

**Danforth: I'm still a Republican** (12:55 p.m., Aug. 26)

Contributed by Jo Mannies in St. Louis

Before launching into his outspoken criticisms of his own party, former Sen. John C. Danforth emphasized to listeners Thursday that he hasn't embraced the other side. "I ran six times on the Republican ticket, and held office for 26 years as a Republican officeholder," Danforth told local members of the Log Cabin Republicans, a group for gays and lesbians. "I believe in the Republican Party."

Besides, he added, "I think the Democrats are way off base. They are floundering. They don't know what they are." The only point on which Democrats seem to agree, he added, is that "they hate George Bush." Take, for example, the upcoming Senate confirmation hearings for Bush's Supreme Court nominee, John Roberts. Danforth said that the Democrats are being pushed by activists on the Left to oppose him, but aren't giving strong reasons why. Democrats seem to lack "the guts" to say what they stand for, Danforth added.