

# The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 2, No. 2

[www.winfielddems.org](http://www.winfielddems.org)

Summer 2008

## Conversations With The Township Chair

By Susan M. Lubonovich

WTDO Chair and Precinct 030 Committeeman

I welcome all of you to the fifth issue of The Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. My conversation with you will be brief because we have assembled a broad spectrum of articles from some remarkable writers, our space is limited and, frankly, we all know the issues facing us and our beloved country.

As I have written before, Winfield Township is the Keystone Township, the nexus of three Congressional Districts (6th, 13th and 14th). Through disciplined organization and hard work we will be able to impact these three Congressional and our County Board 6 races. We have the people to elect to these offices. All have written previously for *The Township Democrat* and I would ask you to take a moment of your time and renew your acquaintance with these folks in the following pages of our current Newsletter. We now have a sitting Democratic Representative, Bill Foster, in IL-14, Hastert's long-time fiefdom. Congressman Foster won in Winfield Township by 244 more Democratic votes than his Republican opponent was able to muster from his own Party. A first for Winfield Township and we rejoice in this accomplishment! This victory offers us a taste of our ability to create and achieve success in our further endeavors to right the ship of these United States.

However, our work is far from over. Make no mistake, initially, no Democrat will win in a landslide. This will be an arduous process and every one of us will need to step up - every last one of us, with every dollar we can spare in these difficult economic times, with every neighbor we are able to canvass, and with every vote that we will cast - all will be vital to the success of our candidates. And once they are elected, our jobs will not be done. We must commit ourselves as citizens of these United States to holding our elected representatives to the values and ideals, to the solutions and policy decisions we elected them to accomplish - no slippery slope of adapting to the prevailing political culture. We

(See Chair, p. 9)

### CALENDAR

#### **JUNE 6 FROM 7-9PM**

MEET & GREET  
JILL MORGENTHALER, CANDIDATE IL-06  
28W177 MARION ST.  
WINFIELD, IL

#### **JUNE 18 AT 7PM**

WTDO MONTHLY MEETING; "FIVE MINUTES, FIVE THINGS: ARE YOU PREPARED" HEIDI VOLLMUTH, EMERGENCY DISASTER EXPERT  
BOWLING GREEN (LOWER LEVEL)  
30W150 ROOSEVELT RD.  
WEST CHICAGO

#### **JULY 3 AT 6PM**

4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PARADE; WARRENVILLE

#### **JULY 13 AT 1PM**

WEST CHICAGO RAILROAD DAYS PARADE

#### **JULY 16 AT 7PM**

WTDO MONTHLY MEETING  
LONNIE MORRIS, REG. DIR.  
SIERRA CLUB  
BOWLING GREEN (LOWER LEVEL)  
30W ROOSEVELT RD.  
WEST CHICAGO

#### **JULY 25—DuPAGE COUNTY FAIR**

WTDO DAY AT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF DuPAGE COUNTY'S BOOTH IN THE COUNTY FAIR EXPO CENTER

#### **AUG 17 FROM NOON-4PM**

ANNUAL WTDO PICNIC  
BLACKWELL FOREST PRESERVE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG](http://WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG)

## Ten weeks later

**By Rep. Bill Foster**

*US Congressman, IL-14*

It hasn't been long since the March 8 Special Election, but that doesn't mean that much hasn't changed. It has been about ten weeks since you and the people of the 14th District gave me the honor of serving them in Washington.

With my historic win, we were able to do something that now two other House Democrats have done since the election: We have sent a clear message to Washington that change is on the way!

I'm happy to report you didn't have to wait long for change. As you know, I was elected – (with all of your help!) – on a Saturday special election, then I was sworn in the following Tuesday; and within a few hours I was asked to cast the deciding vote in favor of House Ethics Reform – which passed by a single vote after I voted in favor.

Other important votes came fast and furious in my first week. Among other things, I was happy to be able to cast a vote in favor of the House version of the FISA bill on secret wiretapping and internet records collection – the House version which does not provide retroactive immunity for telecom companies that appear to have illegally turned over telephone records to the Bush administration – perhaps even before 9/11.

