



Freedom's

JOURNAL MAGAZINE

The Political Voice of Conservative Reform

A Time of Testing for Black Christians



By the Color of His Skin or the Content of His Character:
How Will We Choose the Next President?

Books With A Christian Worldview

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, is looking down at an open book he is holding. He is standing in a library, with wooden bookshelves filled with books visible in the background. The lighting is warm and focused on the man and his book.

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"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Welcome to Freedom's Journal Magazine (FJM)

Welcome to the fifth issue of Freedom's Journal Magazine. For us, this issue has taken on critical significance as our nation addresses what has, now, become a historic 2008 presidential election. Most importantly, this issue provides a unique opportunity for our contributors and editors to challenge, in particular, the Black Christian community to examine itself to ask, "are we more Black than Christian"? Does the color of Barack Obama's skin trump the content of his character or his policies? Is it more important to have a Black man in office regardless of his policies than a white man whose policies reflect our biblical worldview? Do we stand for righteousness; or have we conformed to the world in an effort to exalt racial pride over Christian principles? Have we truly crucified our flesh so that we no longer live for the flesh (i.e. our Blackness?), or do we see the world through the bloodstained lenses of Christ who calls us to take up our cross and follow Him? Or, are we still wearing the old man who finds himself separated from his fellow believer because of the respective color of one's skin. Once again, the question remains, "are we more Black than Christian"?

A few weeks ago, I was asked about Barack Obama's chances of becoming the first African American president. I said his chances look pretty good, but he won't get my vote. This of course, now, made the conversation very interesting. You see my friend thought that because I am Black, and he is too, I would (like so many) follow after the Pied Piper in his historic attempt at becoming the first of our race to be president. He said to me, "so you're going to be on the wrong side of history?" I must admit I was not ready for the "wrong side of history" ploy. Of course everyone wants to be apart of history, right? It doesn't matter his policies, his character, his background—we just want to be part of making history.

It reminded me of the time when Obama was on the "wrong side of history." In 2006, the first Black Lt Governor of Md., Michael Steele was running for an open US Senate seat. His opponent Ben Cardin (a white democrat) was, at the time, a member of the US House of Representatives.

This race had historic significance. Michael Steele, if elected, would have become the first African American elected to the US Senate in Maryland; and only the fourth Black Republican in history, the second since reconstruction. But the junior Senator from Illinois went to Maryland to campaign for Ben Cardin and told the students at Bowie State College, a pre-

dominately Black college, "You don't vote for somebody because of what they look like. You vote for somebody because of what they stand for." ([click here](#))

I couldn't have said it better. For once, Barack and I are in agreement. We should never base our vote solely on what someone looks like. Issues, character and qualifications are primary. History is a secondary issue. As a matter of fact, I know someone else who probably agreed with Barack on this point. I believe he said his dream included the hope that future generations would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." I guess Dr. King agrees with Barack Obama, or should I say Barack agrees with Dr. King? I suppose, by these standards, Dr. King would have been on the wrong side of history, too. Undoubtedly, I'm sure Dr. King' top priority would have been to know, with certainty, where Obama stands on the issues; and more importantly, that his Christian convictions would have caused him to stand for righteousness, rather than on unsubstantiated promises of 'change'.

Policies matter. And the key factors of where our next president stands on education; marriage; the economy; foreign policy (which we closely exam in this issue) -- will all determine the future of our society and our country. Therefore, I ask that you please read this issue with an ear for what is ultimately at stake. As a believer, it is more important to me to know where a person stands on the issues. And I believe our responsibility as Christians is to advocate for righteousness, not racial pride. We are called (among other things) to take our stand to protect innocent life, to defend the sanctity of marriage, and promote the best education policies for our children and our children's children.

Interestingly, one person in response to the question "are we more Black than Christian?" replied emphatically that she was "born Black". My response was if you claim to be born again, which birth really means the most to you? Where does your allegiance lie? [For those who are unsure, please reread Mark 8:33-38, Galatians 2:20-21, and Romans 6].

Finally, in the words of one of the great history makers, Elijah the prophet (in 1 Kings 18:21 as he challenged the people atop the summit at Mt Carmel) said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." This is the test for black Christians—the test, which ultimately reveals true Christianity. ■

Eric M. Wallace, PhD
Eric M. Wallace, PhD

What Do Conservatives Believe?

Conservatives hold to a set of core values and principles that are foundational to our political philosophy. They have been dubbed the **L.I.F.T. Principles:**

Limited Government

Citizens deserve a government, which is fiscally responsible. Waste, fraud and duplication in government must be eliminated. Public debt, except for infrastructure, should be avoided. Government budgets should fit within existing revenues. Spending reductions, not tax increases, are the preferred solutions to revenue shortfalls.

Taxation should be restricted to the most minimal levels, and the burden of taxation should be spread as equally as possible among US citizens. Taxation should never be employed for the purposes of redistributing wealth or restricting productivity, economic growth, or savings.

Government policy should encourage self-sufficiency and promote the work ethic among citizens. Public funds should not be used to support persons who are capable, albeit unwilling, to provide for their own needs. Government welfare programs for the needy should strive to enforce the dignity of the individual, strengthen the family

unit, and encourage the individual's potential for self-sufficiency.

Government policy should be constrained by rule of law embodied in the Constitution, which innovatively guarantees our liberties by spreading power among the three branches of the federal government, and between the federal government and the states. Hence each branch of government, including the delineation of power between state and federal, should perform their function as defined by the Constitution. One of the main responsibilities of the federal government is to protect the nation and the American people. This requires a strong and effective military, capable intelligence services, and a vigorous law enforcement and homeland security capacity. It also mandates an effective and proactive foreign policy that looks after American interests in conjunction with our allies yet stands resolute against our enemies.

One of the main responsibilities of the federal government is to protect the nation and the American people.

Individual Liberty and Responsibility

Laws restrict the free exercise of liberty and property. Consequently, no law should be passed unless there is a compelling reason to do so. The proponents of any law should have the burden of proof that passage is necessary.

The rights of an individual should include, but not be limited to, those rights guaranteed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the United States. They should also include those God-given rights of freedom, not specified in any written document, which necessarily exist in a nation where the individual is more important than the state.

Conversely, these rights should not negate the responsibility of the individual's obligation to conduct himself as a responsible and productive member of society. No civilization can succeed and thrive for any duration unless free people act in a responsible way. Each one of us must take responsibility for our actions and endeavor to build a better society and improve our own lives.

All citizens are entitled to security of their persons and property. Government's primary task is the maintenance of law and order to ensure these rights are protected. Accordingly, the system of justice must afford each person access to competent representation and a level playing field to ensure the imperatives of justice can be met.

Free Enterprise

Through free markets individuals and groups form relationships and exercise self-government. The state should only intervene to establish minimum health and safety standards, and encourage competition. When the government does choose to use its power to regulate free people, it should be exceedingly cautious to use the least burdensome method possible.

As individuals have the right to choose in free market systems, they are vested with the responsibility to inform themselves and make choices that best suit their needs. While government should actively enforce fraud statutes, it should not attempt to protect the pub-

lic from what it perceives as poor choices by eliminating those possibilities from the market.

Private property is the cornerstone of a free nation. Therefore, communal needs should override private property rights only in the most convincing circumstances - not merely for the sake of convenience. In those instances when a compelling need does exist, property owners should be justly compensated for their whole loss.

Traditional Values

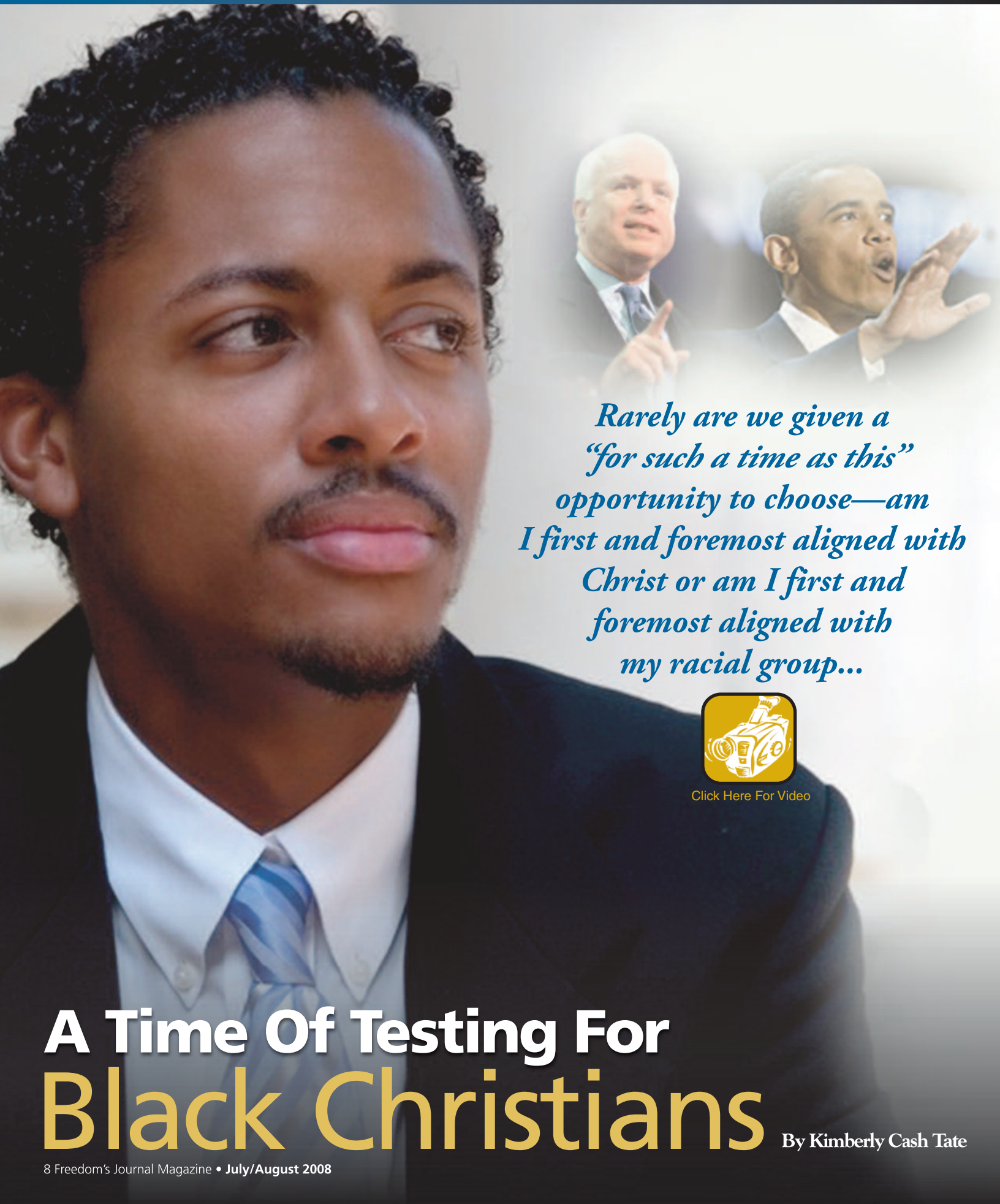
Traditional family values must be preserved and impressed upon each generation. Duty, honor and love of country are some of those values, but equally important are the pursuit of justice and equality before the law.

The family is the foundation of society; therefore, the state should encourage its formation and interfere in its function as little as possible. Family unity and inter-dependency is necessary to foster and encourage culture, learning and long-term national stability. Marriage is intended to be a permanent relationship between one man and one woman and is a foundation for healthy and stable families.

Human life is sacred and inviolable from conception to natural death. Protection for the unborn and elderly, and compassion for the sick and infirm, are essential elements of a culture of life; and necessary for the health of civil society.

