For Intern

by Brian Rosenberg

As I arrived in Washington for the Campus Progress National Student Conference, I did not know what to expect. But I was looking forward to hearing the keynote speaker, former President Bill Clinton, as well as the opportunity to lobby Congress on behalf of the Genocide Intervention Fund.

Wednesday, the day of the conference, was the most daunting. As a college student who is used to 3PM naps, an action-packed full day was sure to wear me out. Gathered in the conference room were 600 students, from all 50 states. Applause overtook the audience as the first panel of speakers came to the stage, including Paul Begala, host of CNN's Crossfire; Thomas Frank, author of "What's the Matter with Kansas;" and Dee Dee Myers, former White House Press Secretary. The focus of this group was the battle of ideas in America. Particularly interesting were Begala's take on the branding of patriotism by the right wing, and Frank's views on economic populism as the lost soul of the Democratic Party.

During lunch we were treated to our keynote speaker, former President Clinton, who spoke about the situation in Darfur and how it mirrors his biggest regret as commander-in-chief: not stopping the Rwandan genocide. After he spoke, Clinton walked through the crowd signing autographs and taking pictures with students.

After lunch I attended a "breakout" session in which a panel discussed how the Democratic Party can rediscover its populist roots. The panel included Nick Penniman, editor of tompaine.com; Ruy Teixeira, a liberal blogger; and Anna Burger, treasurer of the SEIU. This discussion addressed what I believe is the largest problem for Democrats, having the courage to stand up for working class Americans again. The panel covered many topics including unions and the AFL-CIO vs. the SEIU, tax cuts for the wealthy, a stagnant minimum wage and loss of upward social mobility in our society.

The closing speaker turned out to be the highlight of the conference. Congressman John Lewis (D-Georgia), a former SNCC leader and civil rights leader who worked with Martin Luther King Jr., delivered a powerful speech. Lewis told of his experience as a part of the lunch counter sit-ins, and his march from Selma, Alabama during the height of the civil rights movement. Lewis concluded by saying that now is the time for us to make that kind of

Continued on page 4

An Appeal to Other 10th District Teens

by Amanda Wall

It would be easy for a 17-year-old to feel uncomfortable in a room full of strangers. In fact, it would be perfectly normal, as 17-year-olds are uncomfortable by nature. But I am proud to say that one time in my seemingly lengthy and awkward career as a 17-year-old, I found myself in a room full of strangers and at the same time felt completely and utterly at home.

It was October 2004, the night of the final Kerry-Bush debate, and I was in the home of a family that I didn't know, among middle-aged, neatly-dressed guests. I had volunteered for the Kerry-Edwards campaign, and was asked to work at a local house party to raise money for the battleground states. Throughout the evening, I accidentally stepped on the feet of several of these strangers in my alternating states of excitement and concern (probably causing them a not-insignificant amount of discomfort). I shared my distress with them, shouted and leapt in jubilation with them, and stewed anxiously with them, and to this day I don't know any of their names.

I have never felt so "not-uncomfortable" in my life.

For the first time in my 17-year-old stage, a sense of community, strength, and solidarity took the place of awkwardness. I had found, simply by taking a stand for what I knew to be right and against what I knew to be wrong, an entire world in which I was not an outsider. I simply fit.



Tenth Dems interns Ben Struhl, Amanda Wall, Brian Rosenberg and Dan Wereski with state Senator Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest).

It isn't easy for a 17-year-old (now 18-year-old) to find a way to make a difference. Taking on a role in politics, whether national or local, may seem daunting at first. But since that night, I have invested myself personally in the causes I believe in, and every day that I work to advance the Democratic cause, I feel that I am coming a half-step closer to my goal. The changes that I am working to make may not happen overnight, but I know that whatever I do, there is a house full of people out there (and thousands more) working to achieve the same end that I

am pursuing. Regardless of what issue concerns you, becoming involved is the only way to meet the many others working toward the same end (and there will always be many others).

To me, the Democratic Party is more than just a label. It is a unifier; it brings us together to accomplish something far greater than our personal goals. It makes even the most unattainable heights seem within reach, and it makes change possible through cohesive, comprehensive action, no matter what your race, class, or age.

The night of that debate will forever remain clear in my memory, because it was the night that I found where I was needed, where I was accepted, where I was heard.

Now, I can make a difference.

Amanda, a Tenth Dems intern, recently graduated from New Trier High School, and will soon be a student at the University of Chicago.



Tenth Dems members joined with Moraine Township Democrats and supporters of Governor Rod Blagojevich at the Highland Park 4th of July parade.

Fun on the 4th!

