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**Democrats Can't Win**

**By Ed Howes**

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The only chance they had from the beginning of this campaign to win the 2004 presidential election has been to advance their best candidate and hope that the President beat himself. This is a fifty-fifty bet at any given time. Instead, they chose an anybody but Bush strategy that proclaims they don't care how qualified their candidate is, or how capable. They want to win a popularity contest. They want to nominate a candidate they hope will take votes from the President.

This cockeyed strategy will also lose them majorities in the House and Senate for many elections to come. They have told the American people they are not for anything. They are simply against what is. They have done this down to the grassroots and we hear it in the comments of ordinary Democratic voters. America will now tell them if they do not care what is best for America, which is not anyone but Bush, they have no business in government.

They had a front running candidate nobody really knew. They liked the things he said. When he slipped from number one to number three in Iowa and then embarrassed them, they went looking for a new front runner – another one that nobody knows. Democrats prefer to elect strangers and hope things work out. They do not have a clue what is going on.

Every Democratic candidate who says he can beat George Bush is lying and knows it. Only George Bush can beat George Bush as Al Gore beat Al Gore in the 2000 election. He conceded it before the election was over and showed America that the Democrats would support a quitter, if they thought he could win an election. The lesson has not been lost on the rest of America. To further demonstrate their loyalty to a quitter, the Democrats then claimed he was robbed by a partisan court decision. Fact is, Al Gore lost the election when he admitted the fact to George Bush on the telephone and not when the court made it official. So when the Democrats say they will have anybody but George Bush, we can take them at their word. Anybody will do for them. The rest of us can be more discriminating.

I personally resonate with Dennis Kucinich. Both the party and the major media have written him off as an also ran. Democrats want instant gratification and to win at any cost, they won't support Dennis now and bring him back in 2008. They want Hillary Clinton then and she will lose too. I doubt the Democrats

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will ever be in power at the national level again.

Dennis' plan for disengagement in Iraq is the best I have seen proposed. The only one that would restore credibility to the United States and accomplish what should have been intended from the beginning.

Other candidates assure us they will never get us into another mess like this one, as though such things are only decided by presidents. They are not. But Dennis says we can create a Department of Peace to provide some balance to the war mongers in Congress and the Department of Defense. Democrats don't care about a Department of Peace and they make no attempt to hide the fact.

Dennis knows that multi-lateral trade agreements have served corporate monopolies at the expense of international labor. There is probably already sufficient support in Congress to reverse the multi-lateral trade policies but no presidential leadership in the next five years to promote the idea, save Dennis. Let's just see how much worse things can get for five years and then we will talk about it. Democrats, excepting the likes of Dick Gephardt, couldn't care less and make no attempt to hide the fact. Democrats just want to know what lies Americans will buy this election. If we are fed up with deceit, the Democrats only offer more of the same.

I could quibble with Dennis' socialism as pertains to educating 3 year olds at public expense and universal government health care, but not much. Parenting skills have become a thing of the past and economic need forces most adults into the work force, making hundreds of thousands of new latch key children, every year. Better they should be in government paid care than home alone.

Because American health care is a fraud, I don't care about making it universal. It would be nice to see some kind of check on the disease management profiteers in the insurance, drug, and medical supply and hospital industries. His single payer system could do all that if he could find sufficient Congressional support, which I doubt. I'd like to see him get a shot at it. He is the only Democratic candidate who shows great wisdom and that alone makes him an also ran in the Democratic mind. For sure, it makes him something other than a Democrat. Since the Democrats have no respect for wisdom, why should the rest of America give them a say in anything? We all know the answer. They are looking for the most convincing liar and he will be the nominee for President, like Bill Clinton was. That is what they wish they had now, a winning liar.

Some candidates are saying they will support whichever one of them is chosen nominee. In other words, if it isn't me, any Democrat will do. The short sighted infection runs from the bottom to the top of the party. Until that changes we will have one party government. Unless, of course, we have a serious movement in this country to let in the minor parties, by supporting the best candidates regardless of their perceived chances of winning.

It is way past time for Americans to vote their conscience and to stop trying to pick winners that want to keep us in the Twentieth Century. Actually, since all Democratic and Republican votes are wasted votes this year, now is the time to vote for third party candidates. That is the only way to make any votes count this year. Two party voters only elect losers, making losers of us all.