The free exercise of religious faith is paramount to the health and well-being of a free society. Government is prohibited in the establishment of any religion, but also prohibited in interfering in the practice thereof. Citizens therefore should be free to worship as they choose without fear of governmental interference, coercion or manipulation. ■

L·I·F·T principles were adapted by Eric Wallace from Dennis LaComb executive director of the United Republican Fund of Illinois and the principles of Conservatism by Fred Thompson.



*Rarely are we given a
“for such a time as this”
opportunity to choose—am
I first and foremost aligned with
Christ or am I first and
foremost aligned with
my racial group...*



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A Time Of Testing For Black Christians

By Kimberly Cash Tate

Rarely do we find ourselves here at this juncture. Rarely are we able to gaze collectively at the dynamic between race and faith. Rarely are we given a “for such a time as this” opportunity to choose—am I first and foremost aligned with Christ or am I first and foremost aligned with my racial group?

But that’s what this election season has accorded us starting with the Barack Obama/Jeremiah Wright episode. Furthermore, I don’t believe we arrived at this place in history by coincidence. I believe God has placed us here; and, He’s watching to see what we will do.

God wants to know where we stand as Black people who profess Christ. Moreover, He wants to show us where we stand. “I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind, even to give each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds” (Jeremiah 17:9-10, NASB). The Lord knows the struggles we’ve had as Black people in this country. He knows of our tendency to stick together. He also knows that as Christians, we can bring about change.

In Christ, we no longer judge others “according to the flesh;” we’re new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:16-17); and, as the redeemed, we have one purpose—to glorify the Lord and advance His kingdom. But this election presents a tantalizing possibility: we could actually cast a vote for the first Black president of the United States. Do we throw our support behind Obama along with the other 90% of Black people? How do we evaluate this election? Do we cast our vote according to the issues important to Blacks or according to the issues important to the Lord? It’s a crucial issue; and, I believe God is looking to see whether the hearts of Black Christians are committed first and foremost to Him. He’s testing us collectively, *again*.

The last time God tested Black Christians on such a large scale was the “Million Man March.” I hear you: “What could have been wrong with Black Christians supporting the Million Man March?” Well, I asked myself the same question at the time. I voiced my support for it to my family and friends, and I didn’t think it was a big deal that Louis Farrakhan was the one leading the call. I didn’t agree with everything Farrakhan stood for (and still

don’t), but he did positive things in and for the Black community—enough said, right? God said, “Wrong.” I was a fairly new Christian, and God used the march to open my eyes to the fact that I was to be steeped in my blackness when I needed to live, move, and have my being in Christ.

Through my pastor, the Lord focused my attention on what the march was really about. While I thought it was just a “Black thing,” it was actually a “spiritual thing.” In his own Final Call newspaper, Farrakhan called it a “Holy Day of Atonement and Reconciliation.” He expressly called Black men to atone to Allah for their failure to head up their homes and community. He quoted the Old and New Testament extensively—out of context—as support for his proposition that Black men needed to be reconciled with one another in order to stand against the oppressors of a racist system.

The entire basis for the march was offensive to Christians who believe that Jesus suffered, bled, and died a dreadful death on the Cross to pay for their sins—to save us from ourselves—that was our atonement. But Farrakhan didn’t believe in that; he wanted these men to atone to Allah. He wanted them to atone for sins they couldn’t pay for. Only Jesus, the sinless one, was able to do that and He had paid the price long ago. On top of that, the purpose of the atonement was to stand against the oppressors rather than a true reconciliation steeped in the love and forgiveness of Christ.

My pastor called us to be “more Christian than Afro-American,” a statement which became the inspiration for a book about my spiritual journey published in 1999 titled, *More Christian than African-American*. Seeing the world through the eyes of Christ rather than the eyes of my blackness was a life-changing experience for me. After that pivotal time in 1995, the Lord kept

“I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind, even to give each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds” (Jeremiah 17:9-10, NASB).

renewing my mind as to who I am in Christ. In ten-plus years I've faced many issues at the intersection of race and Christianity, but this election season is unlike anything I've ever seen or experienced before.

As the Jeremiah Wright video surfaced, I looked to see how Black Christians would respond. I saw Black ministers holding press conferences to defend Reverend Wright on the basis of "Black tradition" even though Jesus chastised religious leaders for upholding tradition above the commands of God. When Wright appeared before the National Press Club hailing Louis Farrakhan as one of the greatest voices in the 20th and 21st centuries, and suggested that Muslims could be saved without believing in Jesus Christ, I wondered, "What will happen next—this is blasphemy." I wondered, "Would Black Christians continue to voice support for him?"

Interestingly, Obama himself criticized his pastor, saying he obviously didn't care about him or his campaign. Afterwards, Black ministers issued a statement that made it clear they were standing with Obama. Wright wasn't dismissed because of what He did to the cause of *Christ*; rather, he was dismissed for what He did to the cause of *Obama's campaign*.

Since that time, we've seen that Obama is openly seeking the support of the evangelical church. However, he's made clear where he stands on issues of paramount importance to the church. In an April 2008 interview with *The Advocate*, a gay magazine, he called traditional interpretations of scripture related to homosexuality as "homophobic." During a campaign stop, he reiterated that gay civil unions should be a legal right recognized by the state, saying that the Sermon on the Mount was "more central" to the issue than "an obscure passage in Romans." Christians who study their Bibles know that obscure passage is actually found in the first chapter of the Book of Romans, where homosexuality is squarely addressed—and condemned—while homosexuality is not addressed at all in the Sermon on the Mount. True to his beliefs, Obama has promised to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act if elected.

As if that isn't enough, Senator Obama's position on abortion is the most troubling. While in the Illinois Senate he did not support the Infant Born Alive Protection Act, which would have protected babies "mistakenly" born during an abortion procedure. In other words, his position gave doctors per-

mission to kill the baby outside of the womb. Further, when the Supreme Court banned partial birth abortion in 2007, a hideous procedure in which a late-term baby is pulled partway out of the womb his skull punctured and his brains sucked out, Senator Obama issued a statement making it clear that he regretted that decision. Again, in line with his views, Obama has promised that, if elected President, his first order of business would be to enact the Freedom of Choice Act; a law that will reportedly obliterate state laws that put restrictions on abortion from parental notification to partial birth.

Some in the Christian community seek to push these issues aside as passé, favoring other issues embraced by the Democratic Party such as help for the poor, education, and health care. But God, in His Word, makes clear that life is of utmost importance to Him. He makes it clear, "Thou shalt not kill." He also makes it clear from Genesis to Revelation the importance of marriage. He performed the first marriage ceremony and ordained it as a union between a man and a woman. He used marriage as a metaphor of His relationship with Israel in the Old Testament, and He uses it as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church. Marriage is sacred in God's eyes, as is life. When we seek first His kingdom, He will take care of the rest. What does education or health care or even lack of food matter if one's life has been snuffed out in the womb?

The supreme irony is that abortion is killing Black babies more than any other racial group in America. Two-thirds of Black babies are aborted (approx. 1500) each and every day. Why isn't the Black community crying out about this genocide? Why aren't Black leaders demanding that Obama speak to this issue? Are we so enamored with the possibility of having a Black president that we would forsake such a vital kingdom agenda?

Yes, God is watching us this election season. He's looking to see whether we will put our trust in man or in Him. Although we might think that Obama will bring about the changes we've been waiting for, if he does what he promises, it will only incur the wrath of God.

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“You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.”

— Shirley Chisholm

Feature



Presidential Candidates and the Homosexual Agenda

By John Diggs, MD

**“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh?”
(Genesis 2: 24, NIV)**

As one looks out on the political landscape, we observe a nation bereft of godly leadership. Nowhere is this fact more evident than in the vastly different positions of the two presidential candidates on issues dealing with the family. At the core of this nation's building block is the family in conjunction with notion of government protection. Both presidential candidates have taken positions on the subject of so-called 'same sex marriage' that either don't take the notion of protection seriously or are positively destructive.

Certainly, there have been political efforts to redefine the term 'family' to mean any loose association between consenting adults. However, the 'natural family', as God intended, defies political redefinition and precedes judicial interference.

The natural family consist of man, woman, and the children they produce. In the book of Matthew Jesus said, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female, and said 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.'" (vv. 4-5, NIV) As such, the family is not a political or sociological construct, but a natural structure defined and imbued by natural law. That is to say, family is an institution first endowed by God written on the hearts of man. The "one flesh" definition reflects biological reality and anthropological observation. Marriage, then, is the mating of opposites. Man and woman complement each other physically, spiritually, and in personality.

Every child is the genetic mixture of only one man and only one woman. And each child is a 50/50 mixture of each parent. Even if he or she physically resembles one parent more, 23 chromosomes from each parent contribute to the 46 chromosomes that constitute the makeup of a human being.

Every society throughout recorded history has followed this family pattern. It is not because some cosmic email campaign was sent out centuries ago that persuaded recipients to create families. It is not because the ancients had an understanding of the human genome and the scientific details of reproduction. It is simply because this is the biologic reality and the innate drive of humanity—it's natural law.

As a God-given institution, marriage is good. Soci-

ologists Linda J. Waite and Maggie Gallagher, in their book titled *The Case for Marriage* confirm what your grandmother told you long ago: "Married people have more money, better education, better health, and contrary to popular culture, more frequent and satisfying sex."

One could also argue that Christian marriage is even better because it create an environment for raising godly children. However, the benefits of marriage fall on the just and unjust alike.

"...for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5: 45, NKJV).

But, along comes modern man and his hubris. Having accomplished amazing cataloguing in "The Human Genome Project." Having perfected in vitro fertilization and transplanted organs, we now think ourselves wiser than God. Because we can manipulate the building blocks of life we've come to think of ourselves as the authors of life, even the new reformers of God's institution.

The latest attempt at marital redefinition is "same sex marriage." Unlike polygamy, polyandry (having multiple husbands), or even serial marriages, so-called same sex marriage literally obliterates the concept of marriage. In point of fact, the term "same sex marriage" is an oxymoron, an internal contradiction—an impossibility. It makes about as much sense as saying 'square circle.' Sure, the words 'square' and 'circle' can stand next to each other, but they do not complement each other. Given that marriages form on the basis of biological reality, or natural law, same sex marriage is natural illegitimacy, biological nonsense, dissonance, and fantasy that will ultimately lead to self-destruction.

Most same sex attraction arises out of failed relationship with the same sex parent. Characteristic of persons with these attractions is an inordinate need for affirmation. Currently, the political goal of activists with same-sex attractions is legal marriage. It is not because large numbers of homosexuals want to marry; instead they feel it will give their alternative lifestyle affirmation in society. What they seek to affirm is nothing less than their open rebellion against God. What are they rebelling against?—the knowledge of God as Lord of all.

My question then, is why is anybody entertaining and/or endorsing this nonsense? The answer is found in the book of Romans written by the Apostle Paul.

"19Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20For since the creation

of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:19-21, NKJV).

Promotion of same-sex relationships denies God’s invisible attributes of communion, maleness and femaleness, and His power to design the pinnacle of creation—man—to mate only with opposites. The two become one flesh only through one man and one woman. God, in giving us limited free will, allows this rebellion, with a price:

“26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due” (vv. 26-27)

It is against nature that these actions occur. People engaging in homosexual sex will tell you that they seek affirmation of who they are, and not what they do. Even in 2008, no one has yet to identify any biological or anatomical reason for homosexual practices. Prior to the late twentieth century, persons practicing homosexuality understood that same sex was what they were attracted to, not who they were. The idea of being identified as homosexual was a political calculation designed to take advantage of civil rights laws for persons being discriminated against on the basis of their perceived immutable, unchangeable sexual orientation.