At the parade, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and Tenth Dems member Karyn Davidman.



Molly Narrod and Tenth Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash.

Remembering The 10th District's Greatest Political Leader

by John Hmurovic

If you need an excuse for a party, 2005 offers many options. You can celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of the United Nations (October 24); the 70th birthday of Social Security (August 15); or pay homage to the millions who lost their lives in World War Two, which ended 60 years ago (August 14).

For those of us living in the 10th District, we should also take note of another anniversary. It was 40 years ago that Adlai Stevenson died. He was the most prominent political figure who ever lived in what is now the 10th District. The former Illinois Governor (1949-1953), Democratic Presidential nominee (1952 and 1956), and United Nations Ambassador (1961-1965), lived in Mettawa, just outside Libertyville. In fact, presidential campaign ads appeared on TV for the first time in the 1952 election. In one of those ads Stevenson was dubbed, "The Man From Libertyville."

Libertyville, however, didn't really want Stevenson. It was a Republican town, and Republicans of 1952 could be just as hard-headed as Republicans of today. A few years ago the *Daily Herald* interviewed Eva Schwartzmann, a Mettawa attorney who worked on Stevenson's campaign. She said that in 1956, it was proposed that a banner be hung across Milwaukee Avenue proclaiming that Libertyville was the "Home of Adlai." The city leaders refused to let it happen. Neighboring Mundelein was apparently amused by the debate, and responded by putting up a banner in their town proclaiming itself to be a "Neighbor of Adlai."

Some in Libertyville called Stevenson a liar for saying he was from Libertyville. Technically, at the time, his home was in unincorporated Vernon Township, with Libertyville being the closest town...and his post office address.

Stevenson was also called a liar for worshiping at the Second Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. He was a Unitarian, but there was no Unitarian church in the area

at the time, so he chose the Presbyterian church. He was attacked by a small group of ministers who claimed he made the change to Presbyterian purely for political purposes.

What made Stevenson loved by Democrats and hated by Republicans was that he was a good, honest man who had liberal political views. He was also very articulate. Like Abraham Lincoln before him, and Barack Obama today, he was an Illinois political figure who gained national acclaim for his speaking abilities.



"I have been thinking," Stevenson said in one of many quotes attributed to him that still have relevance today, "that I would make a proposition to my Republican friends...that if they stop telling lies about the Democrats, we will stop telling the truth about them."

His mind was also quick. On a campaign stop in 1956, a woman yelled out, "You have the vote of every thinking person." His immediate response was, "That's not enough, madam. We need a majority."

Stevenson bought his property in Mettawa in 1938. He owned 46 acres of land along the Des Plaines River. Dignitaries such as Eleanor Roosevelt and John Kennedy came there to visit. Today, the home is on the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored by the Lake County Forest Preserve. It's not open to the public at this time, but you can see it on St. Mary's Road, just south of Townline Road, State Road 60.



Conference, Continued from page 2

"trouble," and fight for a better future. The applause was thunderous as everyone rose to give a standing ovation.

Thursday morning I was dragging after a long night of walking around the monuments with my roommates. I arrived for the lobbyist training at the Georgetown Law School. We were briefed by a woman from Oxfam International on the situation in Darfur, and received instruction on how to talk to the congressional aides with whom we had appointments. The objective was to get an amendment to HR 3127 which delivers aid to Sudan, but also provides funding for the African Union peacekeepers in the region. My first appointment was with a foreign policy representative for Congressman Mark Kirk, who was friendly, but unsure whether the Congressman would be able to support such a bill. Next up was lunch in the Hart Building cafeteria, where Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) sat down at our table and talked with me and several other students. After lunch, I made it to the offices of Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama, both of whom have championed the issue.

After a long, hot and humid day of lobbying Capitol Hill, I took the Metro back to the airport for my return flight. Over the course of the trip I learned much, and met many great people who I will keep in touch with as I go on. This little three day trip to Washington proved to be the experience of a lifetime.

Brian is a Tenth Dems intern from Palatine, who just graduated from William Rainey Harper College, and will attend George Washington University in Washington DC this fall as a political science and sociology major.

MARK KIRK A MODERATE?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

by John Hmurovic

Maybe you call Congressman Mark Kirk a moderate on domestic issues. I don't agree. But for the sake of discussion, I'll put aside my argument that he is, at best, an enabler...a person who "says" he supports moderate policies, but who enables anti-environment, anti-gun control, anti-separation of church and state, and anti-choice policies to flourish in Washington by his support for today's right-wing Republican Party. But let's ignore domestic issues for now, and just look at Kirk and foreign policy.

