

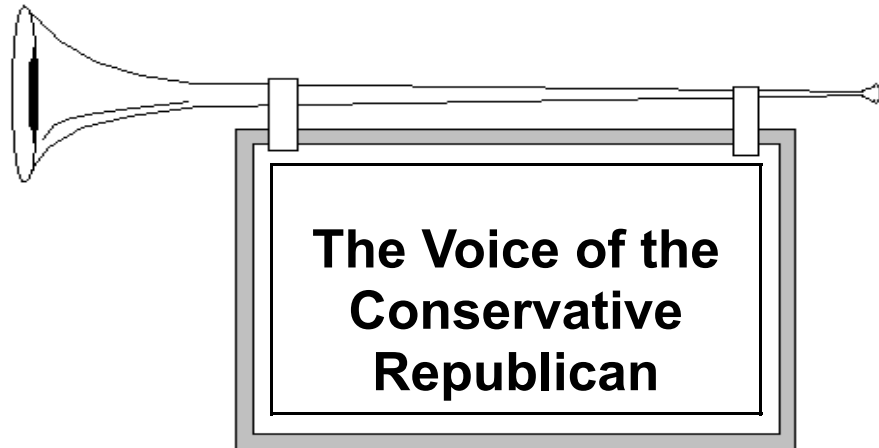
TAPROOT *Trumpet*

Vol. 37 No. 2

April 2003

**For if the
TRUMPET
give an
uncertain
sound, who
shall prepare
himself to the
battle?**

1 Cor. 14:8



ICRC Report

Republicans Must Reach Out

Jack McInerney, Chicago, TAPROOT Board, was elected to the steering committee of the newly formed Illinois Center Right Coalition, Jan. 26, at the meeting held at Harper's College, Palatine.

Another TAPROOT Director, Dave Diersen, Wheaton, also ran but was not elected. He does serve now as a volunteer with the group.

The meeting received a big morale boost from the personal appearance of the Republican, U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald. The appearance gave concrete form to the mood of optimism concerning the prospects of this newly formed Conservative organization in Illinois.

Fitzgerald gave the assembly an undate on Washington politics, noting especially the success of the Republican Party in capturing the Senate. "No one predicted that a year ago," he said.

When Sen. Tom Daschle ruled the Senate, it was unwilling to confirm conservative judges. The Democrats enforced a litmus test against pro-lifers. The Democrats sat on the nominations of 80 candidates, refusing to give them a hearing.

With Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, these nominations will receive fair treat-

ment, Fitzgerald predicted. He also predicted that the Congress will ban partial birth abortion.

Many well-known conservatives attended this meeting, Chris Lauzen, State Senator; Pat O'Malley, former candidate for Governor and State Senator; Chad Koppie, former candidate for Governor; Fran Eaton, Eagle Forum and Illinois Leader (an electronic newspaper); John Cox, former candidate for U.S. Senate and host of his own radio program (WJJG); Earl Gough, Citizens for Excellence in Education and local candidate; along with TAPROOT stalwarts George Kocan and Wayne Lela.

A particularly provocative speaker was the conservative radio host, Deborah Rowe, who has conducted popular talk-shows on WLS and WYLL. As an African-American, she addressed the issue of out-reach to the Black community, a subject of great importance to Republicans.

She complained of politics being mired in the status-quo—both here in Illinois and nationally. Political leaders are not in sync with the people, being driven more by greed than anything else. This creates apathy and low voter turn-out, she said.

Stressing the importance of 'perception' in politics, Rowe insisted that minorities think that they are not wanted. On the other hand, she stated that the average people she talks to everyday are concerned about the same things suburban, White Republicans are—the

**DAILY HERALD
Flunks!—page 3**

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ICRC, con'd from page 1

economy, taxes, education, health care.

"Blacks are basically being held hostage," she averred, "they have no place to go." Many African- (See page 2) Americans, she continued, are staunchly pro-life and don't go for the liberal agenda. They need back-up, they want support. Republicans need to find a way to connect. Doing so could pull 30% of the Blacks to the conservative side.

The big problem the conservatives have in the Black community is perception and the 'conservative' label. African-Americans may be

conservative but they react negatively to the conservative label.

"Don't use labels," Rowe cautioned, "use our common ideals, focus on issues."