Unlike the notion that homosexuals are “born” that way, many homosexuals have demonstrated remarkable public changeability. For example, Anne Heche, former consort of Ellen Degeneres, married a man. James McGreevey, former governor of New Jersey, married two women, fathered two children, then told the nation that he was ‘gay’ Clearly, homosexual activity is not an immutable, unchangeable characteristic as it would appear, but a chosen activity. Humanity has demonstrated an endless ability to worship the creature rather than the creator, some of it through sexual perversions; homo-sex is just one of many, like pedophilia, necrophilia, and bestiality. People without homosexual inclinations (straight people) support the homosexual movement for two reasons: 1) Misdirected sentimentality; and, 2) to cheer on their own rebellion against God. They seek to justify their premarital and extramarital sexual experiences, and their abortions (denying that God is the author life). In their minds they think, compared to sodomites [homosexuals], “I’m not that bad.” But this too, says the Apostle Paul, is a dangerous mindset.

“Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32, NKJV).

In comparing the presidential candidates, the most important comparison is not between Obama and McCain but between the Word of God and the candidates’ views on this subject.

For the sake of clarity let me set apart my definitions on this matter:

1. Marriage is the God-ordained union of one man with one woman.
2. Family is the union of one man and one woman and the children they sire.
3. Homosexuality is what some people practice, not who they are.

John McCain believes the institution of marriage is a union between one man and one woman. It is only this definition that sufficiently recognizes the vital and unique role played by mothers and fathers in the raising of children, and the role of the family in shaping, stabilizing, and strengthening communities and our nation. “As with most issues vital to the preservation and health of civil society, the basic responsibility for preserving and strengthening the family should reside at the level of government closest to the people.”

Mr. McCain recognizes the centrality of the family in Western society. His definition of family matches that of God. This is a good thing. In the next breath, however, McCain vacates the federal government’s role in protecting this institution he called ‘vital.’

I think there are valid arguments as to whether this is a federal or states rights issue (if one chooses to address the topic in this manner.) Sometimes, it is important for a leader to reaffirm moral truth and self-evident truth even if there is not a specific legislative or executive effort behind it. McCain undermines the power of his moral statement by reframing marriage as a states right issue. If something is true, it is true whether the US Congress or a state legislature is willing to act on it or not.

In an open letter to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community (LGBT) Barack Obama said:

“I’m running for President to build an America that lives up to our founding promise of equality for all – a promise that extends to our gay brothers and sisters. It’s wrong to have millions of Americans living as second-class citizens in this nation. And I ask for your support in this election so that together we can bring about real change for all LGBT Americans.” (see Obama Website)

My issues are this:

First, Mr. Obama erroneously condones lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender as biological realities and immutable characteristics. They are none of these things. As already described, homosexuality is what people practice, not who they are; the decision to behave otherwise is well docu-

mented. Transgender-ism is another fantastic creation; one variation being a female brain trapped inside a male body. A man who has sex reassignment procedures, surgery to implant fake breasts and amputate his genitals, is not suddenly a woman, but a mutilated man. His genes scream 'man!'

Second, Obama claims unethical discrimination. His conclusion belies the studies that find self-described homosexuals with higher income and more formal education than average—theirs is not a second-class lifestyle. Furthermore, discrimination on the basis of behavior is something that each of us legitimately practices on a daily basis. We don't hire drunks to drive our children to school, thieves to run banks, or elect people of poor character to public office (ok, maybe the last one is not a good example). The point is that character is a valid basis for discrimination while immutable, unchangeable characteristics, by and large, are not.

Third, marriage is a union between a man and a woman. People of the same sex can never unify. Can they have sex? Yes. Can they unify?—no—not in the physical, genetic or complementary sense.

Lastly, by his position statement, Obama while wearing a Christian label on his sleeve, rejects Jesus' definition of humanity as being male and female, encourages un-

seemly behavior thereby rejecting the knowledge of God as Lord, and rebels against the institution of marriage as defined by scripture and conscripted by biology.

In summary, McCain sees the threat to marriage as important but tangential component to his role as chief executive. On the other hand, Obama sees the threat to marriage as no threat at all but an enhancement, akin to social justice. On this topic, the choice is clear, although perhaps not savory. As it pertains to freedom, the choice is also clear. In North America, no one is thrown in jail for advocating homosexual behavior. On the other hand, as we watch the ascendancy of homosexuality here and in other Western nations, criticism and resistance to homosexuality is being punished by government through criminal and financial sanctions. Unavoidably, as sure as the rain will fall, violating God's word leads to less freedom, not more. As Christians, as we go to the polls to make our leadership choices in November, we must be informed and led by the words of Christ... ■

Dr. Diggs is a board certified Internist in the full-time practice of medicine in Western Massachusetts. He periodically travels for speaking engagements involving public health issues, the sanctity of life, the STD epidemic, and fundraising for pregnancy care centers.



The United Republican Fund is Illinois' oldest, independent, Republican organization. Founded in 1934, the URF is a state-wide network of thousands of Illinoisans, from all walks of life, who believe that prosperity and opportunity come through economic and personal freedom. Our mission is to advance conservative Republican principles, policies, and people by equipping and electing to office men and women who endorse and promote the Republican values of limited and ethical government, individual freedom and responsibility, free markets and traditional American values.

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Obama, McCain and the Free Market: A Vision For America's Future

By Ralph Conner

Now that the primaries and conventions are over, Americans have a moral and pocket-book obligation to examine the proverbial election strategy adopted by Bill Clinton in 1992: it's the economy, stupid. Roaring rhetoric or lethargic pronouncements for "change" have energized the respective bases of each party. Vice president selections have met with mixed reactions amongst pundits and policy experts on both sides of the rancorous political divide. But now, during the last eight weeks (Eight is enough?) of this historic affirmative action faux civil rights campaign, citizens owe themselves a reality check

to decipher from a bottom-line fiscal impact the economic policies of each would-be occupants of the Oval Office.

In July, Senator Obama met with a group of highly touted economic advisers including billionaire investor Warren Buffett, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and Google Chairman Eric Schmidt. He promised America that he would be intervening in the U.S. economy to thwart the current "economic emergency" wrought by job losses, declining wages, and housing foreclosures. Obama's activist mantra is to bring about "fairness" in the income distribution amongst citizens by transfers of wealth from higher income citizens to lower income citizens to achieve greater economic parity. This is an expansion of a new form of 21st century wel-

fare by raising taxes on all families earning more than \$250,000 per year in order to finance a \$1,000 tax cut for "middle-income" taxpayers. This an overt redistribution of the tax burden rather than a true tax increase.

Meanwhile, Senator McCain has been meeting with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, over the past year. His focus is to rely upon the tenets of free market capitalism and supply-side economics advocated by JFK and Ronald Reagan to solve America's economic ills. As Obama circles his economic wagons and proposes class-warfare remedies designed to "soak the rich" with onerous new taxes, while creating a new welfare scheme for the middle-class, John McCain appears to understand how taxes change behavior.

In a news conference on November 20, 1962, President John Kennedy stated that "It is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high and tax revenues are too low and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the rates now ... Cutting taxes now is not to incur a budget deficit, but to achieve the more prosperous, expanding economy which can bring a budget surplus." Later on January 17, 1963, in his last Annual Budget message to Congress, JFK reiterated that "Lower rates of taxation will stimulate economic activity and so raise the levels of personal and corporate income as to yield within a few years an increased – not a reduced – flow of revenues to the federal government."

While standing next to Caroline Kennedy and emulating, symbolically, the Camelot Era, Obama has proposed to raise marginal tax rates and capitals gains taxes across the board in direct refutation of the economic policies adopted by JFK and Ronald Reagan.

Obama proposes a windfall profits tax on the oil industry to fund a "rebate" to voters to help pay for the increases in gas pump prices which will certainly result from oil producers passing his tax increase back to consumers. His policies will create \$5.00 gas and then ask you to be glad he confiscated some the "profits" to help you pay for increasingly higher gas prices due to he and Nancy Pelosi's NO Drill policies. McCain has criticized Obama for promising to repeal President George W. Bush's tax cuts for Americans who make more than \$250,000 and for opposing his call to lift the ban on offshore drilling.

According to New York Times, National Report (August 22, 2008), Energy is the number one issue on the minds of voters during this election cycle. Tax credits and domestic production tax deductions form a critical part of the economic policies directly affecting American consumers in their pocketbooks.

The so-called windfall profits tax supported by Senator Obama and opposed by Senator McCain will burden the oil producing industry with \$15 billion in new taxes which will quickly find their way down to become increases at the gas pumps for American citizens. Obama wants to repeal the \$13.5 billion oil manufacturers deduction for Domestic energy production for another tax increase, which leaves America hostage to the foreign oil imports. The energy stock dividend rate would be re-

pealed under McCain in order to spur additional investments in emerging clean coal technologies, and green energy companies of the future. Obama will raise the tax on energy stock dividends from 15% to 39.6%, as well as, raise the energy corporate income tax up 10% to 35%. The Obama tax plan calls for maintaining the 54 cents per gallon ethanol tariff tax rate, which artificially keeps bio-fuels high due to restrictions on sugar-based Brazilian ethanol. McCain would repeal the bogus ethanol tariff and temper the effects of corn-based ethanol, which is raising the price on chickens, eggs, beef, and milk for American consumers.

For cheaper electric energy services for American consumers, McCain supports construction of 45 new nuclear plants by 2030, while Obama has no nuclear plan whatsoever. Not only does Senator Obama raise taxes on upper income taxpayers, he also plans on increasing their payroll taxes, capital gains taxes, and taxes on business investment. Martin Feldstein, a Harvard professor of economics, said Obama's approach "will slow the economy, will depress the economy by raising taxes -- raising taxes on business investment, raising taxes on individuals. And that tax increase isn't going to happen immediately, but the fact that he promises that he will make that happen in 2010 or 2011 is enough to continue to depress the economy now."

The bottom-line? The Wall Street Journal's Steve Moore analyzed Obama's tax plan and predicted that it will add up to a 39.6 percent personal income tax, a 52.2 percent combined income and payroll tax, a 28 percent capital-gains tax, a 39.6 percent dividends tax, and a 55 percent estate tax. Obama wants to tax capital and totally disregards the iron logic that it takes capital formation to create new green businesses and jobs.

The first African-American president will ostensibly take from the rich and give to the non-rich by redistributing income and wealth. This will of course be a recipe for economic disaster. Obama's economic policy ignores incentives for entrepreneurs, small family-owned businesses, and investors. It's "capitalism without capital" and it harms opportunities for middle-class workers. He thinks he can use government, and not free markets, to drive the economy by steering the largest world economy toward the socialism and welfare policies of Western Europe. Economist Milton Friedman in his "Free To Choose" documented how many newly emerging nations in Eastern Europe and Asia are reaping economic rewards by lowering the tax penalties on capital. Just the opposite awaits America under President Obama. Without a sound affordable new energy policy or true commitment to Kennedy-esque supply-side policies, American competitiveness will stagnate, along with job opportunities, productivity, and real wages. This is certainly not a profile in courage from the would-be leader of our times. ■

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Feature



Educational Contrast: McCAIN vs OBAMA

By Dr. John Arrington

One of the most critical issues facing the African-American community in the upcoming presidential election is public education. While candidates John McCain and Barack Obama have both declared to repair and not replace the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) initiative, the similarity between their ideas stops there.