The battle on a final compromise goes on between the Administration, Senate, and House -- where I have been tremendously impressed by the tenacity and courage of Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. I am proud to be part of the strong Democratic majority in the House that is standing up for the privacy rights of Americans without compromising our ability to fight terrorism.

I've been fighting for the people of the 14th District on other fronts as well by trying to bring relief in the wake of the mortgage crisis and skyrocketing gas prices.

Shortly after I arrived, I was assigned to the Financial Services Committee. This committee has been in the news frequently, since it is, among other things, responsible for overseeing

regulations in the wake of the Mortgage Meltdown, the Credit Crisis in financial institutions including the Bears Stearns bailout, and oversight of the Credit Card and Payday Loan industries.

On the Financial Services Committee, we spent almost two weeks marking up and passing two important measures to stabilize the mortgage crisis which threatens to tear apart our communities and the dreams of so many families in our district and around the country. The housing legislation passed the House and we're working with the Senate to send legislation to the President soon. President Bush has threatened to veto these bills; but given the recent bailout of Bears Stearns, the Administration finds itself in a weakened position.

Families are being hit not just at home, but when they travel as well. Right here in Illinois, the energy crisis is gripping our community, as families struggle to afford gas prices that are steadily rising. It seems as if we hear the news that gas and oil prices have hit record highs on almost a daily basis, and we are forced to make history ourselves each time we make that painful trip to the pump. We have seen extraordinarily high prices in Illinois, with gas prices exceeding \$4 per gallon in parts of the 14th District.

The House and Senate have recently taken action that will immediately provide relief to middle class Americans who are paying extraordinary prices to fuel their vehicles. I voted in favor of temporarily halting the fill of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, because we need relief now. By acting on this legislation, we have passed a common-sense solution to make sure more oil will remain on the market, allowing for the price of gas to consumers to fall by as much as twenty-four cents per gallon.

We are tackling some of our toughest problems in Congress right now. But I'm not done, because I can't be; too many families are facing daunting challenges on all fronts from health care to education costs to high gas prices. I'm working hard to solve these problems and others, and I will continue to work hard to represent the people of the 14th District in Congress.

## **Enger Management A Breed Apart**

**By Dirk Enger**

*Precinct 004 Committeeman  
and Democratic Nominee for DuPage  
County Board, District 6*

This Memorial Day, may we as a Nation remember those who have the honor to wear the title Veteran. They laid down their lives upon the altar of freedom in battle to ensure liberty and justice for all. May we honor them by never taking freedom for granted, they do not.

As one who has the honor and privilege to be a Veteran, let me share with you the meaning that this title holds for me.

A Veteran comes from a special breed of individuals who are from all facets of our society. Some are rich, some poor, some from cities, suburbs and farms. Each one is unique and different in many ways, yet all are bonded together like a series of stitches in a sweater. They all possess a special magical chemistry in their strong belief in God and Country. There is no limit to the sacrifice they so unselfishly and willingly give every hour of the day to ensure that those beliefs for which they are fighting will live on in the hope that one day mankind will have no more wars, but instead will learn understanding and compassion for one another. We should use words, not bombs and bloodshed, to settle our differences. We need to rely on the faith and courage that all men and women are created equal.

There is one key quality that a Veteran portrays – Sacrifice – to him or her it is their unselfish nature to protect and serve with honor and not for monetary gain, not for medals and parades, but in the belief and hope that one day we may all walk on God's green earth, a world of peace and tranquility for all.

We can thank a Veteran by fighting for their rights and what is owed to them, just as they fought for our freedoms. It takes more than a magnetic ribbon on your car to show support to our Veterans and troops. There are many

outstanding Veteran Support Organizations throughout this country trying to make a difference everyday.

We need our new V.A. Director, Tammy Duckworth, and our State Legislators to release additional "Vet Cash", scratch-off lottery tickets. Last year Vet Cash was the 2nd selling scratch off lottery ticket with over 4 million sold. Every dollar spent on these tickets goes to fund the V.A. budget in Illinois. Most machines are out of these tickets already and our Vets need the money now.

We also need to ask all candidates whether they are behind mandatory funding for the V.A. budget. Veterans should not have to beg for care. They fulfilled their obligation, when will we fulfill ours?