She also pointed out that on many local issues, for example, police brutality, the Democrats are there on the scene. Jesse Jackson is there but no Republicans. Minorities, she went on, need to be actively invited into the Republican Party.

Rowe also argued that racial discrimination still remains a problem for African-Americans. They see affirmative action as an impor-

NEWS BRIEFS

Reverse Tax Referendum Passes

In overwhelming numbers, the citizens of Downers Grove voted to lower the tax cap of the tax levy for the Park District. The voted to lower the cap from 25 cents per \$100 equalized assessed valuation to 20 cents. The measure passed by a vote of 5,221 (76.3%) to 1619 (23.7%). This is a binding referendum.

Illinois Center Right Coalition Meeting

The next meeting of the ICRC is April 12, 2003, 11am to 3pm at the Tony Bettenhausen Center, 8125 W. 171st Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477. These meetings are open to conservatives. For more information, call Lydia at 847-428-0363, e-mail, mail@thechampion.org.

DesPlaines Roundtable Meeting

The Illinois Republican Party is holding open hearings on the future of the Party in Illinois. The DesPlaines meeting is being held May 12, 2003, at 7pm, at Grazie! Restaurant, 1050 East Oakton, DesPlaines, IL. Call Jason Heffly, Political Director, at 312-201-9000.

Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial

The Wheaton Republican organization is helping sponsor the coming of the Vietnam Memorial to Wheaton. They need more financial sponsorship to support this six day visit on June 30. Call tom Mouhelis 630-668-3686.

2003 Chicago Conservative Conference

The 2003 CCC is scheduled for May 17, 8am to 5pm at the Palmer House, 17 E. Monroe, in Chicago, entrée fee \$39. Sponsor, Heartland

Report Card

Daily Herald Flunks Bias Test

by **Steven E. Obendorf,**
Naperville

This week, the Daily Herald again asked its readers for a "performance evaluation". In past years, I have filled out the standard form and sent it in like everyone else. This year I have decided to write a letter to convey my views. As a long-time subscriber to both the Daily Herald and Chicago Tribune, I enjoy comparing and contrasting the two newspapers. The Daily Herald's strengths are timelier reporting of Chicago area sports and news and coverage of more local issues. The strength of the Tribune is the depth of its national news, international news, and Chicago area business reporting. However, discussing the merits of each paper is not the purpose of this letter.

In a recent editorial, Jim Slusher noted a 1999 study by the American Society of Newspaper Editors that documented a steady decline in the confidence people have in their newspapers. I can honestly say that I am not surprised. I think main street America continues to grow more skeptical of both the print and electronic media. In my opinion, the media no longer understands the meaning of "fair and balanced" in its reporting or editorializing. Just as our universities have become a bastion of liberalism, the primary media outlets have come to be dominated by individuals with a liberal agenda who indulge their elitist views on a daily basis. Those individuals with a conservative view need not apply.

Instead of reporting on social issues and politics in a fair manner, the message is distorted and one-sided. The best-

documented example is Bernard Goldberg's book Bias. In the book, Mr. Goldberg, who is not exactly a "right-wing fanatic", discusses specific examples of liberal bias in the media based on his thirty years at CBS. The note indicated below captures another recent example of biased, incompetent journalism that was buried in the corrections sec-

tion of a recent New York Times.

"An article in Arts & Ideas on Saturday about pacifists who do not want their tax dollars to go to the military misstated the percentage of the federal budget now spent on it. The Office of Management and Budget says that in the 2002 fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, the percentage is 16.37. The article's figure of about 50 percent came from antimilitary tax resisters, who generally include items like veterans' benefits and the portion of interest on the national debt that they say is related to military spending."

The lies and distortions have gotten so bad that many conservatives have turned off, tuned out, and cancelled these biased sources of information. Instead, I believe that they are shifting their allegiance to alternative sources of information available via cable, satellite or the Internet.

At the same time that major newspapers and networks are losing readers and viewers, books such as Bias and others by conservative writers such as Bill O'Reilly (The No Spin Zone), Sean Hannity (Let Freedom Ring), and Ann Coulter (Slander: Liberal Lies About the American Right) are flying off the shelves. In addition, Fox News, whose motto is fair and balanced reporting, is quickly gaining on CNN in the cable news ratings battle. It is clear that main street America does not share the views and values trumpeted by the media elites.

