

The party for the Dems

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It's party convention season again for the two major political parties and the Democrats have assembled a cast of characters for their big bash.

To rile the crowd up, Howard Dean will be one of the first to hit the stage, likely doing the best he can to rally the leftist side of the party, while trying not to sound too partisan as to turn off swing voters who may be watching at home.

Also slated to appear today is former president Jimmy Carter. No doubt Carter will probably criticize the Bush administration's foreign policy, conveniently forgetting his own failed foreign policy initiatives.

Former vice-president Al Gore will also speak. For Kerry's sake, Gore better not go on one of his screams about Bush betraying America. Gore's presence will also bring back resentment from 2000 in the minds of the audience. Gore will probably be sure to mention the 2000 election controversy.

Also to speak will be former president Bill Clinton. Clinton will most likely get the loudest applause from the party faithful, still nostalgic and longing for the days when they were in power.

Introducing Bill will be his wife, Hillary. She will probably be using her remarks as a way to bolster her standing to run in 2008 if the Kerry-Edwards ticket fails to win – something she is likely hoping for.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle is scheduled to speak on Tuesday, likely resulting in a wave of complete boredom moving amongst the crowd.

The Reverend Al Sharpton will no doubt provide the comic relief. I'm hoping that he'll perform an encore presentation of his dancing maneuvers from his earlier appearance on Saturday Night Live.

Teresa Heinz Kerry, the wife of the presumptive nominee, is also scheduled to speak on Tuesday, likely making the crowd fall back asleep.

The lefties will get another chance to cheer when Sen. Ted Kennedy makes his remarks – most likely critical of both the Bush administration's foreign and domestic policies. He might even raise the memory of his brother's presidency to bring back the nostalgia.

Ron Reagan, the liberal son of former president Reagan, will speak on stem-cell research. He will probably exploit his father's memory for political gain by convincing swing voters that his father would be for stem-cell research and consequently against the Bush administration's stance on the

issue. The jury is still out on whether his father would actually have supported stem-cell research given that he had strong pro-life views.

Dennis Kucinich will deliver a speech on Wednesday. Don't expect Kucinich's usual socialist diatribe since the party doesn't want to turn away moderates.

Also on Wednesday, Elizabeth Edwards, wife on the presumptive vice-presidential nominee will speak. No doubt she will praise her husband as she introduces him.

Expect Sen. Edwards to give his usual optimistic message. It is not certain if he will give his usual "Two Americas" speech; it may seem to negative to moderates. He really should spend time explaining to Americans why he is qualified to be second in line to the presidency. That would be interesting to hear.

Thursday, the party wraps up with John Kerry making his usually monotone and dull speech. They should have Sharpton dance behind him to keep the crowd alive.

Some of Kerry's crew mates from Vietnam will also be on hand to cheer him on in an effort to paint him as someone who is deeply attuned to the needs of soldiers and the realities of war.

The only sane speaker during the whole convention will probably be Sen. Joe Lieberman on Thursday. But he'll still probably need Sharpton behind him as well.

But no matter what ends up happening or what people end up saying, you can be sure of one thing: their platform. The platform that today's Democratic Party stands for is more control over people and their property. Sadly there will be many in attendance to cheer on that message.