God Bless,

Dirk Enger  
USMC Desert Shield/Desert Storm Veteran  
County Board Candidate District #6  
[www.engercounty6.org](http://www.engercounty6.org)

**“Human kindness  
has never  
weakened the  
stamina or softened  
the fiber of a free  
people. A nation  
does not have to be  
cruel to be tough.”**

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

## **Peter Roskam Is Too Far Outside the Mainstream**

**By Jill Morgenthaler**

*Democratic Nominee, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*

Nearly every day, I talk to dozens of people throughout our district and throughout the region. I do what any successful candidate these days must; I listen to your concerns, I share my views, and, of course, I ask for help paying for our campaign.

People are intensely interested in what is happening out here in the western suburbs and they are looking for change. And with hard work, our increasingly Democratic district has an opportunity to help change the way business is done in Washington. It's time we have a representative in Congress who stands for the mainstream values that the vast majority of us stand for.

Those who are aware of the challenges and long hours facing any Congressional candidate often ask, "Jill, why are you putting yourself through this; why are you running?" Well, there are a lot of reasons that I think we need better representation in Washington, but it all boils down to this – Peter Roskam is wrong on the issues. Because he is wrong, we pay a heavy price.

Let's take an important issue – choice. Where does Mr. Roskam stand when it comes to respecting a woman's right to control her own body? The difference between me and my opponent on the issue of reproductive rights could not be more stark. My opponent, Peter Roskam, has made it a mission to pass a complete ban on all abortions, period. He does not even believe in exceptions in the tragic cases of rape, incest or the life of the woman. I believe in a woman's right to choose and I do not think Washington politicians should spend their time trying to force their extreme views into difficult personal decisions.

Our congressman's radical brand of philosophy does not stop there. He calls life-giving stem cell research immoral. And this year, Roskam is a proud cosponsor of H.R. 4157, the so-called "Sanctity of Human Life Act". He might as well have called it the "Zygote Political Enfranchisement Act". The bill quite directly states:

"The life of each human being begins with

fertilization, cloning, or its functional equivalent, irrespective of sex, health, function or disability, defect, stage of biological development, or condition of dependency, at which time every human being shall have all the legal and constitutional attributes and privileges of personhood."

Later, "The term "fertilization" means {includes}... a one-celled human embryo, which is a new unique human being."

Not only would this bill ban abortion, it would make in vitro fertilization illegal.

According to the Roskam bill, all fertilized eggs would have full legal protections. An average in vitro fertilization process might create 12 fertilized eggs, 4 of which are medically determined to be viable as healthy infants if implanted. The Roskam bill would require all 12 eggs to be implanted. Either the couple would have to bear all those children, or they would have to find someone else to do so. After all, those eggs would be deemed human beings with full legal rights.

It sounds ridiculous. It seems hardly true. And yet, that is what our congressman is spending his time working on. That is the bill he proudly co-sponsors. Do you really want this man making decisions for us in Washington? I do not.

Of course, things hardly end there. Does Roskam support solutions that will ensure our youngest children have access to adequate health care? He voted against the State Children's Health Insurance Bill which would have done just that. When you and I pay almost \$4 a gallon for gas, Roskam takes thousands from the oil companies and votes to give them subsidies. He voted to put a sludge facility on Lake Michigan, our source for drinking water. Look at virtually any issue that can affect an individual, from cradle to grave, and my opponent is flat out wrong.

So you see, the choice to run against him is obvious. We need reasonable elected officials. We need someone with the know-how to represent our district as it deserves to be represented. We must elect someone new to Congress. I ask for your vote.

*For more information, please visit*  
**[www.jillmorgenthaler.com](http://www.jillmorgenthaler.com)**

## **Greening Our Priorities**

**By Scott Harper**

*Democratic Nominee, 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional Dist.*

One of the defining issues of both this election and this era will be how we rise to meet our responsibilities to protect the environment. We need sustainable and responsible government in order to solve the climate crisis and protect our air and water. But the harsh truth is that on this critical issue, Judy Biggert has remained influenced by special interests and lobbyists rather than by the people of this district.

That is why I'm running for Congress - to change the way Washington works and to address the serious issues we face like protecting the environment. As your Representative in Congress, I will be a champion of environmental responsibility and will make the Illinois 13th the national center of green technology.