So how does this situation relate to the Daily Herald? Given the Daily Herald's significant circulation presence in traditional Republican dominated areas,

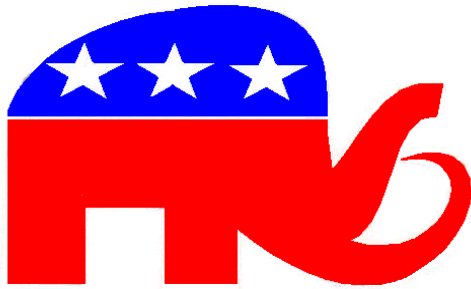
POLITICAL BIAS OF THE DAILY HERALD			
Liberal Columnists	# of Columns	Conservative Columnists	# of Columns
Broder	1	Charon	1
Cohen	3	Fields	2
Goodman	2	Krauthamer	2
Ivins (the terrible)	3	Thomas	2
Rooney (the looney)	4		
Shields	1		
Simon	2		
Tucker	2		
Total	18	Total	7

Daily Herald flunks... con'd from page 3

you would think that the Herald would be a good candidate for a fair and balanced approach to reporting and editorializing on social and political issues. Guess again. Let's start with the editorial page.

(See page 4)

I have been skeptical about the "balance" of columnists presented in the Daily Herald's editorial page for some time. Finally, I decided to take an informal survey over a five to six-week period starting around July 1 of this year. My findings were as follows (See Table):



I believe that the above survey period is rep-

resentative of what readers have been receiving from the Daily Herald for a number of years. Not counted in the above survey is additional liberal content on the editorial page such as:

Mark Russell – Pithy liberal quotes located next to the cartoon that typically take political cheap-shots at the Bush administration.

Cartoonists – Overwhelmingly liberal in their presentation of primarily political issues.

DH Staff Columnists – Mabley and Constable are definitely left-of-center in their political and social views.

My definition of "fair and balanced" is that both conservative and liberal opinions receive roughly equal newspaper print. Is there a problem finding conservative, syndicated columnists? If so, that would be an indictment of your profession.

Except for one notable exception, the Daily Herald is not even doing a good job of faking "fair and balanced" on the editorial page. The exception is the recent desire by your editorial staff to give both the Palestinians and Israelis equal space in presenting their Middle East arguments. I can think of no other prominent social or political issue (ie. Capital punishment, abortion, stem cells, vouchers, guns, Iraq, global warming, impeachment) that has ever been presented this way. Is this your attempt

to advance the cause of Palestinian suicide bombers through the use of "moral equivalency"?

Regarding your news reporting, most of your national and international news comes from independent news organizations such as Reuters and the Associated Press. The "journalists" at Reuters have been repeatedly criticized by James Taranto of the WSJ for questionable reporting on the war on terrorism and the Middle East conflict. Here is an example:

"The guys at Reuters even attempt to use Palestinian atrocities against the Jews. A dispatch titled "Israel Rejects U.N. Jenin Probe" is accompanied by a photo showing a body being dragged through the street. There's no caption, so readers would naturally assume the photo is from Jenin, but in fact it is from Hebron, and it depicts an Arab "collaborator" who was lynched by his fellow Arabs."

Why should I trust anything that comes out of an organization with quality controls like that?

What news is fit to print is another potential concern. On Friday, September 6, the Tribune ran a front-page story about the Senate Judiciary Committee's "borking" of judge Priscella Owen. They also noted that forty of Bush's nominees have yet to get a hearing before the committee. This article was followed by a Sunday editorial on the same subject written by a Northwestern professor. I found it curious that the Herald did not run this story anywhere in the paper on Friday.

Finally, I would assume that the Daily Herald would agree that an informed voter is important to the success of our democratic republic. Maybe the Daily Herald could occasionally highlight the votes of local congressmen and state legislators or provide references to Internet resources where the information is available.



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TAPROOT's Next Breakfast Meeting Saturday, April 19, 2003

Dan Proft will talk about
The Illinois Leader and
the Illinois Center Right Coalition

Special Feature: Don Smith on the US Constitution

8:00 am, the talk starts at 8:30 am
Old Country Buffet, 551 East Roosevelt Rd., Lombard (630-916-8808),
in the High Point Shopping Center, south side of Roosevelt Rd.,
about 5 stop-lights west of Route 83.

