

DCYD Newsletter

Serving The Community of Middle Tennessee



July, 2005

First Annual Softball Game a Success!!!

Upcoming Events

- Sat. July 9th—DCDP Labor day celebration @ Shelby park
- Sat., July 9th- Democracy for Tennessee Convention w/ Key-note Speaker Russ Feingold
- Sun., July 10th—Membership Committee Meeting @ 3:00PM, J.J.'s Market
- Wed., July 14th- Possible Community Forum Event (Details TBA)
- Sat. July 23rd, Gore Family Dinner (Volunteer opportunities available)
- Thurs., July 28th—Monthly Social at the Flying Saucer

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—By Brian Heffron

The first annual softball game between the Young Democrats and Young Republicans was a complete success! Although the Republicans took home the trophy (a full sized acoustic guitar), the turnout in players, spectators, volunteers, elected officials and the media was impressive and showed that DCYD is making a mark in Middle Tennessee.

The game, held on June 18th at Cane Ridge Metro Park, kicked off with Representatives Jim Cooper and Marsha Blackburn throwing out the first pitch for their respective party. Cooper and Blackburn were just a few of the many elected officials who made appearances, including State Senator Jim Bryson and U.S. Senate candidate Rosalind Kurita, as well as A.J. Starling with the Tennessee AFL-CIO.

The game was competitive as expected, with the Young Republicans scoring three quick runs in the top of the first inning, and the Young Democrats answering with a 10-run binge at the bottom. A commanding 14-3 lead by the Young Democrats in the 5th inning was promising but not for long. A late run by the Young Republicans pushed in 14 more runs in two innings to cap off a final crushing loss, 17-15. Despite the loss, both teams lined up after the game for a photo and shook hands in good spirit.

“The softball game was one of the most successful events we have had this year,” said Brian Heffron, DCYD coordinator for the game. “Looking at the number of play-



DCYDs pose with Congressman Jim Cooper

ers, supporters and volunteers we were able to attract to the game, as well as press we received from News Channel 2, Fox 17, ESPN Radio 106.7- The Fan, and 104.5—The Zone, we clearly have a strong foundation in publicity and turnout to build on for next year.”

The Davidson County Young Democrats would like to thank all those who helped in numerous ways, including all of our elected officials and Metro-Davidson County Parks.

Jamin Guy gets ready to do some damage



From the Desk of the President...

Reflecting on what the Fourth of July represents to America, I am fascinated by the similarities between current times and 1776. Benjamin Franklin worried about whether our newly-created government could withstand the test of time. The Founding Fathers vigorously debated their views on what a democracy should look like and what rights citizens should have.

We are faced with some of the very same worries and debates more than 200 years later: What direction should government take? Are the current generations responsible for passing on a better America?

Americans' outlook on life and the world depends on our value systems. The Founding Fathers based their decisions around a value of stewardship. They fought, debated and even defied their government, striving to create something great that would outlive all of them. Stewardship is one major value that constitutes the foundation of the Democratic Party's ideals – it applies to everything that is important to us, including protecting the environment, diplomacy in international relations and

the importance of public education.

We have an obligation to demonstrate to Americans what is at the core of our Party's philosophy. The Republican Party has lost some key elections over the last few years because their values and ideals do not move America forward; their party wins when they do a better job at bombarding people with their positions on key issues. Throughout U.S. history, the Democratic Party's values have been focused on moving America forward – think of FDR's New Deal; Kennedy's torch of service; Clinton's balanced budget and economic policies. Reclaiming this philosophy of stewardship and leadership for future generations, prominent in the administrations of FDR, Kennedy and Clinton, as well as among the Founding Fathers, is what we must do to capture a rhetoric that is valuable and familiar to all Americans.

Happy Celebration of the Declaration of Independence! Let's take the spirit of this occasion and keep it alive in order to protect and defend democracy well into the next 200 years.

Governor Phil Bredesen Addresses the Nation on Medicaid Reforms

—By Sean Braisted

"A Chevy for everyone before a Cadillac for anyone." That was the advice from our governor this month when he addressed the issue of Medicaid reform for the weekly Democratic radio address. Governor Bredesen reduced the necessary reforms into 3 simple steps:

- Require that everyone pay something out of pocket when going to the hospital so that they will think twice about going for minor medical problems
- Focus on life threatening illnesses before spending money on minor problems like heartburn and colds
- Set guidelines for prescription drugs so that the states aren't forced to pay for name-brand medications that are no different than the available generics.