Moderate? Are you kidding me? Have you looked at his foreign policy record?

REPORT CARD	
21st Century Cuba Policy	F
Controls President's War Powers	F
Supports United Nations	F
Seeks Peaceful Solution to Iraq	F
Admits Mistakes In Iraq Policy	F

A website called PeaceMajority.org has. Based on their ratings, he's no moderate. The word that best fits his foreign policy record is "hawk." Based on their look at 25 foreign policy votes, Kirk receives a rating of 12-percent. That's one point better than conservative Illinois congressman Henry Hyde (R-Wood Dale), and way behind the 89-percent rating of congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-Evanston). In an Illinois

congressional delegation that averages 40-percent, Kirk is near the bottom.

Of course, if your beliefs are similar to Kirk's, maybe you see it as his being near the top of the list. Certainly, many who are strongly pro-Israel will agree with his positions on that issue. But do you also agree that we should continue to play hardball with Cuba? Do you see them as a threat to us in today's world? Kirk does. He has voted against virtually every effort to adopt a 21st century American policy regarding Cuba. Allow Americans living here to go to Cuba to visit their families? Kirk voted against it. Allow more gift parcels and humanitarian aid for the Cuban people? Kirk voted against that, too.

How about giving the White House a free pass to attack Iran, Syria, North Korea, or any other nation? Many of us might support that if we are attacked or seriously threatened. But a blank check? Shouldn't Congress have some oversight before the President can send our soldiers into another war? Kirk doesn't think so. The Bush White House doesn't want Congress, the United Nations, or the American people to have any power to stop it from doing what it wants to do. And by Kirk's vote, he agrees with that.

Speaking of the United Nations, just two months ago Kirk voted to cripple the U.N. by cutting U.S. funds, a move advocated for years by right-wing extremists.

None of this is a surprise to you if you paid attention during the run up

to the Iraq War. Kirk supported every move the White House made. When Congress considered an amendment urging Bush to work with the U.N. to find a peaceful solution to our differences with Iraq, Kirk voted against it.

After many thousands of lives, and billions of tax dollars, Kirk is still a 100-percent backer of the White House's policies on Iraq. Last September, on the two year anniversary of 9/11, Congress passed a resolution praising the Iraq War and linking it to 9/11 and the war on terror. Kirk voted for it.

Still think he's a moderate? The Mississippi delegation to Congress has an average 29-percent score from the PeaceMajority.org. South Carolina: 28-percent. The Texas delegation averages 27-percent. The Alabama delegation is at 15-percent. Mark Kirk: 12-percent. Delegations from some of the most conservative states are closer to moderate than Kirk.

Mark Kirk, a moderate? Are you kidding me?

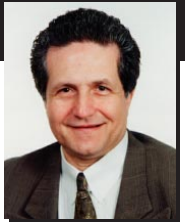
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Air America Co-Founders Draw Large Crowd

by Allison Rieff

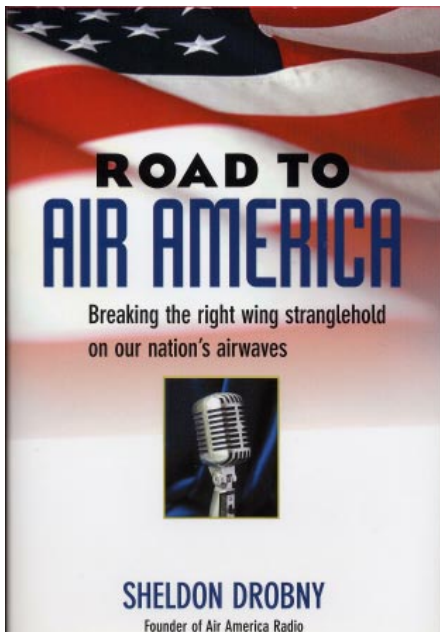
On Thursday, July 21st, the co-founders of Air America Radio spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at the Highland Park Public Library. The auditorium's 87 seats were quickly filled and many had to stand while listening to Sheldon and Anita Drobny speak about the current and future state of American media. The event was organized and sponsored by Tenth Dems.

Sheldon Drobny began by explaining that one has to be a progressive in order to actively seek out progressive media, while anyone can easily find conservative media, such as Rush Limbaugh's talk show. The right wing wants to keep power and control over the American media, Mr. Drobny said. Conservatives have put together a great deal of their resources to create a "propaganda media blitz," following the words of Goebbels: "If you tell a lie often enough, people will believe it."



Sheldon and Anita Drobny.

said that she and her husband did not want their children to grow up in the caustic political environment of conservative radio, which was a major force in causing them to start this project.