On vote after vote, Judy Biggert has failed to provide the leadership we need to solve global warming and climate change. She would rather stick with business as usual in Washington, voting to give George Bush a \$500 billion check to pay for the War in Iraq, while voting against \$18 billion in taxes on oil companies to secure our energy independence. Even as gas prices approach \$4 per gallon, Judy Biggert fails to act and responsibly represent you in Washington.

When I represent this great district in Congress, I will fight for families here at home by working toward energy independence. I support increasing fuel economy standards and expanding renewable energy initiatives so that we can become more energy independent and bring new technology jobs to our community.

We should invest in new technology and energy innovation so that the I-88 corridor can become a center for green jobs right here in our community. And we need to continue our investment in places like Argonne and Fermi Labs who are working on cutting edge programs to help make us more energy independent.

Congresswoman Biggert has also failed us when it comes to protecting our air and water. She has voted to loosen EPA regulations and stood by as the Bush Administration neglects plans to restore

Lake Michigan and reduce the mercury pollution in it. Meanwhile, Biggert has taken tens of thousands of dollars from big oil and big chemical companies who contribute to her campaign.

In Congress, I will reverse this cynical and dangerous behavior and will stand up to polluters who threaten the health and safety of our children. And I will fight to restore Lake Michigan so that we can all benefit from it. Protecting the environment and investing in green technologies will help our economy and will strengthen the quality of life in our community. But it is also the right thing to do. We have a responsibility to leave our children with a planet that is cleaner, safer, and healthier than the one we inherited and unfortunately, we are not achieving that mission today.

Judy Biggert has been in Congress for a decade and has stood by as our water and our air has become more toxic, as gas prices continue to rise, and as our environment has become more polluted. It's been business as usual for the Bush-Biggert Republicans who take thousands of dollars from special interests at the expense of the people's interests.

It is time we change the way we do business in Washington.

In Congress, I will fight for good green jobs, ensure we have clean air and water, promote fuel efficiency, and invest in new technologies so that we can lower gas prices, strengthen our economy, provide for the health and safety of our families and ultimately, protect our planet.

Please visit my website,  
**[www.scottharperforcongress.com](http://www.scottharperforcongress.com)**, to learn more about my positions on the environment

**“Today’s problems  
cannot be solved if we  
still think the way we  
thought when we  
created them.”**

**Albert Einstein**

## Me, the Novice Activist

By Frank Malley

*Precinct 015 Committeeman*

So there I was the Saturday before Mother's Day canvassing for Scott Harper, Democratic candidate for Illinois's 13th Congressional District. My scientifically sorted computer printout put me at the front door of a house a few blocks from my home. A sign on the door and a second sign in the picture window to the right of the door warned, "No soliciting. No canvassing." And yet I persevered. I rang the doorbell and then rang it again, at which point the lady of the house answered. She was, however, not the party chosen by science to be my target of the day. I asked for her husband, and she immediately volunteered, "He's around the back in the garage."

I coaxed the gentleman out of the family car that he was vacuuming and dusting meticulously. Then I found out that the two signs had not been posted to protect the residents but rather to protect innocent solicitors and canvassers. A retired man in his seventies, he exploded, "All politicians are criminals. My grandchildren are coming out of college with no prospect of employment. I was a union bricklayer, and now they are destroying the unions. Food and gasoline prices are going through the roof. I took my wife to the urgent care clinic, and all kinds of people are there getting free care that the rest of us have to pay for. Companies are laying off people. The politicians come to us in nice business suits, promise us everything, and then get what they can for themselves."

I suggested that even if he felt deeply everything he said, someone would be elected to each office to run things. Apparently, that rationalization did not, however, work at all well for him.

We have misspent the last many years and, dauntingly, can now either explode in anger or make choices that must unfortunately be nearly perfect. Just a few weeks ago I found myself plunging into gloom. Not enough Americans understand that a dollar used to be worth 1.33 euros, and now it is worth 0.64 euro. If OPEC finally changes over to pricing oil in euros, we will feel we are a second-class economy, and we will be right. A few large corporations are using the current weakness of our economy as an

opportunity to blot up their rivals, producing with downsizing the shrinking job market my neighbor lamented. For years we have elected candidates who were great at campaigning and incompetent at governing. The current administration has tried time and again to govern by campaign-style tactics and spin, which cannot produce anything of substance for Katrina victims, for the middle class, for soldiers on their second and third tour of duty in a trillion-dollar war, for the millions of adults and children who have no health coverage.