Before pointing out the differences between McCain's and Obama's views on education, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate President George W. Bush for putting people issues before party ideals in rolling out the NCLB. Generally, government has a tendency to get in its own way and cause greater problems when exploring (and proposing) solutions to problems of this magnitude. However, President Bush saw a system in horrific disrepair, mired in 19th century ideals, where African-Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians are literally facing educational genocide. Educationally speaking, these groups are facing an ethnic cleansing, with embarrassingly low graduation rates and unimaginably low-test scores in a system that is literally reproducing mass illiteracy.

Many leaders within these ethnic groups and the religious community do not fully comprehend the public education crisis. And when they felt the fire beneath them and the boiling water around them, they desperately cried out "unfunded mandate". However, throwing a mountain of money at an ancient, broken, dysfunctional public education system is like throwing a mountain of cake at a diabetic. You may experience an initial surge of energy, but ultimately your energy wanes and you collapse feeling worse than you did before. President Bush recognized the historical magnitude of the educational crisis, and on behalf of all of Americans, and through bipartisan support, began the arduous journey to change it. Kudos to him for trying.

In reviewing both McCain's and Obama's education plan, finance and funding is one of the sharpest areas of contrasts between the candidates. Senator Obama has put forth an ambitious, yet run of the mill proposal that includes 18 billion dollars in additional annual funding for education. Great idea, right? Unfortunately, 600 billion a year is already being spent on public education in America. So, pouring billions more dollars into an ineffective system, while inefficiently utilizing the current funding, would most likely have zero impact. Money is not the problem.

Senator McCain's more savvy proposal is to use funding that is already in place more judiciously, and

freeze all discretionary spending until a top-to-bottom review of all federal programs can be conducted. McCain favors a more measured approach to changing the educational system. He proposes using funding to augment successful strategies and to implement those strategies in troubled areas. Special education is another area Senator McCain has targeted for improvement. With so many minorities, particularly males being unfairly categorized as "special needs," his focus is a welcome and refreshing change.

A second area of significant contrast between Senators Obama and McCain are their views on how public education is accessed (via a public education delivery system that's been in place since the 1800's during the industrial revolution). Senator McCain is a staunch supporter of fresh alternative approaches like refining NCLB, school choice, vouchers, charter, home, and competitive schooling. His focus centers around improving public education through competition that provides a bevy of educational options and alternatives for parents. In contrast, Senator Obama, while stating his support for competitive schooling, has shown a strong proclivity for the traditional public educational system..

For minorities in particular, Senator McCain's support for alternative education options, particularly school choice, reveal a strong predisposition toward the injustice and unequal issues embedded in our current educational system. The educational experience for African-Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians often reflects incredible inequities spanning from the quality of instruction, to teacher competency, to funding per pupil. School choice and competition are options that counter injustices and inequities regardless of a student's geographic location or their ethnicity. In a recent article on school reform, Herbert J. Walbery, stated; "Schools are like other providers of goods and services. When they compete, they become more cost effective and provide better service. In the current system, public schools are largely protected from competition and have become so ineffective they threaten our nation's prosperity and well-being"

School vouchers are another topic on which the candidates disagree. Historically, Senator Obama has



strongly opposed school vouchers; although he recently stated that he is open to vouchers if research proves they work, while his campaign office sent out a subsequent statement voicing his opposition to vouchers. On the other hand, John McCain has thrown his total support behind parents being able to choose their child's educational experience. This includes choice vouchers, home and charter schools, and various other alternative approaches designed to improve public education. Harvard University researchers Martin R. West and Paul E. Peterson found that vouchers are more effective at improving schools than the No Child Left Behind Act alone, which merely allows children to transfer to another public school. They also found that that academic improvement was generally 6% higher among African-American students, those eligible for a free lunch, and among those students with low test scores.

Education Notebook recently reported research done by Dr. John Robert Warren of the University of Minnesota compared the graduation rates of voucher recipients to students in Milwaukee's public school system. Warren found that in three out of four years, the graduation rate for voucher students was significantly higher than those of students in traditional programs. No longer can we deny parents the opportunity for school choice and vouchers. When parents are given that opportunity, they are taking them as fast as they open up.

This is no longer a partisan issue—choice works.

A Wall Street Journal article recently reported, that "Milwaukee's 10 year-old school choice program has prodded public school reform and improvement as attested to by the public school superintendent, school board president, mayor, and even the voucher-skeptical Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel."

Washington D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, a democrat, recently voiced his continued support for school choice and vouchers by stating; "For every one seat available, four students have applied." A study by Georgetown University found increased parental involvement and student enthusiasm for learning in the D.C. project. Yet another study reported academic gains in reading by three student subgroups totaling nearly 90% of all students. In other words, students gained the equivalent of two to four extra months of learning. Almost all the Washington D.C. students were Black and Hispanic living under the poverty level. Education Week recently quoted Newark New Jersey mayor Cory Booker, another democrat as saying; "Charter schools in New Jersey City are successful, but they don't have enough seats to fill the demand." The fact is, when parents are given more educational options they become more engaged in their child's education. This results in public education improvements because of creative educational alternatives. Parents see benefits in choice vouchers and John McCain has promised to give them that opportunity.

Yet another area of major difference between the candidates is private school choice and public school voucher payments. Senator McCain supports parents having the ability to enroll their students in private school paid for by public vouchers, particularly when the public school is failing to make academic progress year after year. Senator Obama opposes any type of vouchers going to a private school. For many in the religious and faith-based communities, the choice is easy. Parents ask only for schools that are safe, teachers who are competent, and diplomas that open doors of opportunity. When the public education system repeatedly fails to meet these minimal standards there is a problem. , “Some parents may opt for a better public school or a charter school; [while] others for a private school” were comments made by Senator McCain at the 2008 NAACP convention.

History has shown, if given an opportunity, most parents will choose alternative educational methods rather than traditional public school methods. Vouchers to private school is one option McCain plan offers parents. Some argue private school vouchers are the ultimate answer. While others argue that private school vouchers undercut traditional public education. Neither is true. Choice vouchers and charter schools provide additional options for parents, and they are pieces of the total education puzzle designed to improve the educational experience for our nation’s youth.

For many religious and faith-based families the public education challenge goes beyond low academic performance, limited class size, and poorly structured programs, the lack of quality teachers, or the likelihood of violence. For some the crisis is a challenge to their faith that calls into action personal values, allegiance to the flag and country, and

freedom of religious expression. The number of failing schools and the astronomical dropout rates clearly show not every child flourishes in a traditional public school setting. We now have an opportunity to restructure the system in voting for John McCain’s vision. We now have the opportunity to bring creative and innovative options as well as imaginative and resourceful change to a system badly in need of repair. The facts back John McCain’s visionary approach.

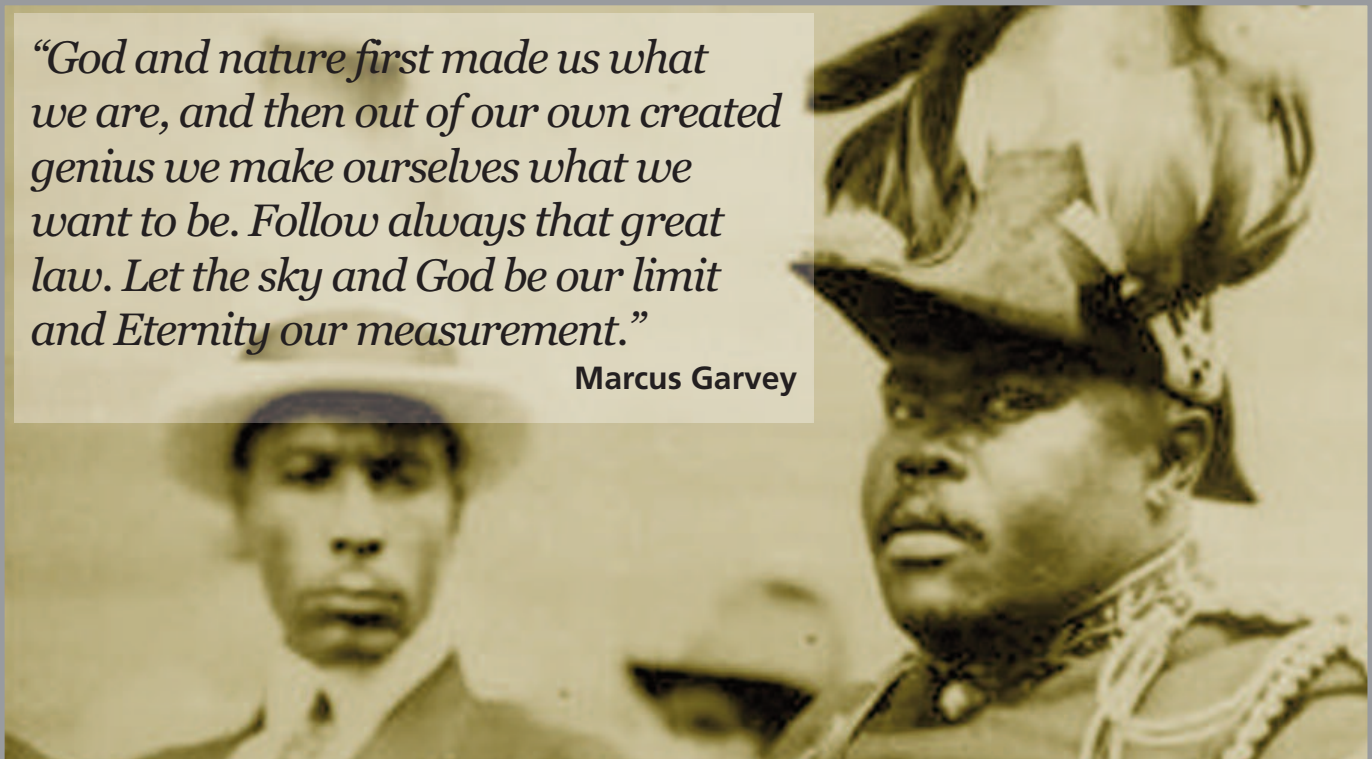
Much is at stake for African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian communities. Our future survival is tied to the educational policies of the next president of the United States. While the educational system has been in shambles for decades, it is repairable. Some of the brightest, hardest working, under paid Americans opt for teaching careers. They are not the problem—nor are our students. The problem lies in an antiquated and ineffective traditional educational system that has little relevance to today’s youth. The next president of the United States must take the educational bull by the horns and repair the system. He must stop the educational genocide taking place among ethnic groups (especially males), most negatively affected by the current education system.

Senator John McCain’s educational approach is creative, savvy, and inherently involves every sector of society. He has shown unrelenting support for educational competition and his plan not only revitalizes and rejuvenates the public system, but also gives every child in America an opportunity to receive a world-class education. ■

Dr. John Arrington is a former high school personnel administrator and currently a educational reform strategist.

“God and nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own created genius we make ourselves what we want to be. Follow always that great law. Let the sky and God be our limit and Eternity our measurement.”

Marcus Garvey



Feature

A Case For School Choice





“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

—Marian Wright Edelman



The 2008 Presidential Election: **HEALTH CARE**

How Do You Like Your Grits?

By David Brooks

As we near the November national election, I am reminded of the first time, as a freshman at Alcorn State University, I sat down for breakfast in the school cafeteria. I, like others, had a large serving of grits slopped on my tray. Before I ate my grits, however, I proceeded to add a couple tea-

spoons of sugar. Others at my table took note and immediately commented that I must be from up North. Of course they were right, but that did not stop me from enjoying my grits; that's just how I like my grits. It seemed everybody in the cafeteria had grits on his or her tray, as grits have long been a staple in southern breakfasts. I noticed that some added butter—and lots of it. Some were content with just salt and pep-

“The United States spends \$2.1 trillion on health care, roughly 16 percent of the gross domestic product. Additionally, government is responsible for approximately 50 cents out of every dollar spent on health care because of the huge and rapidly growing government health care programs: Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, and state and public health care programs. The result of so much government control is that health care is one of the most highly regulated sectors of the American economy. Government financing means government control, and government control means less personal freedom.”