TAPROOT Trumpet

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____ PHONES: HOME _____ WORK _____

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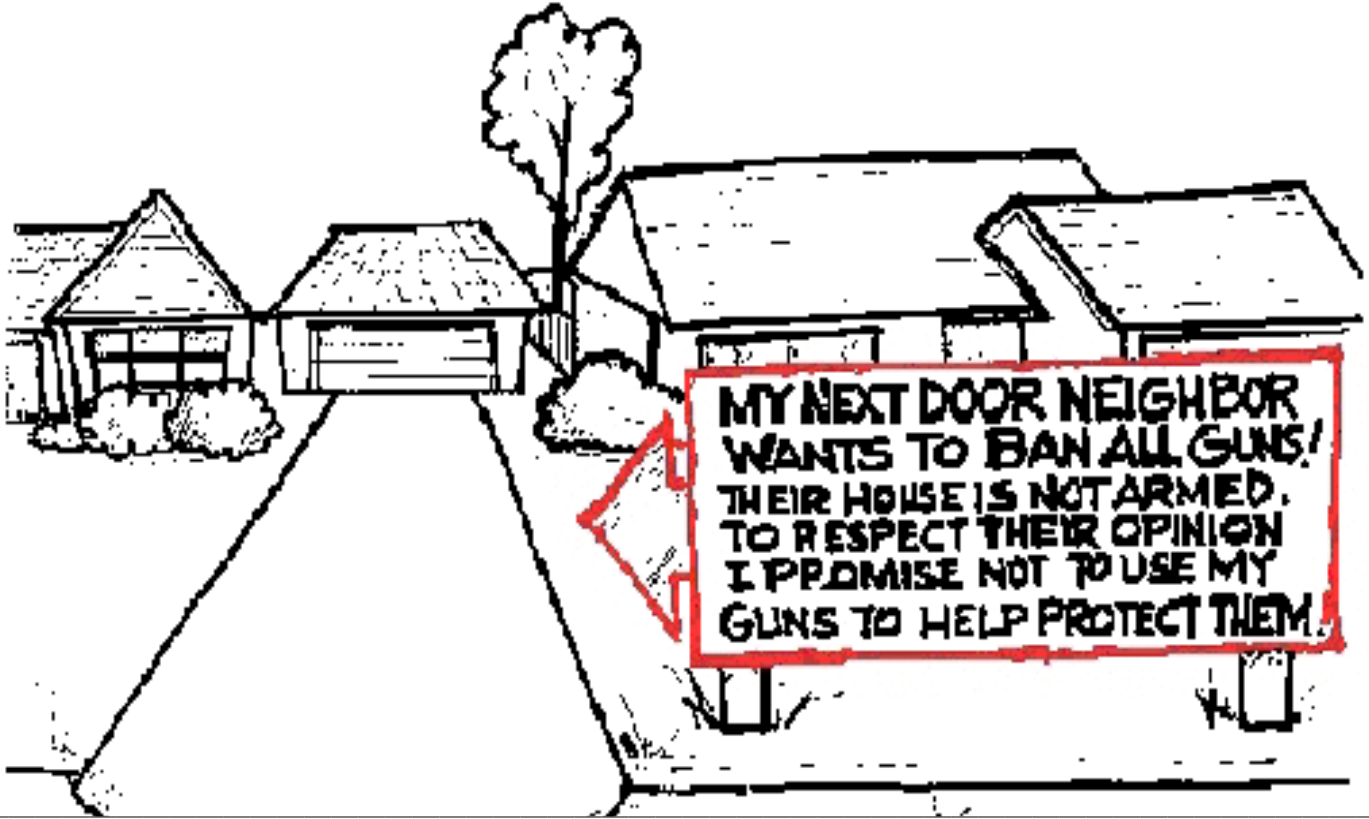
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Yearly membership in TAPROOT is \$20. Enclosed is my application for membership with \$20 ____.
Enclosed is a donation of \$500__ \$100__ \$50__ \$25__ \$15__ \$10__ for the expenses incurred by
TAPROOT's many activities. The donation entitles you to an annual subscription to the *Trumpet*. Make
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Traditions And Principles Republicans Often Overlook Today