I was wallowing in self-dramatic melancholy when I finally understood that if the world I cared about was truly imperiled, it would be idiotic on my part to simply continue to be a spectator. My wife and I decided that we would drive to Fort Wayne, Indiana near the border with Ohio and work for the presidential candidate of our choice. We decided we would work both the Saturday and Sunday prior to the election. During our hardworking weekend, we had the surprise reward of being around for a quick, inspiring visit by our candidate. On our return home, I (somewhat wearily) decided I would also work the next weekend for Scott Harper.

I have to work to support my family, and I want to give time to my family. While I traditionally create a precinct letter and do an election-time walk-around of my own precinct, I have just never been a person who compulsively uses up shoe leather in a bloc of precincts, even engaging in multiple visits to the constituents. This time, however, I am scared. This time our economy and our neighbors and our culture and our spirit do seem to be on the line. The first campaign in which I worked was the John F. Kennedy campaign. Hopefully, finally, once again candidates will appeal to the best in us, rather than the worst in us. Whatever the case, this election on all levels does not belong solely to the candidates and their advisors. It belongs to us, and we must act.

Hm. At least some of the above seems like the mind set of uncompromising, self-righteous right-wing enthusiasts. Let me say this. I do not believe that those who disagree with my candidates and my principles are the devil. Also, when the election is over, I will accept and try to work with whomever wins. In the action prior to the election, however, I do have to be true to the best in myself.

## **The Myth of the Illegal Alien Bogeyman**

**By Patricia Flynn and Jack Pace**  
*DuPage County Residents*

Illegal immigration is a hot topic, and if you're reading this then you already are of the opinion that immigrants, both legal and illegal, add more to this country than they take. But if you find yourself unsure of how to argue the point, some information on another topic that everyone loves, taxes, may help. As volunteers for the Illinois Tax Assistance Program (TAP) we prepare tax returns for low income individuals and families, most who qualify for the Earned Income Credit, which returns money to families. In that role, we've seen a number of immigrants, some who are probably illegal.

One thing they have in common with everyone else is that they pay taxes – Federal income, Social Security, and Medicare taxes. Their employers pay in their portion of these taxes. They don't, however, often file returns to claim that money; and therefore, those dollars get added to the bucket for the rest of the country. What is interesting is how little the IRS really cares about citizenship. Since 1996 the IRS has been issuing Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) to aliens without Social Security numbers. There are 13 different forms of identification that are acceptable to receive an ITIN, including a National Identification card, or "Matricula." In 2006 IRS Tax Commissioner Mark Everson, testifying before Congress that the ITIN program is bringing money into the system, said that illegal aliens using ITINs from 1996 to 2003 reported a tax liability of approximately \$50 billion.

Estimates from the IRS suggest that illegal immigrants have contributed as much as \$90 billion from 1996 to 2003; \$41.4 billion from mismatched W2's and another \$50 billion from ITINs. Current estimates suggest the number is \$9 billion per year on \$75 billion in wages that came from W-2's that were mismatched. While 100% is not from illegal immigrants, certainly a large portion of it is.

In our capacity as volunteer preparers, we've seen our share of ITINs. These individuals usually have multiple W-2's from working more

than one job. They have an ITIN, so they are ineligible for the Earned Income Credit. They are, however, entitled to the amount of withholding that exceeds their tax liability, which is usually close to \$1,000 or more. For every ITIN that we see, there are many more that are fearful of walking into any government office, let alone filing a tax return requesting a refund. All that uncollected money is helping to fund our social security system, Medicare, and adding to the Federal income tax coffers in general.

Most of us are Americans because of fortuitous circumstances. We didn't choose our birthplace, but simply had the good fortune to be born in one of the greatest nations ever. Immigrants made the choice, based on the circumstances of their lives, to make America their country. In many cases, especially in the cases of illegal immigrants, their choice involved danger, physical pain and suffering, language barriers and legal risks. They accepted those conditions and many survived them. They invested heavily in the desire to become Americans.