These changes would go a long way in helping to relieve some of the financial pressure on state and federal government. But like our health care system itself, reforms might cure the symptoms but does little to

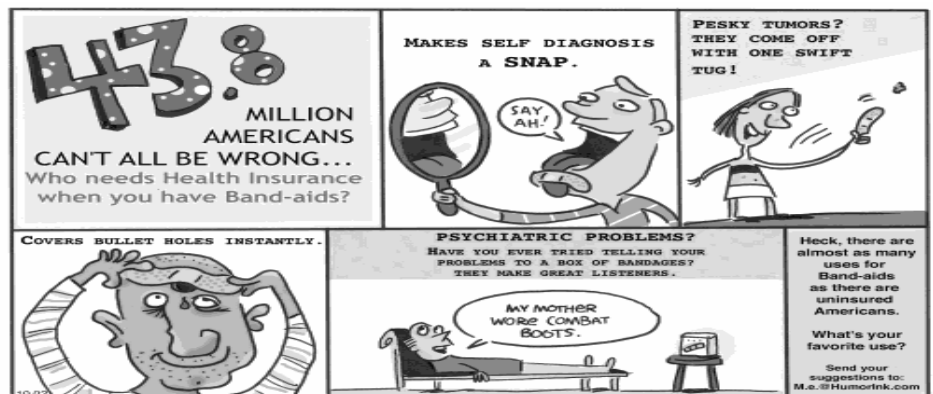
cure the disease. America has a free-market health care system that simply does not make sense. Price shopping may be possible when buying a car, but when your child or parent is sick, price shopping is simply not a feasible option. A free-market system requires a symbiotic relationship between buyer and seller. With health care, however, patients are unable to realistically challenge pricing and medical decisions because, in most situations, you agree to pay for services before knowing the quality or necessity of those services. That lack of patient bargaining power is why we need to look towards alternatives to the current "free market"

health care system.

Some of us in the Democratic Party like to believe that it is a political possibility to create a new national health care system. But structuring either a Canadian style single-payer system or a new type of insurance industry would be difficult.

Unfortunately, the cost of doing nothing is growing exponentially by the day, and this issue will become more of a threat to the foundation of the American way of life than any other problem we face.

"438 million people without health care" - M.E.



Don't Think of an Elephant: Review of George Lakoff's Book

By Elizabeth Eckert

To understand the point of George Lakoff's book, just try the simple exercise suggested in his title: **Don't Think of an Elephant!** In his book —*Don't think of an elephant! Know Your Values and Frame the Debate*—Lakoff introduces the concept of “framing.” A world-renowned cognitive scientist and linguist (as well as a firm progressive), he explains that every word we hear evokes a pre-existing frame in our mind. It is *impossible* to separate certain words from the framework or imagery associated with them. So how does this apply to politics? We've got to understand where conservatives are coming from and how to “reframe” our ideas to be accurate and appealing.

Lakoff argues that we must first understand Conservative framing and show respect for those who respond to it. Here's what it comes down to. Hold on to your seats... Conservatives are not just crazy, mean, greedy, or stupid. Why do conservatives hold positions of power in the White House, Congress and courts? Because they are *SMART*.

“They [conservatives] understand how people think and how people talk. They think! ...They support their intellectuals. They write all those books. They put their ideas out in public,” writes Lakoff. And here's how they do it: Conservatives buy into a “strict father model” of society. In this sort of family structure, people make the following assumptions:

- 1) The world is a dangerous place because there is evil in it.
- 2) The world is inherently filled with competition and some of us must be right/wrong, winners/losers.
- 3) Children are born bad and must be made good. Therefore a good father must protect and support his family in a dangerous and competitive world *and* teach his children right from wrong.

