

Covering both sides of the fence, conservative and liberal

This weekly column will run through until the end of the semester. It features a conservative column and a liberal column on one topic. The conservative column comes from a member of the College Republicans. The liberal column will feature writers from College Democrats. The opinions expressed do not represent those of The Pendulum staff.

Dean alienates Middle America

Luke Wake
Columnist

If the Democratic Party was looking for a wise leader who could guide them in their efforts to win back moderate Americans then Howard Dean was a completely absurd and poor choice. If the Democratic Party was not concerned with appealing to moderate Americans then they are even more foolish than even I give them credit for, because unless they can prove to America that they are not radical socialists they'll never win middle America.



Luke Wake

When the biggest names the Democrats can conjure are that of Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, John Kerry, Al Sharpton and Howard Dean, the party cannot deny nor disguise its far left leaning. The party cannot win and will never win the South or the Midwest if it continues in its current northern elitist and socialist mindset. Howard Dean certainly is not the man to break the party away from this extremist ideology, for he is leading the extreme socialist movement in the United States.

Howard Dean believes in three principles: tax the working class more, tax the upper class more and then raise taxes again. These guiding principles have historically been very effective in winning the vote of Americans who like taxes and frivolous social spending. Unfortunately for Democrats, most Americans have enough common sense to see that these social programs, such as Dean's universal healthcare plan, and the tax hikes they represent are not acceptable. Greater social programs represent more government control over our lives, more government bureaucracy to waste our money and inferior services when we destroy the private sector, as Dean's healthcare plan would.

It is, however, not Dean's advocacy of wasteful social programs which turns most Americans away from him and his ideology, but rather it is the social values, or lack thereof, which he represents. The 2004 election of, which he represents, the Democrats struck out with because the party has chosen to align themselves with an anti-religious ideology, which alienates religious Americans. These Americans cannot in good

conscience vote for politicians who would violate the sacred institution of marriage by supporting gay marriage or who would disrespect life by supporting abortion. Therefore the Democrats, if they intend to win the religious vote, must come back to the center on these issues and appointing Dean, as head of the party was another step in the wrong direction.

Dean quite simply is not the man who will bring the party back to the center; the Democrats needed to appoint someone like Joe Lieberman or Dick Gephardt if they want to appeal to middle of the road Americans. The "red states," will remain as such until Jimmy Carter type Democrats bring the party back to the center but with Howard Dean you can expect the Democrats to continue alienating Americans as they move further left under Dean's socialist, valueless, ideological leadership.

Dean supporters will likely accredit him with any rebound the party makes in the next elections but the midterm elections in 2006 will not be an accurate indicator of Dean's success. Most likely Democrats will pick up seats in Congress in the midterm election but with Dean's leadership you can expect another loss for the Democrats in 2008's presidential election. The Democrats will lose even more support under Dean's leadership for his appointment as party leader will inevitably steer the party further left and common sense Americans will not follow Dean blindly to his dream of a socialist America. So long as the party embraces and caters to the Michael Moores of America the party will never win the support of moderate America.

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Dean given chance to redeem

Brendan Gleason
Columnist

Former Governor Howard Dean was elected Chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) recently, creating a wave of energy throughout the Democratic Party and sparking debate across the country. Is Dean the right man for the job? Is he too liberal? Will he drive the party so far to the left, dividing America even more? Will he yell like he did before? Everyone, even Democrats, were asking these questions. The Democratic Party



Brendan Gleason

lost badly on November 2, not only the White House, but in both houses of Congress. Democrats have their backs up against the wall, they need someone who could raise money better than anyone else, they needed someone energetic, and they needed someone who was a fighter. They chose Howard Dean and no one could have been a better choice.

I had the honor and privilege to work for Dean in his campaign for America a year ago. I was a supporter of his campaign long before that, and still think he would have made a great president. I witnessed first hand the people he influenced, energized and gave hope. He changed the way campaigns were run, and raised money not from big corporations, but from millions of small donors across the country. The campaign was about you and me and millions of others across the campaign. That's the man that Howard Dean is, and will continue to be as the leader of the Democratic Party.

After his campaign for America, Dean founded Democracy for America. The purpose, to raise awareness and money for local and state level Democrats who deserve the chance to make the decisions for their community, a true grassroots campaign. He raised thousands of dollars from across the country for supervisors, state auditors and county commissioners through the Internet and fundraising methods. Local officials have the biggest impact on our daily lives. If you want change in this country you have to start at the bottom and work your way up to the top. That's what Dean's campaign was about, that's what his organization is about, and that's what he will do as the chairman of the DNC. He will rebuild the party and the country from the bottom up.

Everyone remembers Dean's scream following the Iowa Caucus, attempting to rally his supporters after a crippling third place finish that evening. It was played over and over again by news stations across the country and gave material for a week to late night comedians. But what most of America missed in that campaign, was everything leading up to that, the fundraising, the thousands of people who had rallied behind someone whom was passionate, energetic, and most of all, honest. Dean was a candidate that told you how it was, and never backed down from that. The media and other politicians painted Dean as this liberal anti-war crazy man. The only thing true about that was that he was anti-war. He was against the Iraq invasion long before it was popular or even acceptable to be against the war. He foresaw the problems and consequence of the war before there was even the slightest hint of problems. He was painted as a liberal, except he was more financially conservative than the current president. He balanced the state budget every year while he was governor, despite being from one of the only states that doesn't constitutionally require a balance budget.

The American people like a fighter. They like a politician who can't be bought and can stand up against even the greatest odds. Dean's chance got cut short and now he has another chance to show the American people that he has what it takes to lead, he has what it takes to change the country and the world for the best. Dean was the right person, without a doubt.

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