Once they are here, they also get to pay taxes, just like us; but they won't get the full benefits of those tax dollars, and you won't hear them complain. They're happy to be here and many economists agree that they add more to the country than they receive.

William Ford, an Economics Professor from Middle Tennessee State University, has been studying immigration and concluded that illegal immigrants contributed \$428 billion to the 2006 Gross National Product of \$13.6 trillion. The dollars that are contributed via assorted taxes – federal and state income taxes, gas taxes, tobacco taxes, local taxes, etc. – are significant.

Sure, many illegal immigrants are probably paid in cash and live under the radar, not paying into the IRS; but most companies will not risk paying cash. They would rather file employee withholding (along with the companies' portion of the taxes) with suspect Social Security numbers, than not file at all.

*Jack Pace and Patricia Flynn are CPA volunteers with the Tax Assistance Program.*

## Labor Update

By Doug May

Precinct 001 Committeeman

### Labor 2008

In the 2006 Election cycle, the AFL-CIO and other unions mobilized thousands of members and volunteers nationwide to help elect worker-friendly candidates to office. Overall, we were successful as the Democrats increased their majority in the House and gained a small majority in the Senate. In 2008, we hope to increase our participation and Unions across America are gearing up for what will be a pivotal election this November.

As the Republicans continue to lose seats in special elections across the land, it is becoming clear that Americans have become fed up with their agenda. A major focus should be on the Senate, where the Republican minority has successfully obstructed a record number of bills passed overwhelmingly by the House. Here in Illinois, Senator Dick Durbin is up for re-election. Fortunately, his seat should be pretty safe, as the Republicans spent all their money trying to beat Bill Foster, and did not manage to come up with a strong candidate to run against Durbin.

### Employee Free Choice Act

One of the key initiatives being pushed is the Employee Free Choice Act. This would enable workers to form Unions without having to go through the lengthy process of a NLRB sanctioned election. As it is, this process can take years, and union advocates often get fired. Technically, this practice is against the law; but the penalties are very weak, and the enforcement from the Bush Labor Department is effectively non-existent.

Opponents claim that workers would be subject to intimidation from Union bosses, but recent studies have shown that over 70% of workers would join a Union if they had the choice. It is also interesting to note that Union leaders are the only people in the workplace who are elected. Do you get to elect your supervisor or manager? Didn't think so.

## McCain

The Republican candidate for President, John McCain, has a terrible record when it comes to issues affecting working families. He has voted against nearly all legislation that would benefit workers, such as raising the minimum wage, protecting overtime rights, extending unemployment benefits for Katrina victims, and the list goes on and on. He has also voted to privatize many governmental jobs, which ultimately increases costs for the taxpayers while providing poorer service and oversight. He is also a supporter of Bush's economic policies which have really only benefited the top 1% of income earners. He has gotten a free ride in the press, as they are consumed with the Democratic Primary race. One would hope that when the dust clears, people would look beyond McCain's "maverick" image that he and the media promote, and instead take the time to analyze his actual voting record. With his recent statements on appointing wing nut Judges, such as Alito, and Scalia, it would seem that a McCain presidency would be like having another Bush term.

*Doug May is a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 825*

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Letters, opinions, jokes  
(keep'em clean, folks!)



**WTDO**

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*(Chair, cont'd from p. 1)*

must be vigilant, we must demand accountability, we must be citizens.

The summer season will soon be upon us - parades, festivals, meet and greets with our candidates. Please help your LOCAL Democratic Party continue our work and our growth by "Kicking in for the Quarter". Help us continue to build a stronger LOCAL Democratic Organization, support our LOCAL Democratic candidates, have our voices heard, publish The Township Democrat, maintain our Website ([www.winfielddems.org](http://www.winfielddems.org)) and host our monthly meetings. We need your help - KICK IN FOR THE QUARTER - your financial support of your LOCAL Democratic Organization is the ultimate challenge. At this time I would also like to take this opportunity to humbly and deeply thank all of you readers who have supported our past "Kick in for the Quarter" campaigns. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Please mail your contribution to

**WTDO**  
**P.O. Box 224**  
**Warrenville, IL 60555-0224**

Your Township needs you. The Repubs will not be defeated by rhetoric alone.

