

# ROLL CALL



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## ON THE SPOT



Tom Williams/Roll Call

Kuzo, a cheetah from the Columbus Zoo, visits Capitol Hill on Wednesday to raise awareness of the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, which would protect endangered feline and canine species.

## Gay Rights Bill Stalls in House

By Steven T. Dennis  
ROLL CALL STAFF

Democrats delayed moving forward with landmark gay rights legislation on Wednesday amid a continuing dispute within their Caucus over the exclusion of workplace protections for transgendered people.

The bill, which faces a veto threat, would protect workers from workplace discrimination due to their sexual orientation, although there

are exclusions for religious institutions and the military.

House Education and Labor Chairman George Miller (D-Calif.) said on Wednesday he has told advocates for transgender rights that it would not be in their interests to bring an amendment to the bill because it would be defeated handily.

"A weak vote doesn't advance the cause at all and right now it's a pre-

sexual orientation, although there  
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## Republicans Hit Counsel Choice

By Jennifer Yachnin  
ROLL CALL STAFF

Citing concerns over the selection of the House's newest top legal officer, Republicans asserted Wednesday they were shut out of the selection process, a claim Democrats dismissed as simply untrue.

The dispute centers on newly appointed House General Counsel Irvin Nathan, known on Capitol Hill

most recently for serving as senior counsel for the House Judiciary Committee's investigation of the fired U.S. attorneys scandal. Nathan, at that time a senior partner at the firm Arnold & Porter, worked on a contract basis.

House Republicans, who asserted they were not included in the selection process, openly questioned

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## Aide Mixes Business, Politics

By Paul Singer  
ROLL CALL STAFF

Phil Scaglia wears a lot of hats. Scaglia, the top-paid staffer in the office of Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.), serves as de facto chief of staff for the Congressman, as well as Cleaver's campaign manager, using

his own consulting firm to do printing, fundraising and events for the campaign.

As previously reported in Roll Call, Scaglia also maintains a lobbying business in the state. Cleaver's campaign rents office space in Kansas City from a firm that Scaglia

represents as a lobbyist.

According to Federal Election Commission reports, on Oct. 12, 2006, the Cleaver campaign paid Powerful Performance Solutions (owned by Scaglia) \$8,850 for printing services; paid UGA LLC (a  
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By Emily Heil  
and Anna Palmer  
ROLL CALL STAFF

**D**og Bites Man. On Tuesday, HOH brought you the tale of how Sen. Max Baucus banned a lobbyist from his office for stealthily hiring away one of his top staffers. Now, we offer another reason lobbyists might not want to cross the Montana Democrat: the snarling, snapping jaws of the attack dog he keeps around the office. OK, so the Senator's dog, an adorable bichon frisé named Isaac, isn't exactly a Cujo-esque intimidating beast. And technically, the dog belongs to the Senator's wife, Wanda.

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## Illinois House Primary Worries Democrats

By Matthew Murray  
ROLL CALL STAFF

GLENVIEW, Ill. — It's enough to keep Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Chris Van Hollen (Md.) awake at night: two well-funded Democratic candidates squaring off for the

chance to take on a vulnerable GOP incumbent next year — and fracturing a crucial Democratic voting bloc in the process.

Welcome to Chicago's North Shore.

Speaking on Sunday at a residence in the Windy City's affluent

northern suburbs, business consultant Dan Seals (D) hit all the predictable high notes to the crowded room of well-dressed supporters, who sipped white wine and picked at serving trays held by uniformed waiters. President Bush is bad and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), the four-

term incumbent, has only made matters worse.

"This has been one of the most arrogant, incompetent and divisive administrations I can think of," Seals told the crowd. "All I'm saying is when we say goodbye to them in 465

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## Bill Tackles Public Corruption

By Tory Newmyer  
ROLL CALL STAFF

Lawmakers could soon be handing the Justice Department new ammunition in its fight against Congressional corruption.

The Senate Judiciary Committee today will mark up a bill that will give federal prosecutors more time and resources to uncover wrongdoing by lawmakers while toughening anti-corruption laws already on the books. The measure, co-sponsored by Ju-

diciary Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), would authorize pumping an additional \$100 million into corruption investigations and prosecutions over the next four years.

And it would give federal investigators more time to track down bribery, honest services fraud and extortion by extending the statute of limitations on those crimes from five to six years. The bill also would clean up am-

biguities in the law — opened by recent court decisions — by clarifying what constitutes an illegal gratuity and broadening the definition of an "official act."

After cheering the passage of a lobbying and ethics overhaul earlier this year, reform advocates on and off Capitol Hill are now turning their attention to issues of enforcement.

Leahy introduced a pared-down version of his bill in early January  
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# Artists Hope for Plenty of Halloween Larry Craigs

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But it did do some damage to a lobbyist who dropped by the Senator's office last week, HOH hears. The frisky pup, who is known for being protective of his caretaker, bit into the pants leg of the visiting lobbyist's suit, tearing it and growling menacingly, a tipster tells HOH. No lasting damage was done: The suit pants were whisked away to the tailor for repair and the lobbyist's leg remained mercifully un-nibbled-on. Staffers and the lobbyist laughed it off, we're told.

Isaac might not have the stardom of other Congressional pooches, like **Splash** and **Sunny**, the Portuguese water dogs belonging to **Sen. Edward Kennedy** (D-Mass.), but he has at least one previous newspaper clipping to his name. He was cited in a 2003 item in The Washington Post's Reliable Source section in which a reporter interviewing the Baucus did so over Isaac's yapping. And he has developed a reputation for being a fierce guard dog (albeit an unlikely one) around the Senate, where he occasionally visits.