Drobny has written a book, "Road To Air America," about the effort to bring liberal talk radio to the air.

Radio is an effective medium to reach a large audience, according to research. It also shows that there is a definite liberal market in radio that is underserved. Air America, which broadcasts in this area on WCPT, 850AM, was created to help fill that gap.

After about twenty minutes, Mr. Drobny introduced his wife, Anita, to talk more about how Air America was founded. Mrs. Drobny

Currently, Air America reaches 67 cities, and they hope to reach 100 by the year's end. The Drobny's, residents of Highland Park, were especially proud that Air America is the most popular station in the conservative San Diego market.

The Drobny's are now interested in reaching an audience in conservative and swing states. Their new project, Nova M Radio, will focus on acquiring small market radio stations in these key areas.

Mr. Drobny finished by saying that "there's a lot of



Over 125 were in attendance as Sheldon Drobny spoke at the Tenth Dems event in Highland Park.

optimism out there" among progressives, and that although it seems daunting, he believes it will be possible for Democrats to take back Congress in 2006.

Allison is a Tenth Dems intern, and a student at Lake Forest College.

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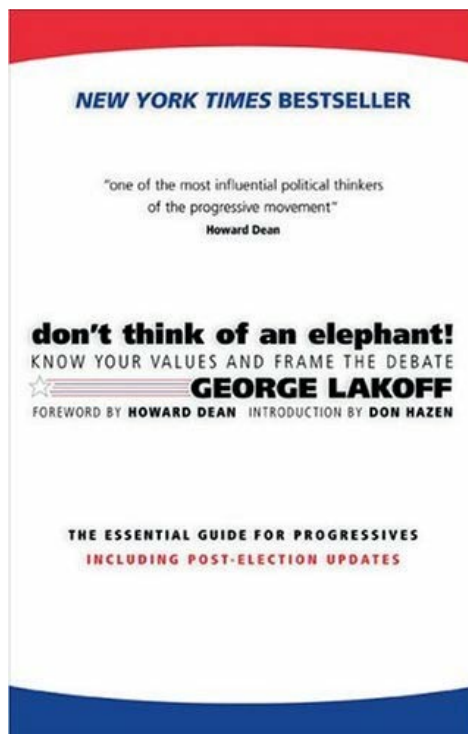
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READ THIS BOOK! *Don't Think of an Elephant*

by Neesa Sweet



If you are mystified as to how the Republicans seem to have control of the national conversation... if you wonder why people appear to be voting against their own economic and social interests... if you often feel on the defensive in conversations with conservatives... and if you want to know how to counter arguments and make the case for your values... then you need to read "Don't Think of an Elephant" by George Lakoff.

Lakoff is a linguist. Using the linguistic concept of "framing" he both explains what the conservatives have done and provides tactical suggestions as to how to reclaim the debate.

"Frames" are ideas and concepts, set up through language, that inform, influence and control our perception of particular conversations. Once a frame has been set up, it is almost impossible to ignore. If I tell you "don't think of an elephant," you can't help it. The more you try NOT to think of an elephant, the more you think of a large, floppy eared animal. When we negate a frame, we actually evoke it. When Nixon said "I am not a crook," everyone thought of him as just that. Once it is set up and understood, the frame becomes a kind of shorthand that communicates and influences quickly at a deep and powerful level.

Several years ago, Lakoff wondered what is it that makes otherwise illogical issues cluster together under liberal or conservative label. What is it that gun control has to do with abortion that has to do with health care or Social Security or protection of the environment? His answer is that both liberals and conservatives frame America as a family. Each side frames "family" quite differently, however—and it is those different frames that both answer his question and explain why conservatives have been so successful.

Strict Fathers and Nurturant Parents

When conservatives (or, more specifically, their radical right wing) talk of family, according to Lakoff, they evoke a frame he calls the "strict father" model. This model "assumes that the world is dangerous and difficult, that children are born bad and that they must be made good. The strict father is the moral authority who has to support and defend his family, tell his wife what to do, and teach his kids right from wrong. The only way to do that is through painful punishment—physical discipline that by adulthood will develop into internal discipline." When you project this onto the country as a whole you have a frame in which the good citizens are the disciplined people who are already wealthy or at least self reliant. Social programs are said to "spoil" people and are therefore evil. The role of government is to protect the nation militarily, administer justice (punishment), maintain order, and provide for the orderly conduct of business—since it is through business that people build wealth, a measure of their discipline. Internationally, in

this model, the government should maintain its sovereignty and impose its moral authority wherever it can. Taxes should be the minimum needed.