(www.heritage.org/about/ifa/healthcare.cfm)

per. Still others preferred the breakfast combo of cut up sausage and scrambled eggs stirred into their grits.

Just like the various ways one chooses to enhance the flavor of their grits, I find the race for the Office of President of the United States offers similar choices as it relates to health care. There are so many similarities between what Barack Obama and John McCain have to offer that you could say, politically speaking, both are serving up their own version grits. Just like grits are a staple in southern breakfasts, both candidates agree that all Americans should have access to basic affordable, quality, portable universal health coverage. With that said, I pose the question, “How do you like your grits?” How you answer this question in the November presidential election this fall will say far more about you than your candidate of choice.

Before we examine where both men stand on health care, let me address an issue that the major media outlets have not breathed a word about thus far; the fact that we have three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The fact is we do not live in a dictatorship here in America where whatever these two gentlemen have to say on the health care will immediately be the law of the land once elected.

The Executive branch of government, of which Obama and McCain want to head, must work closely with the legislative branch to get bills passed into law. People tend to get carried away about the pros and cons of various aspects of their candidate’s plan. And, it does not help that the media does the nation a disservice by fanning the flame and not explaining the processes of our government better. Perhaps part of the blame lies within our education system; nevertheless, bills need to pass through various committees and subcommittees before being enacted into law. Ironically, at this time, the legislative branch has their lowest approval rating in history.

So, what you read about or hear from the Presidential candidates today will more than likely not remotely resemble what is actually passed into law later.

Now let’s address the specifics of each candidate’s health care proposals. First, let’s look at the similarities. There are 47 million Americans without health insurance in this country. Accessing the websites of both McCain and Obama, you will find that both candidates feel that health care costs are skyrocketing and something must be done to reel those costs in. Both candidates say that there is a desperate need for quality health coverage that is portable, meaning people would not lose their health coverage if they changed jobs. Both agree that there needs to be more transparency from health care providers so that consumers can make better, more informed choices. Could we possibly cut health care costs by improving technology? They both say yes. Both candidates want to lower prescription drug prices by allowing safe re-importation of drugs from other developed countries. Quite frankly, there are a lot of commonalities between both candidate’s positions on this subject.

Now for a quick overview of each candidate’s unique plans concerning health care.

Obama

Obama’s plan calls for those currently uninsured to be able to secure health coverage through a new national health care plan similar to the plan available to members of Congress. All Americans could get coverage regardless of illness or pre-existing conditions. All children will be covered—no exceptions. For those who wish to purchase private insurance, a National Health Insurance Exchange would be created to watch over the private insurance industry to insure that policy holders get insured at competitive rates. The Exchange would make it mandatory that coverage on these plans be at least as generous as

what the national plan has to offer. This plan allows for individual states that have already addressed health care to continue to do so as long as their plans meet the minimum national standards. Individuals that do not qualify for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) will get a federal subsidy to buy into the national plan or to purchase private insurance.

McCain

McCain believes the key to health care reform is giving individuals more control over their health care dollars. He would use the free market system to create more competition between health care providers, which in turn, would allow individuals/families to purchase coverage across state lines; thus providing more affordable and tailored health care that families desire. Families (or individuals) would have the option to purchase employer provided health care or to purchase their own. Either way, families will get a refundable tax credit (cash) to offset cost; the credit being \$2,500 for individuals and \$5000 for families. In that way people would be able to choose the provider that best suit their needs and the money would be given directly to the insurance provider on their behalf. If an individual or family is able to get insurance that costs less than the credit, they can deposit the savings into a Health Savings Account (HSA). For those individuals at higher risk who would not traditionally qualify for coverage, a Guaranteed Access Plan (GAP) would cover them. Non-profit corporations would be formed to contract with insurers to cover these individuals and to also join with other states to lower costs.

That was the "WHAT" behind each candidate's plan. The big difference is in the "HOW". How each candidate plans to implement their health care plan brings clarity to a somewhat plain and ordinary plateful of grits. The differences are stark. What follows is taken directly from each candidate's website.

McCain

- Families should be in charge of their health care dollars and have more control over health care. An important part of McCain's plan is to use competition to improve the quality of health insurance with greater variety to match people's needs, lower prices, and portability.
- Families will be able to choose the insurance provider that best suits their needs. When families are informed about medical choices, they are

more capable of making their own decisions and often decide against unnecessary options.

- Health Savings Accounts are an important step in putting families in charge of their health care dollars.

Obama

- The National Health Care Insurance Exchange would act as a watchdog to help reform the private insurance industry by creating rules and standards that insure fairness and make individual coverage more affordable and accessible.
- Insurers would have to issue every applicant a policy.
- Employers that do not offer or make a meaningful contribution to the cost of quality health coverage for their employees will be required to contribute a percentage of payroll toward the cost of the national plan.
- Obama's plan would require that all children have health care coverage
- Obama's plan would require that providers who participate in the new public plan, Medicare or the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, utilize proven disease management programs.

As you can see from the Heritage Foundation quote at the beginning of this article, health care is already one of the most regulated industries in America. Do we need more intervention? This is what Barack Obama offers; more government control and less individual freedom. Government intervention in private industry is anathema to those who believe in our free enterprise system. John McCain, on the other hand, wants to unleash our free enterprise system and allow individuals and families to make their own health care choices. Some people like the independence and freedom that comes in choosing something that is just right for them. All of this while the American free enterprise system continues to do what it does best without government interference. So, how do you like your grits? ■

David Brooks is a Senior Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for Eli Lilly and Company. Please e-mail replies or comments to [iamunplugged@mac.com](mailto:iemunplugged@mac.com). The ideas expressed should not be construed or interpreted as being representative of, or endorsed by, Eli Lilly and Company.



“Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand.”

—Colin Powell



I Am A Beginner: The Foreign Policies of **McCAIN** and **OBAMA**

By David Brooks

As I watched Senator Barack Obama proclaim himself a citizen of the world in front of screaming throngs of Germans with their arms up raised, uneasily, I came to realize that Barack Obama brings a sort of European sensibility to United States for-

ign policy, one that has not been seen since Jimmy Carter's presidency. That policy seems to be one that rejects the concept of American exceptionalism, an ideal that is all too eager to apologize for the shortcomings, sins, and failings of the American promise. Keep in mind that Obama gave this speech before a crowd of Europeans, as he apologized for America's historical imperfections. While I acknowledge that Europe has contributed much to the advance-

ment of Western civilization, having given us the Magna Carta, the Renaissance, and pizza; Europe was also responsible for the Dark Ages, feudalism, religious wars of all stripes, monarchical despots, and wars of succession. In the 20th century alone, Europe was responsible for two world wars, fascism, socialism, communism, and Abba. It would seem as if it is THEY who can teach us a thing or two about imperfection.

Senator Obama's apologists are quick to posit that the Senator, as opposed to being a belligerent cowboy throwing bad guys out of the saloon, is actually a nuanced, thoughtful, and measured counterpoint to the boorish belligerency of a George W. Bush and his "cowboy diplomacy."

How nuanced is he? Senator Obama spoke of an "aggressive diplomacy." If you find it difficult to understand the difference between traditional diplomacy and aggressive diplomacy, the following explanation might help. An aggressive diplomacy is a tad more than an ambitious diplomacy, but a hair less than an assertive one albeit ambitious. It's just an intense level, just shy of provocative, and a whiff more than scathing. Basically, it's a speak loudly and carry a small stick philosophy. I hope that clears it up for all the Neanderthals who are not deft enough to handle Obama's nuanced use of the English language.

Let's address the implications of a Barack Obama foreign policy. Classical American foreign policy, as it has been understood since the end of World War II, would entail an expansive Monroe doctrine for the world of sorts. The Monroe doctrine was characterized by the policy of containment of Soviet and Communist expansionism with a concurrent commitment to mutual defense treaties with allied nations. This philosophy was concretely expressed with the United States (and its allies) involvement in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the overthrow of the Iranian government, and diplomatic overtures such as formal diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and the establishment of NATO.

This foreign policy led by such stalwarts as Ronald Reagan, Marguerite Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II, along with unrelenting economic pressure on the USSR caused by Ronald Reagan's United States defense buildup, created stresses on the Soviet Communist economic system that it simply could not withstand, which resulted in the breakup of the Soviet Union. Since that time, the United States has assumed responsibility for the containment of rouge

Americans wishing to spend August vacationing with their families or watching the Olympics may wonder why their newspapers and television screens are filled with images of war in the small country of Georgia...

states such as Syria, Libya, Cuba, Nicaragua, North Korea, Panamá, Iran, and yes, Saddam Hussein's Iraq. More recently, Russia has shown itself willing to join the rogue state club by invading Ossetia. But have no fear, Senator Obama posed a solution to this crisis.

Our good senator from Illinois said on August 11: "We should continue to push for a United Nations Security Council Resolution calling for an immediate end to the violence. This is a clear violation of the sovereignty and internationally recognized borders of Georgia – the UN must stand up for the sovereignty of its members, and peace in the world." There was just one little thing wrong with that statement. Under Article 27 of the UN Charter, Security Council decisions on all substantive matters require the affirmative votes of nine members. A negative vote, or veto, by a permanent member prevents adoption of a proposal, even if it has received the required number of affirmative votes. The five permanent members are:

- 1) The French Republic
- 2) The People's Republic of China
- 3) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 4) The United States of America
- 5) The Russian Federation.

So, in other words, Barack Obama wants the UN Security Council to vote on a resolution that, as a permanent member of that Security Council, the Russian Federation would surely veto. Also, on August 21st Senator Obama equated the U.S. invasion of Iraq with Russia's invasion of Georgia. Obama continually fails to differentiate between the United States resuming hostilities with a rogue nation led by a genocidal despot that invaded another sovereign nation, been decisively defeated, then signed an armistice that sacrificed portions of their sovereignty,

repeatedly violated the terms of that armistice by firing on coalition aircraft in the no-fly zone, expelled the United Nations armament inspectors from the country, and defied 17 United Nations resolutions (and did I mention that removing him from power was the official United States policy since the Clinton administration) and the Russians invading a sovereign nation using the tactics that Adolph Hitler used to threaten an invasion of the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland in 1938. This view is entirely consistent with Obama's stance on the Iraq war and his contradictory statements about the success of the surge, his early conceptual opposition to it (and its funding), and his belated attempts to identify himself with its success. To say nothing of his previously stated willingness to confab with despots and rouge states without preconditions. Contrast this with the positions of a mature, grown up 72-year-old with experience named John McCain.

John McCain issued the following statement on August 11 after the Russian invasion of Ossetia.

"Americans wishing to spend August vacationing with their families or watching the Olympics may wonder why their newspapers and television screens are filled with images of war in the small country of Georgia. Concerns about what occurs there might seem distant and unrelated to the many other interests America has around the world. And yet Russian aggression against Georgia is both a mat-

ter of urgent moral and strategic importance to the United States of America"

McCain went on to say.....

"NATO's North Atlantic Council should convene in emergency session to demand a ceasefire and begin discussions on both the deployment of an international peacekeeping force to South Ossetia and the implications for NATO's future relationship with Russia, a Partnership for Peace nation. NATO's decision to withhold a Membership Action Plan for Georgia might have been viewed as a green light by Russia for its attacks on Georgia, and I urge the NATO allies to revisit the decision.