If you are thinking this reasoning sounds pretty far-out, right-wing, and extreme, you're right on the money. Why is it that this kind of value system is so popular? **FRAMING**. Conservatives realize that there's a little bit of a strict father mentality in all of us; it is imbedded in American culture

(Think “Father Knows Best”). All conservatives have to do is get us to associate their *policies* with this “father frame.” With this strategy, they can argue that their agendas are not only reasonable, but *moral*. On foreign policy: It is moral for the “father” (United States government) to discipline its disobedient children (developing countries). On the economy: It is moral for the “father” to reward only good children (wealthy, successful citizens) while punishing the bad (the rest of us!). Take social policy: It is moral for the “father” to praise and reward the children who suppress their “immoral” desires (homosexuals, women seeking abortions).

According to Lakoff, *we* can respond by reframing. He writes, “...it took more than thirty years, billions of dollars and 43 institutes for conservatives to reframe the debate... we have the advantage of having science on our side. Through cognitive science and linguistics, we know how they did it. And we know how we can do the equivalent for progressives in a much shorter time, and with many fewer resources.”

Here are the basic assumptions that Progressives (Dems) tend to make:

- 1) The world can be made a better place.
- 2) Children are born good and can be made better.
- 3) The parents' job is to nurture their children and raise their children to nurture others.

Refreshing, isn't it? This frame translates clearly into our agenda as follows. On foreign policy: It is moral for the parents (United States government) to lead their children (developing countries) into health and happiness. On the economy: It is moral for the parents to help and support both the self-sufficient and needier children (businesses, citizens). On social policy: It is moral for the parents to be tolerant and understanding of their children (citizens), and to promote tolerance of others.

For more information, check out the Rockridge Institute, a think-tank dedicated to reframing the public debate at www.rockridgeinstitute.com.



Daryl Cagle

11/03/04
Slate.com

Liberal Media?

As a Democrat, I regularly hear from my conservative friends and co-workers about the overwhelming influence of the “Liberal Media.” What Liberal Media? I agree that there are some outlets that tend to cover Liberal issues and values but I contend that all of these are outside of mainstream venues.

Let's pretend for a moment that there is a liberal slant to the news that most Americans watch, listen to, and read. Who specifically is ensuring the liberal bias is represented in all of these places? I guarantee that not one of those who insist the Liberal Media exists could name any one other than Ted Turner, who is no longer in a position of controlling CNN's programming.

The truth is, all media in the United States is owned by five very large corporations. Most—if not all—of those running these corporations are documented as being either a donor to the Republican Party or to Republican political campaigns. If you have ever had a job, you know the rules your boss or manager sets for the office should be followed. This idea continues up through the chain of command to the executives and the board of directors. Why would donors to the Republican cause allow their subordinates to undermine their larger economic and political ambitions?

For the truth about media in the United States, a good book that expands on this subject is *What Liberal Media?* by Eric Alterman, which discusses these ideas in greater detail, including the names of those Republicans in the board room.

Jamie Qualk
DCYD Vice-President

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Dixie Taylor-Huff

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The Founders Club consists of major contributors and supporters to the organization. To join the Founders Club, please contact our Treasurer Kimberly Wood at dcyds@comcast.net



Registration begins at 8:30 am at Watkins College of Art and Design (in Metro Center off of 8th Avenue). **Bring your student ID and don't forget to tell them that you are with the DCYDs!**

President Seannalyn Brandmeir and Vice President Jamie Qualk will be panelists at 11:30 am on the reaching out to young people, building student activism.

Student All Event Pass: \$30 Evening with Sen. Russ Feingold \$20

For more information, contact Jamie Qualk at jamiequalk@hotmail.com or visit our website for the day's schedule of events.

Serving Middle Tennessee Young Democrats

The Davidson County Young Democrats is an organization that believes young men and women have a voice and can make a difference in the political process at all levels-federal, state, and local. We work to encourage young men and women to be involved in politics and their community. The DCYDs accomplish this through a variety of activities including: providing information and education; networking with other young democrats; discussion of current issues; forums with elected officials and other organizations; and involvement with the community by volunteering for various causes. For more information on our organization's activities and volunteer opportunities, please visit our events or calendar page.

To join the DCYDs, please send us an email at dcyds@comcast.net or visit us at www.dcyd.org

FIRST ANNUAL GORE FAMILY DINNER

HOSTED BY THE
DAVIDSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Saturday, July 23, 2005 • Millennium Maxwell House Hotel
Private Reception 6:00 p.m. • Dinner 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL GUESTS: AL AND TIPPER GORE

Visit www.davidsondemocrats.com for more info

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