For liberals, the operant family model is that of a "nurturant parent." The nurturant parent model assumes that the world is good and can be better and that the responsibility of people is to make it better. Both parents have responsibility for raising their children to be nurturers which includes learning both empathy and responsibility. From these values government policies ensue-- such as a social safety net, universal education, civil liberties, equality, open government and promotion of an economy that benefits all. The role of government in the nurturant parent model is to provide the infrastructure and services to enact these values while taxes are the dues paid to live in the society. In foreign policy, the role of the nation should be to promote cooperation and extend these values to the world.

Once these frames are in play, they are easily evoked by catch phrases such as the protection of marriage, homeland security, or tax relief. In the phrase "tax relief," for example, the listener hears the word "relief" which automatically paints taxes as a burden from which one must be relieved, rather than as a responsible contribution to a shared common good. How different would it be if we thought of taxes, instead, as an investment. Our parents invested in the Interstate highway system that we utilize today and we must make similar investments for our children. Or we might frame taxation as paying your dues, as you might to a country club. When you pay your dues, you get to use the swimming pool. Although you didn't build it, you have to pay to maintain it, and the country can be seen the same way.

According to Lakoff, the right has been so successful with its use of language in part through its support of think tanks, students, writers, scholars, and publications. Since the failure of the 1964 Barry Goldwater campaign, they have poured resources into these efforts.

Invest in the Values

The right has as its highest value the preservation of the moral value system itself. This is why people vote in a way that seems, to liberals, to be against their self interest. Their highest value is not, for example, their own particular economic situation, but the value system they believe in. The right puts money into maintaining these values and the moral system, whereas the left has tended to put money into programs and direct aid to people. While this is in keeping with a progressive ideology of helping individuals as much as possible, it has not promoted an overall intellectual effort.

In addition, the various factions on the right—

Continued on page 8

Lakoff, continued from page 7

such as fiscal and religious conservatives— have been able to overcome their differences to come together strategically, while the left is often divided in both policy and action. Socioeconomic progressives, environmentalists, civil liberties groups, those focusing on the rights of an oppressed group, spiritual progressives and anti-authoritarians often do not recognize that theirs is one special case of something more general. Instead, these groups actually work against each other.

Lakoff suggests principles that might unite the left, such as equity, equality, democracy, government for a better future, ethical business, and values based foreign policy.

Use these Frames

He notes that liberals are suffering from what cognitive scientists call

“hypocognition”— the lack of a simple fixed frame that can be evoked by a word or two. The conservatives have built up a storehouse of these over the past several decades and Lakoff has suggestions for words to counter the powerful “ten word philosophy” frames that conservatives have entered into the language. By using these phrases, or other phrases that evoke progressive values, the frames and ideas become more recognizable and stronger over time. (see chart)

Lakoff’s earlier book “Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think” lays out these ideas in a scholarly fashion and was written before the election of 2000. “Don’t Think of an Elephant,” published before the

election of 2004, is a quick read with a big punch.

As Lakoff subtitled the book, “Know Your Values and Frame the Debate!”

Liberals/Progressives	Conservatives
Stronger America	Strong Defense
Broad Prosperity	Free Markets
Better Future	Lower Taxes
Effective Government	Smaller Government
Mutual Responsibility	Family Values

Rockingham, continued from page 1

Rockingham said.

North Chicago has one of the highest unemployment rates in the region, according to the Northeastern Illinois Planning commission. Unemployment has been hovering around 10-percent over the last few years, reaching 12-percent in 2003. It also faces losing population at Great Lakes since the Defense Base and Realignment Commission recently recommended cutting 2,000 military positions and about 20 civilian jobs. The naval base constitutes about half the population of North Chicago.

Arguing against shrinking the base, several elected officials, including state Rep. Eddie Washington (D-Waukegan), state Sen. Terry Link (D-Waukegan), and Rockingham, penned a letter to the commission

arguing that Great Lakes should actually be expanded due to its important military value. They noted that the cuts would also take a toll on small businesses in the area.

“I would love not to lose anyone at Great Lakes,” Rockingham said. “My stand is I’ll push as hard as I can not to lose any type of troops or citizens’ jobs from that area.”

Meanwhile, the mayor is also working to have North Chicago take over supplying water to Great Lakes, which should bring in much needed revenue.

As Rockingham said on the day he was sworn into office, “It’s a new day in North Chicago.”



Fair Fun

Steve Rosenzweig, Adrienne Johnson, Lauren Beth Gash, Ben Struhl and Matt Lowry work the booth at the Lake County Fair in Grayslake.

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