

Dems need to take a stand

As a citizen of admittedly progressive inclinations, I am confident that I'm representative of a growing and energized wing of what once was called "the party of the people." We aren't leftist radicals, socialists or any of the other stereotypical caricatures used by Fox News or Chris Matthews to marginalize patriotic opposition.

What we want, in fact, is what most Americans want: an end to this God-awful war, affordable and universal health insurance, a reasonable expectation of being able to send our kids to college, a tax policy that promotes a thriving middle class and protects the poor and the preservation of the Bill of Rights, to name a few.

Which is why we are fed up with a Democratic Party that refuses to take a stand. One cannot partake of the nightly news offerings without being informed that Hillary Clinton is the odds-on favorite to win the party's presidential nomination in 2008. The emphasis is always the same: She's tough, smart, politically astute and well-connected in the power-brokering inner sanctum of the Democratic National Committee.

Virtually absent in these expert assessments is any mention of where she stands on important issues of the day. (Sorry, Hillary, but flag-burning doesn't count.) What we *do* know is that, against a background of an illegal and immoral war (which she voted to support), a tax system that is creating a two-class society and national deficits that our grandchildren will be asked to pay, Hillary's moistened finger is reliably held aloft to see which way the wind is blowing.

Here's a news flash for Sens. Clinton, Biden, Lieberman, Kerry and the rest of the Democratic champions of equivocation: We already have a Republican Party. If you folks think you can win with your Bush-lite brand of leadership, which avoids the necessity of actually standing for something, good luck. You'll be doing it without the support of the vast majority of progressive Democrats, the ones who knock on doors, make the phone calls and stuff the envelopes. The ones who are tired of losing for nothing.

Tom Liston

Stow