**Your Money's No Good Here.** No savvy political candidate would fathom accepting money from **Jack Abramoff**. And at least one GOP contender also is running away from bucks that might have a whiff of the uber-lobbyist-turned-convicted-felon, giving back donations from even an unindicted Abramoff associate. After first enlisting Cassidy & Associates lobbyist **Todd Boulanger** to help fundraise for former New York Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, the campaign got cold feet about accepting Boulanger's \$1,000 personal donation because of his Abramoff connection, says Giuliani spokeswoman **Maria Comella**. Boulanger worked with Abramoff at two lobby firms before Abramoff was indicted. Boulanger was miffed by the slight. "After learning of the heightened sensitivities by the Giuliani campaign about my donations for reasons I believe to be irrelevant and unfair, I asked for them to return my contributions so that I could help with other races," Boulanger said. Boulanger, who hasn't been indicted for any activities with Abramoff, had his campaign donation returned in August, according to Giuliani's third-quarter financial filings. Rejected donation aside, the incident doesn't mean he's throwing his support behind another candidate. "Regardless of this matter, I still think the mayor is the best man for the job," Boulanger said.

**Costume or Art?** Doesn't Matter. Plenty of Washington types planning to use the handy,



CODEPINK activist **Desiree Ali-Fairooz** tried to approach Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice** with fake blood on her hands during a Wednesday hearing on the Hill.

## POINTEDLY GREEN



**Adam Gardner**, a member of the band **Guster** and co-founder of **Reverb**, talks with Reps. **Ed Markey** and **Stephanie Herseth Sandlin** after they drove to the East Front in a biofuel-powered Jeep on Wednesday. **Reverb** helps bands "green" their tours.

Bill Clark/Roll Call

downloadable Halloween mask featuring the visage of **Sen. Larry Craig** (R-Idaho) aren't seeing the mask for what it is supposed to be — thought-provoking art — and that suits its two creators just fine. **Scott Marshall**, a New York-based artist and graphic designer who sketched the portrait of Craig (available at [www.ep.tc/larrycraigmask/](http://www.ep.tc/larrycraigmask/)) tells HOH that the project, which was a joint production between himself and art-school pal **Ethan Persoff**, is in part a commentary on what they see as the Senator's hypocrisy and Craig's ability to "mask" his own identity. And Marshall's analysis of the mug-shot photo of Craig on which he based his sketch — which DIYers can affix to a paper bag for an instacostume — is pretty deep stuff, too. "He has a very complex expression ... there's tension in the muscles around his mouth," he tells HOH. Compared to other photos of Craig before and since, "there is a contrast to all the other facades he's worn," Marshall says,

though admittedly he lost us when he started using words like "miasma" to describe his artistic vision.

Washington revelers looking for a last-minute costume or to save themselves a trip to the costume store might not see the artistic worth, but that's perfectly OK with Marshall and Persoff. "It still works for us," Marshall says.

Persoff also gives props to Craig himself for staying in the news — by giving TV interviews and refusing to bow out of public life — long enough to finish the project. "I was nervous, because we thought of this in early October, but [Craig] just kept putting air in the fire," he tells HOH.

**Beyond the Pink.** Apparently they're not content to just hold placards and shout during hearings anymore, and it's no more Mrs. Nice-ish Gals anymore for anti-war group **CODEPINK**. **CODEPINK**ers upped the ante Wednesday at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing when one of them attempted to rush Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**. Protester **Desiree Ali-Fairooz**, whose hands were covered in red goo, screamed, "war criminal!" and got within a foot of Rice before being pulled out of the room by Capitol Police. The near-assault prompted Chairman **Tom Lantos** (D-Calif.) to demand that the women in pink be removed from the room. They didn't go quietly — five were arrested, with Ali-Fairooz getting charged with not only the usual charge of disorderly conduct (a ho-hum for the frequently cuffed ladies) but for serious charges of defacing government property and (gulp) assaulting a federal officer.

**CODEPINK** spokeswoman **Dana Balacki** insists that her compatriot never intended to actually touch Rice, just make the point that the group feels Rice has blood on her hands. Still, she acknowledges that the group is turning to more dramatic tactics than ever before.

"I think at this point there are some bolder actions," Balacki said of Ali-Fairooz's stunt. "We feel like there was an understanding with

a lot of the Capitol Police, chairs of various committees, but some of that has gone out the window." The rules haven't changed, according to Capitol Police spokeswoman Sgt. **Kimberly Schneider**. "If you break the law you'll be charged accordingly," she tells HOH.

**Yippy-ki-yay.** **Andy Taylor**, who covers the budget for The Associated Press, and his wife, **Rebecca Taylor**, who writes for *CQ Weekly*, are the proud parents of a new baby boy. The newest addition to the newsy clan, **John McClane Taylor**, was born Wednesday morning and is the couple's second child. In typically spare, to-the-point AP fashion, Taylor sent this

*'I think at this point there are some bolder actions. We feel like there was an understanding with a lot of the Capitol Police, chairs of ... committees, but some of that has gone out the window.'*

**Dana Balacki**  
Spokeswoman, CODEPINK

report to friends: "Mother and son doing well. Tell the world."

Though it seems likely that little John might someday go into journalism, given that ink's practically coursing through his veins, he might take after another John McClane, the **Bruce Willis** character in the *Die Hard* franchise. A New York City cop and terrorist-plot-buster? Way more exciting than covering those budget points of order (sorry, Dad).

**Matthew Murray** contributed to this report.

Please send your hot tips, juicy gossip or comments to [hoh@rollcall.com](mailto:hoh@rollcall.com).