The Secretary of State should begin high-level diplomacy, including visiting Europe, to establish a common Euro-Atlantic position aimed at ending the war and supporting the independence of Georgia. With the same aim, the U.S. should coordinate with our partners in Germany, France, and Britain, to seek an emergency meeting of the G-7 foreign ministers to discuss the current crisis. The visit of French President Sarkozy to Moscow this week is a welcome expression of transatlantic activism.

Working with allied partners, the U.S. should immediately consult with the Ukrainian government and other concerned countries on steps to secure their continued independence. This is particularly important as a number of Russian Black

A Time to Laugh



Sea fleet vessels currently in Georgian territorial waters are stationed at Russia's base in the Ukrainian Crimea.

The U.S. should send immediate economic and humanitarian assistance to help mitigate the impact the invasion has had on the people of Georgia.

Our united purpose should be to persuade the Russian government to cease its attacks, withdraw its troops, and enter into negotiations with Georgia. We must remind Russia's leaders that the benefits they enjoy from being part of the civilized world require their respect for the values, stability and peace of that world. World history is often made in remote, obscure countries. It is being made in Georgia today. It is the responsibility of the leading nations of the world to ensure that history continues to be a record of humanity's progress toward respecting the values and security of free people."

Whether you agree with McCain or not, He offers a definitive response with a definite plan of action, as he outlines specific diplomatic responses.

Obama's response...

"I strongly condemn the outbreak of violence in Georgia, and urge an immediate end to armed conflict. Now is the time for Georgia and Russia to show restraint, and to avoid an escalation to full scale war. Georgia's territorial integrity must be respected. All sides should enter into direct talks on behalf of stability in Georgia, and the United States, the United Nations Security Council, and the international community should fully support a peaceful resolution to this crisis."

In other words, "Err...umm, err, Like what he said!"

Barack Obama has revealed himself to be amateurish, incoherent, and capable of having multiple, contradictory positions on major issues. Time and time again he has shown that he is unqualified to lead the country on foreign policy issues. Perhaps Barack Obama could be forgiven all of his baffling, bewildering, confounding, and confused inanity had he simply modified a quote from another Democrat (JFK) that he so self-consciously tried to mimic as he was speaking to all of those Germans in Belin. ICH Bin Ein Beginner!■



"It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity."

W. E. B. Du Bois

The Issues At A Glance

CANDIDATES	RIGHT TO LIFE	CIVIL UNION/GAY MARRIAGE	TAXES
 <p>Barack Obama</p>	<p>Supports Roe v. Wade</p> <p>Wants to expand availability of contraceptives</p> <p>Support sex education in schools</p> <p>He supported partial birth abortion bill</p>	<p>Personally against gay marriage</p> <p>Supports civil unions</p> <p>Opposed the federal marriage amendment in 2006</p> <p>Wants to repeal the 1996 defense of marriage act.</p>	<p>Tax people making more than 250,000</p> <p>Increase capital gains tax from 15% to 25%</p> <p>Restore the estate tax to 45%</p> <p>Make permanent tax cuts for those making less than \$250,000</p>
 <p>John McCain</p>	<p>Opposes Roe v. Wade</p> <p>Opposes partial birth abortion</p> <p>Favors tax deductions for adoptions</p>	<p>Opposes same sex marriage</p> <p>Favors state action to limit marriage to a man and a woman</p> <p>Opposes federal legislation banning job discrimination against gays and lesbians</p>	<p>Would make permanent 2001 and 2003 tax cuts</p> <p>Capital gains tax would remain at 15%</p> <p>Estate taxes would be at 15% over 10 million</p> <p>Pledge to eliminate the alternative minimum tax</p>

The Issues At A Glance

IMMIGRATION	HEALTH CARE (HC)	EDUCATION	IRAQ
<p>Create Secure Borders</p> <p>Improve Our Immigration System</p> <p>Remove Incentives to Enter Illegally</p> <p>Bring People Out of the Shadows</p> <p>Work with Mexico</p>	<p>Supports universal healthcare</p> <p>Will require parents to insure their children</p> <p>Proposes a national health insurance exchange</p> <p>Will require employers to cover their employees or contribute to public health plan</p>	<p>Supports more money for NCLB</p> <p>Does not support vouchers</p> <p>Supports public school choice</p> <p>Backs incentive pay for teachers</p>	<p>Opposed the war from the beginning</p> <p>Opposed the surge</p> <p>Wants to set a 16 month timetable for withdrawal</p> <p>Rejects idea of permanent US bases in Iraq</p>
<p>Wants to secure the borders</p> <p>Deport illegals with criminal back grounds</p> <p>Supports a guest worker program</p> <p>Supports a tamper proof ID card for workers to verify their legal status</p>	<p>Supports tax incentives for purchasing healthcare</p> <p>Supports utilizing the free market healthcare plans and not government run.</p> <p>Allow small businesses and self employed to collectively purchase insurance</p>	<p>Supports all forms of school choice</p> <p>Supports NCLB and is open to expanding it.</p> <p>Advocates for teacher merit pay</p> <p>Suggests that bad teachers find another line of work</p>	<p>Supported the surge</p> <p>Supports timetable based on conditions on the ground in Iraq</p> <p>Supports idea of having a base in Iraq</p> <p>US should not leave until the job is complete</p>

Free Speech

Michael Steele is a man of many first. Besides being one of the first in his family to attend college, earning a bachelor's degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center; Steele also became the first African-American elected to statewide office in Maryland, taking office as lieutenant governor in January 2003. Many conservatives are hoping that he, and not Barack Obama, will become the first black president of the United States.

His experiences as a successful elected conservative Black Republican and his engaging speaking style have launched Steele into national prominence. He is a regular on CNN's Situation Room as well as a frequent on air contributor for Fox News.

Michael Steele presently serves as the Chairman of GOPAC, the political action arm of the Republican National Committee, where he is investing heavily in developing future leaders of the party.

He was one of the distinguished speakers at this year's Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, MN. We are honored to include the text and video of his speech, which reminds us of our individual responsibility to commit to a "cause greater than ourselves".



GOPAC Chairman

Michael Steele

Good evening. As we gather at this moment, many of our friends, families and neighbors have felt the devastating effects of Hurricane Gustav. Our hearts and prayers are with them at this hour. Times such as this remind us that we are each called to respond to a cause greater than our own self-interest. They speak to a truth about America: that when things are tough and the skies are filled with stormy clouds, we turn to each other for comfort, support and leadership. As mothers and fathers, families and communities begin the difficult work of recovery and rebuilding, we watch with pride and humility as neighbor reaches out to neighbor.

Tonight, we gather not as Republicans, but as Americans. We are Americans prepared to reach out to each other for a cause greater than ourselves. We recognize that leadership is not often tested in good times, but rather during those times of uncertainty, when one's judgment, strength of character and experiences come together to reassure, to calm and to guide.

For myself, such lessons in leadership were taught to me by a sharecropper's daughter who throughout her life, suffered many hardships. However, in the throes of the worst of these, she always saw the hope that her children would be better off than she was. It was partly this relentless focus on the future that enabled her to overcome her circumstances, and to do so with such selfless grace.

My mother Maebell was never discouraged by the trials of the moment, because she knew that they would pass. Her commitment to making her family strong and giving her children a true sense of the promise of America, stood as an early testament in my life to the ideal of putting family, community, country, above self.

In moments such as this, buffeted by the winds of an uncertain time we need a leader who understands the life lessons of those who sacrifice, who demonstrate the full measure of what it means to be an American.

In times such as these, we need a leader who will work in the public's interest, not clamor for the public's applause, someone who will lead with the common sense of his neighbors and friends. In times such as these, we need John McCain. John McCain has never lost faith in the power and ingenuity of the individual to create the legacy of a nation through hard work, self-sacrifice and discipline.

Through his service he reaffirms to the American people his core belief that government should be limited so that it never becomes powerful enough to infringe on the rights of the individual. That taxes should be kept low so that families can keep more of their hard earned money. That the ideal of a colorblind society is worth fighting for because each man, woman, and child is an individual and not a member of some hyphenated class or group. Some just talk

about change, but John McCain believes the resiliency of the American people is the real source of the change America needs; and that means putting country first.

So, do you want to put your country first? Then let's change the way we educate our kids. Let's empower those whose minds are shackled by a poor education with real choices in where they go to school. So, do you want to put your country first? Then let's change our tax code to confiscate less of our hard earned paychecks so more and more families may actually know what it's like to save for the future. So, do you want to put your country first? Then let's reduce our dependency on foreign sources of oil and promote oil and gas production at home.

In other words, drill baby drill! And drill now! So, do you want to put your country first? Then let's make decisions about our security based on what keeps us safe and not on what's politically correct. So, do you want to put your country first? Then let's win the war on terrorism. So, do you want to put your country first?

Then let's elect John McCain the next president of the United States! John McCain has the experience, judgment and character to lead America in a changing world. It's not just about John McCain's lifetime of selfless service to a nation and its people. It's about his knowing who the enemy is and what to do about them. It's about his understanding that associations do matter, and that America, though flawed, should not be damned for creating a place so many want to call home.

John McCain knows that mere words about change are not enough to transform this nation or move it further along the road to prosperity and security. John McCain knows we must empower working families and stand with them against the erosion of our constitutional rights, the corruption of our school systems, the weakening of our families and the taking of human life - born and unborn.

We have been reminded once again of what is best about America and its people. John McCain himself reminds us that in this hour the partisan labels must fall away because the only label that really matters is "American."

That's appropriate.

That's putting country first.

That's John McCain.

Thank you and god bless.

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Historical Perspective



The First Black US Senator:

Hiram Rhodes Revels, Republican

38 Freedom's Journal Magazine • September/October 2008

Hiram Revels was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1822, but an exact birthplace has not been identified. He was born of mixed African and Croatan Indian heritage to free parents. On March 8, 1838 Revels was apprenticed to his brother, Elias B. Revels, as a barber in Lincolnton, North Carolina. Although Hiram Revels' apprenticeship was to last until his 21st birthday in 1843, his brother died in 1841 leaving Hiram to manage the barbershop.

Revels apparently left the barbershop to further his education. In 1844 he was a student at the Beech Grove Quaker Seminary in Liberty, Indiana. He also attended Darke County Seminary in Ohio, and Knox College, Galesburg, Ill. Revels was ordained as a minister by the African Methodist Episcopal Church and traveled extensively ministering to African American congregations in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Kansas. He eventually settled in Baltimore where he became principal of a school for African Americans as well as pastor of a local congregation. His ministerial and educational work would expand during the Civil War.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Hiram Revels turned his resources toward support for the Union cause in Maryland, a border state with divided loyalties. Revels aided in the organization of two regiments of African American troops from Maryland. Having moved to St. Louis to organize a school for African Americans, he recruited African American men for service in a Missouri regiment in 1863. His recruiting ability and ministerial training equipped Revels for active service as a Union chaplain serving with a Mississippi regiment of free blacks. At one point during his military service, Revels was the provost marshal of Vicksburg, the militarily important Mississippi River town and scene of a bloody and prolonged Union siege.

At the conclusion of the war, Revels settled in Natchez, Mississippi and joined the local African Methodist Episcopal Church. He continued his pastoral duties and founded new churches. In 1868, Revels was elected alderman. Struggling to keep his political and pastoral duties separate and to avoid racial conflict, Revels earned the respect of both whites and African Americans. His success in managing these forces led to his election as a state senator from Adams County, Mississippi. In 1870 Revels was elected as the first African American member of the United States Senate. Ironically, Revels was elected to fill the position vacated by Jefferson Davis almost 10 years earlier. Revels took his seat in the Senate on February 25, 1870 and served through March 4, 1871, the remainder of Davis' vacated term.