And folks, tomorrow really does begin today when you do not back down from what you know is right and true - and are willing to work and fight for that vision.

*(Liberals, cont'd from p. 10)*

ourselves for a gluttonous and greedy nation with no use for any level playing field.

But there is plenty for which to heckle these demagogues from here in the cheap seats. We hear alot about the Rule of Law, for example, except when there is something to hide. We will hear conservative moral absolutists lecture us that if we have nothing to hide we have nothing to fear, except when there are torture tapes to destroy or congressional subpoenas to defy. We will be expected to oppose "special rights" for minority communities, except for when civil laws fall short of the religious teachings of a presumed set of "mainstream values."

Sooner, rather than later, Barry Bonds' home run record will be broken and the title will be reset in a manner worthy of the genuine achievements of Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron. The night before Christmas Eve, the Chicago Blackhawks came from behind to beat the Edmonton Oilers at the United Center in front of what was then a record crowd. The entire team returned to the ice after the post-game honors, and some players tossed their sticks over the glass and into the crowd in a spontaneous display of mutual appreciation. Sometimes, turning points are reached that way, and the Old Guard simply needs to wither away before purity can be restored. Other times, it simply needs to dawn on enough of us that it really is better to be smart than "right," that any faker can cut corners, and that the achievements we accomplish fairly are of the most genuine value in our lives and in society at large.

**"We should never negotiate out of fear, but we should never fear to negotiate."**

**John F. Kennedy**

Winfield Township Democratic Organization Post Office Box 224 Warrenville, IL 60555-0224		
Return Service Requested		

## Beer & Pretzel Liberals

By Barry Dredze

*Precinct 018 Committeeman*

Contrary to common conservative wisdom, you are not disloyal to your team when you want them to go to their bullpen.

I cannot go out there myself and pitch a save for the Cubs. But I can cope with those occasions when Lou Piniella must walk out to the mound and make a change without accusing him of not supporting the players and wishing for Ted Lilly or Carlos Zambrano to fail.

Similarly, I like to believe that it is well within my rights and obligations as a civic patriot to express a desire for, and cast my vote in favor of, a reversal of foreign policy and the renewal of our domestic regulatory agencies' missions free from reflexive accusations of fifth-columnist treason. Real fans don't boo, they heckle.

Near the end of last year, the Commission led by former Senator George Mitchell issued its report on steroid use in professional sports. The Mitchell Commission found that our national pastimes have come more to resemble the decadent spectacle of Roman gladiators than the level playing field of good old American sportsmanship. Bill Moyers drew an astute comparison in a recent commentary on his PBS program, *Bill Moyers' Journal*. "You don't get a level playing field with performance enhancing drugs," Moyers said, "any more than you get an honest government with political action committees and bundled contributions, or a fair economy with... private equity managers taxed at rates lower than their janitors. You get a level

playing field only when the fans demand it."

I cannot afford the time or the investment to breed, herd and slaughter food for our household pets. So I must trust that regulatory agencies will have my back, and the backs of our pets, in regard to the safety of the food I must buy to keep them alive. Lord help me, I am simply not as self-sufficient as the pickup truck ads want me to think that I am.

That is government's job, to watch our backs. For far too much of the recent past, however, we have been fed a steady dose of bromides decrying the "liberal nanny state," and platitudes about how "government isn't the solution to our problems; government is the problem." But once upon a time, there was a prevailing ethic in the USA that we are all in this together. That ethic has proven unfortunately vulnerable to the idea of every-man-for-himself. We as a nation have reached the decision whether or not to privatize our public interests, and to sell out our civic patriotism for a few hundred dollars in tax refunds.

If you really want to know what kind of country we are in danger of becoming, right now, tune in to the newstalk jocks on the deregulated and corporate conglomerate-dominated AM radio dial. It may not necessarily be the kind of country we think we are, or the kind of country we would like to believe we can be. But where the dial is tuned to the rants and raves of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly, Laura Ingraham, Dennis Praeger, Michael Savage and their local disciples, is a place where it is always better to be "right" than smart; where fairness is always inferior to triumph. Within the drone of talk radio that passes for political discourse, it is easy to mistake

(See *Liberals*, p. 9)