Freelance writer published on many websites and in  
newspapers.edhowes@hotmail.comjustanotherview.com

**Why Democrats Lose Elections: They aren't dumb. They're asleep.**

**By Kenn Gividen**

**Why Democrats Lose Elections: They aren't dumb. They're asleep. by Kenn Gividen**

Give the GOP credit. Unlike the Democrats — whose collective IQ seems to register somewhere between a '58 Buick and box of rocks — the Republicans are astutely aware of their political surroundings. That's why they win and Democrats don't.

In reality, the Democrats aren't dumb.

Anyone who was privileged to bask in the presence of former Gov. Joe Kernan know him as a passionate leader who truly cared for Hoosiers. The sharp mind of former Democratic Party State Chair Kip Tew was an asset to the party. And former Lt. Kathy Gov. Davis was bright, witty, and personable. In short, they were a class act.

No, the Democrats aren't dumb. They're asleep.

The GOP, by contrast, paid close attention to the elections in 2003 when Libertarian Greg Dixon took nearly 15 percent of the vote in his bid for Indianapolis City Council. That put a sizeable ding in the confidence of his Republican challenger. More bothersome was the fact that Libertarians proved they could plan and execute an effective campaign. The GOP took note. The Democrats snoozed.

That same year the Libertarians' candidate for mayor in Carmel snatched nearly 25 percent of the vote from the Republican incumbent. That was no small task, considering Hamilton County is a bastion of Republicanism. In nearby Noblesville, the GOP saw over 40 percent of its vote go to Libertarians in two of their City Council races. In Wayne County, Susan Bell flat out squashed her Republican opponent and became the Hoosier state's first Libertarian judge. All told, twelve Libertarians are holding office across the state.

To the ears of Republicans, the above has the ring of an alarm clock. To the Democrats it's a lullaby.

Simply said, the GOP gets it. Indiana has three political parties. They are vulnerable. In 2004 they responded accordingly and won.

The Democrats don't get it. One would think the party of Birch Bayh would have the good sense to exploit the Republicans' soft spot. Exploit it? They don't even seem to know it exists.

Consider, for example, the GOP's gubernatorial primary in May of 2004. Eric Miller, a pro-life, sun-tanned poster child for the religious right, challenged the man who would ultimately become the next governor. The Republican Party was divided. To thinking folks, that translated into vulnerability.

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To the Democrats — who are not thinking folks — it meant nothing.

While Democrats had no chance of snatching Miller's followers, they did have a wide-open opportunity to send them to the Libertarian. It would have taken only 8 percent of Miller's supporters to tilt the election in favor of Democrat Joe Kernan. But the Democrats did nothing. Snore.

The Republicans, meanwhile, did plenty.

For starters, a here-to-fore unknown PAC dumped a ton of cold cash into a direct mail campaign. The target was Joe Kernan. The benefactor was the Libertarian challenger. The result? Kernan lost votes. Those were votes the Republicans would never have captured. Nice play.

What's more, the Republicans kept close tabs on their Libertarian opponent. Stuffing his Web site with e-mail addresses, the GOP received the Libertarian's weekly updates. Any appeal to Miller supporters was noted and challenged. The risk of losing Miller votes was a chance they would not take. Another nice play.

The Democrats, meanwhile, were sound asleep. One Miller supporter went so far as to personally appeal to the Democrats for support. A win by Daniels, he knew, would keep Miller from running in the next election. The election returns proved the Republicans right and the Democrats to be snoozing.

Another case in point was the defeat of Democratic Congressman Baron Hill by Republican Mike Sodrel. The margin of victory was less than 2,000 votes. The Libertarian challenger garnered 4,698 votes. Had the Democrats offered the Libertarian candidate even a modest amount of support, the election would have likely tilted toward the Democrat.

The groggy-eyed Democrats, meanwhile, are outside looking in, clueless as to what happened. But who knows? Maybe between now and 2006 they'll wake up.

Kenn Gividen Chair of the Libertarian Party of Bartholomew County (Columbus), coordinator of the Writers' Bureau and 2004 gubernatorial candidate.



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