Returning to Mississippi in 1871, Revels was named president of Alcorn College, the state's first college for African American students. He was dismissed from the Alcorn presidency in 1874 by Governor Ames but returned to the position two years later. Revels retired from Alcorn in 1882. Aside from his duties at Alcorn College, Revels served as Secretary of State Ad Interim for Mississippi in 1873. Revels actively participated in the 1875 political campaign to oust the "carpet-bag" government of Mississippi. He defended his actions in a letter to President Ulysses Grant, which was published in the Daily Times of Jackson, Mississippi. The next year he became editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, official newspaper of A.M.E. Church 1876-1882; in retirement after 1882, taught theology at Shaw University, Holly Springs, Miss. It was while attending a church conference in Aberdeen, Mississippi that Hiram Rhodes Revels died from a paralytic stroke in January 16, 1901; interment in Hill Crest Cemetery, Holly Springs, Miss.

Hiram Revels faced the dangers of racial conflict in the South of the Reconstruction era in a manner that won the respect of both whites and blacks. His life was dedicated to improving the spiritual and educational needs of the African American community in many states. ■

The Information Services Branch of the State Library of North Carolina compiled most of the preceding information. Other information was added from the Biographical Directory of US Congress.

<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/bio/afro/revels.htm>



“He who succeeds in the sight of heaven, does his duty, even though, in the sight of men, he has failed, utterly failed.”

—Hiram Rhodes Revels



2008 Black Republican Candidates For US Congress

By Isaac Hayes

The 2008 U.S. Congressional elections bring with them a fresh crop of Black Republicans who are sure to have bright futures in the Republican Party. From medical doctors to corrections officer, this year's candidates offer hope for reclaiming the Black community. Antoine Members, Lt. Col. Allen West, Eddie Adams, Jr., Dr. Deborah Honeycutt, and Dr. Marion Thorpe, have accepted the challenge to bring conservative principles and policies to their congressional districts. I was able to catch up with two of the candidates during their busy campaigns; while I obtained information from the web sites of the other three. Below are the views of each candidate on topics ranging from the top three issues facing this nation to policies for the continent of Africa.



ANTOINE MEMBERS,
www.antoinemembers.com

FJM: Tell me a little about yourself?

AM: I am a lifelong resident of Chicago. I am married to my beautiful wife, Tonia, and have two wonder children, Destiny and Journey. I worked for several years at a medical clinic and hospital that serviced an underserved Westside community. Currently, I serve as a Sheriff Deputy for the Cook County Department of Corrections. I also served as an Associate Minister at Englewood Church of God, and currently attend Living Word Christian Center.

FJM: What made you decide to run for office?

AM: I am running because people need employment, protection, and opportunities. The people we have continually selected to represent our concerns have only represented themselves by creating legislation that benefits the special interest groups to which they are indebted.

FJM: What do you think are the top three issues facing this nation? What is your plan to address each one?

AM: Education – disparity is reduced when school choice is made available through vouchers to empower parents to select where their children attend school. Job Growth – I will partner with corporations to bring more jobs, work with the SBA to increase small-business ownership, simplify the tax code, and make tax cuts permanent. Health Care – I will fight for incentives for small businesses, tax-free health savings accounts, and Free-Market Health Insurance that permits you to purchase cheaper health coverage from another state.

FJM: What do you plan to accomplish in your first-term?

AM: My plan for the first term is to help bring jobs and build morale in the district, and also set an agenda with the Republican Party to win back Congress in 2010.

FJM: How do you view America's role in the world?

AM: Since our founding days, the United States has worked to ensure the spread of democracy and freedom across the globe. I believe we should continue this noble endeavor by working with non-democratic nations

through negotiations and patience. However, I am ready to do everything in our power to protect the interests of our country and allies abroad.

FJM: What are your plans as it specifically relates to the continent of Africa?

AM: My plans for the continent of Africa are to continue the legacy that the Bush administration established. Our current president has sent more aid to Africa than any other president in U.S. history. I want to directly invest billions of dollars to improve Africa's infrastructure, healthcare, and national security.

FJM: How can Black Republicans begin to win more African American votes?

AM: Black Republicans must begin to come up with a vision that is tied in with the needs of urban America without compromising our conservative values.

FJM: How do you view the relationship between African Americans and the Republican Party in the next ten years?

AM: Black Republicans must create a blueprint geared toward the needs of urban America. That, in turn, will bring to fruition an infrastructure that will develop a relationship between the Republican Party and Black America.

FJM: What else would you like to tell the readers about yourself?

AM: I am a visionary for a new nation where character matters, not color.



US ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALLEN WEST,
www.allenwestforcongress.com

FJM: Tell me a little about yourself?

AW: I am a 47 year-old retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel originally from Atlanta, GA. I have been married to my wife Dr. Angela West for 19 years and we have two daughters, Aubrey Elizabeth (15) and Austen Brianna (11).

FJM: What made you decide to run for office?

AW: I decided to run for office because it seemed to be a natural progression to continue serving my country—just in a different uniform. We are at a decisive point in the existence of our Republic; it is a time for leaders, not petty charlatans.

FJM: What do you think are the top three issues facing this nation? What is your plan to address each one?

AW: Energy Independence, [the] economy (reform of the tax code), and illegal immigration. My plan is simple, do that which is best for the American people and uphold the values and principles of our Constitution.

FJM: What do you plan to accomplish in your first-term?

AW: In my first term I seek to be a part of our energy independence legislation. I will bring forth key binding resolutions that will enhance the standard of living for Americans, ensure our security, and defeat our [foreign and domestic] enemies. One of the key practices I wish to eradicate is the practice of earmarks and other wasteful government spending.

FJM: How do you view America's role in the world?

AW: America's role in the world is to be the leading constitutional democratic nation that always sets itself apart as a beacon of that which is best in the world. We must continue the fight against radical Islamic terrorist foes and their state sponsors by denying them sanctuary [in the this country]. We must be partners in an ever changing and developing world, but never forget the citizens of our Republic are our #1 priority.

FJM: What are your plans as it specifically relates to the continent of Africa?

AW: We must develop the business sector in Africa and stop wasting taxpayer dollars in foreign aid that only goes to despotic rulers. It is time to take a new approach to Africa and its issues, not just continue to put a band aid on a sucking chest wound.

FJM: How can Black Republicans begin to win more African American votes?

AW: By simply being themselves, standing by their basic conservative values and principles, and never shying away from a confrontation or cowering when called a name. We must also begin to address post-modern, liberal social welfare programs that have enacted the destruction of the Black urban community.

FJM: How do you view the relationship between African Americans and the Republican Party in the next ten years?

AW: Growing stronger, especially as the Democratic Party continues to patronize the Black community for votes, while at the same time pandering to the growing Hispanic community.

FJM: What else would you like to tell the readers about yourself?

AW: Please visit our website, www.allenwestforcongress.com and YouTube to learn more about our campaign endeavors and visions for America.

Other Black Republicans running for U.S. Congress



EDDIE ADAMS JR.,
www.adamsforcongress.org

Eddie Adams, Jr. is the embodiment of the “American dream.” Eddie’s family may not have been rich financially; but they were rich with love, happiness, and a positive outlook on life. It was Eddie’s

Baptist preacher grandfather, Jack Howell, who told him to remember what’s important, “God and family.”

Eddie was the first African American to receive a degree in Microbiology from the University of South Florida. He later graduated from FAMU/USF Cooperative School of Architecture and Design with a Masters degree in Architecture.

Eddie started Adams & Associates Residential Design; a design firm that services new homes, home

additions, and home renovations. Eddie is a member of the Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce, on the Board of Directors of Central City YMCA, and a School Board member for King's Kids Academy.

Eddie believes the proper function of government is to do for the people those things that have to be done but cannot be done, or cannot be done as well, by individuals. He believes in free enterprise and the encouragement of individual initiative and incentive. He believes in equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or national origin.



DR. DEBORAH HONEYCUTT,
www.honeycuttforcongress.com

In 2004, Dr. Honeycutt was the President of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors. In 2005 she became Medical Director of Good Shepherd Clinic, a free clinic in Morrow, GA, where she served as medical

director until her decision to run for U.S. Congress in Georgia District 13.

Her candidacy for Congress is focused on family, health, and the pocketbook. To strengthen the family, Dr. Honeycutt believes we must encourage strong two-parent families to curb the 68% rate of African American children who are born into single parent homes.

Her health care plan includes health care for every American, but opposes a nationwide, government sponsored plan.. She proposes free-market, multi-group efforts that allow government to do its part and citizens to do theirs.

Her pocketbook approach includes assisting and empowering people to help themselves--not be helpless. She believes government should encourage entrepreneurs, not penalize them through taxation and regulation. Her focus is to pursue economic policies that strengthen the economy, empower entrepreneurs, and create wealth as a legacy for future generations.



DR. MARION THORPE,
www.marionthorpe.com

Dr. Thorpe graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine with a PhD. in Medicine. He has served as the Chief Medical Officer for the Agency for Health Care

Administration in Florida. And, he has served as a member of the National Black Republican Association as well as the Political Director for Young Republican in Miami, FL.

Dr. Thorpe believes that we need to invest in alternative energy as a long-term solution to our rampant gas prices. In short, he believes the U.S must come to rely more heavily on American energy sources while implementing common-sense methods to reduce energy consumption.

He believes that terrorism should to be addressed in a multi-faceted manner. He believes that a formidable and strong defense policy should be a primary concern of all Americans. He also wants our taxation system to promote small business and development. He desires a common sense tax policy that doesn't hinder job growth or lead us to double-digit unemployment rates as have plagued France and many other European Union countries for decades. Hesupports trade agreements such as CAFTA-DR and NAFTA designed to have serious economic and strategic advantages that will benefit America and Americans. ■

“If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.”

—Colin Powell



National Black Republican Association

By Jennifer Salley

In these turbulent times characterized by rising political unrest, the charge to Black conservatives to stand for what we say we believe is of vital consequence. And, like our forefathers who persevered alongside the Republican Party to ensure rights conferred to us by the 15th Amendment; we, too, must fight that history reflects our unwavering stand for traditional conservative principles and values.

For the National Black Republican Association (NBRA) this fight has inspired a nationwide grassroots education campaign to alter the affects of faulty liberal views, which devalue the tenets of conservatism and erode Party allegiance. Their goal of “return[ing] black Americans to their Republican Party roots by enlightening them about how Republicans fought for their freedom and civil rights, and are now fighting for their educational and economic advancement” is generating persuasive dialog necessary for genuine party reforms. The NBRA, whose mission is “to be a resource for the Black community on Republican ideas and [to] promote the traditional values of the Black community which are the core values of the Republican Party”, is challenging the authenticity of Black voter’s beliefs by “exposing (to them) Obama’s left wing values, highlighting the civil rights heritage of the Republican Party, and [divulging] the racist past of the Democratic Party”.

According to NBRA chairman Frances Rice, “Barack Obama does not share the values of most Black Americans including [his] position

on higher taxes, surrender in Iraq, partial birth abortion and same sex marriage”. Rice believes “for middle class blacks, voting their values now means voting Republican”.

In an effort to bring attention to key fundamental differences, the NBRA recently took its message to the 2008 National Urban League and NAACP Conventions where they featured a huge banner that said, “Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Republican”. Other strategic initiatives have included: radio and TV ads comparing the

legacy of Obama to that of MLK, Jr., over 50 billboards stating that Martin Luther King was a Republican in Denver, Colorado ready to welcome Obama and 2008 Democratic National Convention attendees, and explosive footage from a Boston Globe interview highlighting Obama’s neglect of Chicago public housing residents. While the fight requires what appears to be an up-hill battle, Rice is confident, “if we can convince just 25% of black voters that the Republican Party already represents the values [we] most care about, we can break the back of the Democrat Party, take back

“if we can convince just 25% of black voters that the Republican Party already represents the values [we] most care about, we can break the back of the Democrat Party...”

Congress, and stop the Democrats from capturing the White House”.

[For more information on the National Black Republican Association: visit, www.nbra.info]

Freedom’s Voices spotlight is devoted to promoting awareness of civic, social and religious organizations, which share the views and support FJM cause of revitalizing conservative (L.I.F.T) principles, freedom and a judicious political process that reflects the traditions, values and issues facing our nation’s African American constituency.



I am a Republican, a black, dyed in the wool Republican,
and I never intend to belong to any other party than the
party of freedom and progress.

Frederick Douglass (c. 1817-95)



Obama: Win or Lose

By Bob Parks

I'm not sure we've seen a generational shift like the one we're experiencing today. As far as my limited perspective goes, the next generation takes control and life goes on. However, things are looking quite different as this whole Obama phenomenon plays itself out. This incoming generation is exhibiting the humility of a lion in a field of goats.

This election is all about the "change" and "hope" they tirelessly recite, but can't define. It's all about their

future. But what happens if they get their way and Barack Obama becomes the President of the United States? And even more ominous, what happens if they don't get their way? Things could get ugly on a grand scale.

If Barack Obama Wins...

We all understand the historical significance of witnessing the election of the Second Black President. This would indeed trump the World Series victory of the Boston Red Sox after 100+ years of the Curse of

the Bambino. This would trump the victory of the USA Olympic Hockey Team over the Red Army. In fact, there is nothing we've witnessed in our lifetimes that would surpass this.

Now what occasionally happens when a city's team wins a championship?

We have riots. There's looting, hooliganism, vandalism, drunk and disorderliness, assaults, and sometimes injury or death. And as this wouldn't be about one single city, can you imagine the potential for nationwide rioting by punks looking for an excuse and now having the greatest of reasons to do so?

Let's not forget, the people most likely to create mayhem are the youth. Many of them are Obama supporters and not knowing exactly why besides the fact he's black. As these are the same people who routinely commit a whole range of misdemeanor and/or criminal offenses just to videotape and post them online, I would hope those who maintain the servers at YouTube are ready for a surge of uploads in the hours following an Obama victory.

Remember Seattle when the World Economic Summit brought unruly anarchist destruction of public and private property. Remember the looting that engulfed New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Remember Chicago during the Democrat convention, and no other event has ever had the historical significance (or the excuse to create mass hell) as an Obama election.

Let the "party" begin.

If Barack Obama Loses...

We all know what it takes to piss off some in a city. Even congresswomen can instigate a crowd, chanting "No justice, no peace".

I lived in Los Angeles during the Rodney King riot which was kind of intense. Everyone was on edge, parts of the city were burning, there was a sunset-to-sunrise curfew, and most people were praying some minor incident didn't set something off in an adjacent neighborhood.

If Barack Obama loses, the template has already been created.

As of today, Hillary Clinton's supporters are claiming her nomination was "stolen" from (her and) them. That excuse is now quite typical whenever a liberal loses. Can you imagine what'll happen if Obama loses? It won't be because McCain garnered more votes. It won't be because he was considered more ex-

perienced and the American people wanted an adult in the Oval Office. It won't be because he laid out a more detailed vision for the United States, as opposed to "change", "hope", tax the rich and oil companies, and stop the oceans from rising. It'll be because white America was too racist to elect a black man. Every vote for McCain will be compared to a baton strike on Rodney King's upper body. Every Electoral College vote will be like the sting of the lash on the back of every black person in America.

The Man will have won again. The black man will have been put back in his place. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton will be interpreting this as the need for a new civil rights movement. Rappers will be inspired to create tracks instructing the young to burn down America. Rabid inebriated college students will have yet another reason to work off the binge, while also protesting the inherent American racism their professors preached about for years.

If the videotaped beating of a drunk and stoned black man, apprehended after a high-speed chase, can start a riot in a major metropolitan city, just what do you think could happen if a black presidential candidate is beaten by an old, white, Vietnam vet on national television live?

We are again talking about people we raised, giving them everything they wanted, when they wanted it. Well, now they want Barack Obama, and whether they get him or not, there may be hell to pay.■



Marty Ozinga

Aaron Schock

Jim Oberweis

Peter Roskam



[Click Here For Video](#)

Hangin' In The Balance: The State of Illinois' Congressional Dist.

By Fran Eaton

Illinois is the Midwest's most diversely populated state, with three of her most densely populated counties boasting over 20 percent African-Americans. Three of Illinois' congressional districts are represented by black Democrats – Bobby Rush and Jesse Jackson Jr. from Chicago's south side and suburbs, as well as Danny Davis from Chicago's west side. And of course, Illinois' is represented by the only African-

American in the U.S. Senate, Barack Obama. The number of blacks in Illinois is competitive with the burgeoning number of Latinos from Mexico and Puerto Rico. Not far behind is the growing segment of Asians and Arabs.

As these minority groups increase in size and prosper financially, their needs and interests are changing. In combination with these changes, a growing number is questioning whether their loyalties to political parties are deserved. Par-

ents are angry about the education their children are not receiving; weary of the inhumane health care system and burdened by high property taxes discouraging the American dream of home ownership.

Dissatisfied minorities are influencing the political minority outreach of congressional campaigns, especially in more traditionally Republican conservative districts such as Illinois' 14th, 18th, 6th and 11th CDs. For Republicans to have any hope of regaining a majority in the U.S. House again, they will need to keep or regain these four key seats, all targeted by the Democrats in 2008. Minority voters will be crucial this election cycle.

In the 14th CD's special election Democrat Bill Foster grabbed earlier this year, retiring former House Speaker Dennis Hastert's open seat up when district Republicans were unable to recover from a divisive primary to elect the GOP's nominee Jim Oberweis. Oberweis, a local dairy magnate whose ice cream stores have multiplied in the past few years, is hopeful he is able to regain the district for the Republicans in the fall. Oberweis' outreach into the state's second largest city of Aurora includes seeking votes among its substantial minority population.

Popular African-American Aurora city councilman Richard Irvin endorsed Oberweis in the special primary. David From, Oberweis' campaign manager, said Oberweis plans to continue visiting black churches and meeting with church leaders throughout the fall campaign.

"Jim participated in the Quad Cities' Urban League debate as well," From said. "But the real number of potential Republican votes in the 14th CD is among Latino voters. We've hired a Latino on staff to help with this outreach and are working with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce to get into the Asian community."

Just east of the Kane County-centered 14th CD is wealthier Republican haven 6th CD, where a growing number of southeast Asians is drawing the attention of freshman Republican Peter Roskam's 2008 re-election efforts. His campaign's minority outreach reflects the DuPage County-centered district, where non-black communities outnumber African-Americans.

"The overwhelming number of immigrants in the 6th are from Southeastern Asian countries and have entered the country legally," Roskam said. "They have a high view of our system of immigration and expect others to abide by it." His constituents' concerns influenced Roskam to focus more on the impact of illegal immigration policies and led to a recent visit to the Mexican/Arizona border. There

For Republicans to have any hope of regaining a majority in the U.S. House again, they will need to keep or regain these four key seats, all targeted by the Democrats in 2008

Roskam saw firsthand the need for strong border law enforcement and learned the ongoing threat from those who would take advantage of the U.S.' current loose immigration policies.

"Last year's immigration marches concerned many in my district and, I think, they awoke a sleeping giant," Roskam said. "The people of my district want our laws respected."

Farther south, in the more rural central Illinois 18th CD, first time Congressional candidate Aaron Schock is building on the success he experienced during his last two state representative campaigns while reaching out to the district's African-Americans.

Schock, a 27 year old Republican conservative, saw black community support dramatically increase from 5 percent support in 2004 to 39 percent in 2006 in his Peoria-centered State House district. The campaign intends on working to expand support among African-Americans as it reaches to the larger 18th CD, represented for years by retiring U.S. Congressman Ray LaHood.

"Our approach in the 92nd state rep district was a concerted effort of reaching out to the district's black churches and black ministerial alliances along with community outreach in the form of a kid's fair," Schock's campaign manager Steven Sherrer said. "We introduced tutoring programs, health care screening and help with educational programs, including sponsoring a summer reading program."

With this active outreach during his first term as state representative, Schock won the confidence of his district's area black leaders who agreed to appear in an outreach campaign ad appealing to Peoria's black community voters.

"We featured eleven community and civil rights leaders, as well as school principals," Sherrer said. "We took out a half-page ad in Peoria's African-American paper and ran ads on the BET cable channel. But the biggest draw was Aaron himself continuing to show interest in the community in between elections."



Sherrer said if Republicans statewide had worked to attain 20 percent of the African-American vote, they would have successfully regained statewide offices lost in previous elections.

It's those 20 percent nearby 11th District Republican candidate Marty Ozinga is interested in attracting in this year's bid to succeed retiring Congressman Jerry Weller (R-Morris). Ozinga, a concrete manufacturer employing 1200 people, is well known in Will County for his philanthropic gifts to many worthy causes, including several in the black community. Years before he considered running for office, Ozinga generously contributed funds and served on the boards of local private schools, including several in Chicago's minority community.

John Arrington, Ozinga's volunteer minority outreach director, said thus far the black community has received Ozinga's candidacy with open arms. "So far, it's been good," Arrington, an African-American, said. "We're planning some events for the fall to reach the churches and church leaders in the areas of Joliet and Kankakee. We believe the outreach will be worthwhile because Marty shares their conservative beliefs."

"Marty's the type who will reach out to all people. He's not a traditional politician. He's already proven he'll serve all sectors with the same quality of services. It's what he's done with his company, and what he'll do as a Congressman," Arrington said. Ozinga's interest in educational opportunities is what drew his support, Arrington said.

"Education choice is a huge issue in the black community," he said. "Marty understands the impor-

tance of competition, how it improves quality and drives down cost. Marty and parents in the black community agree that parents should be given a choice for their children's education."

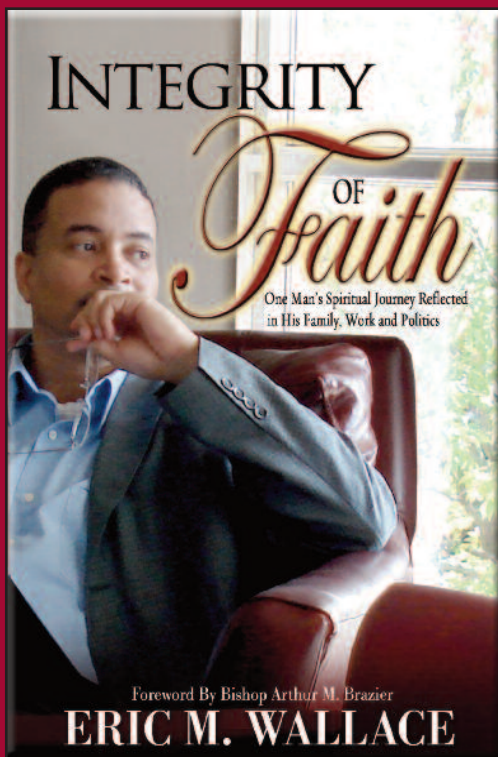
"We're telling them to look at the candidate, not just the party," Arrington said. And that's exactly what it will take for conservative Republican candidates to benefit from any black community outreach this election cycle. After all, Illinois is the state from which America's first African-American Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama hails. But for those candidates who've been building relationships with the black community for years, whose name is heading the ticket doesn't matter as much as who has been the most helpful over the years.

Both representatives from the Schock and Ozinga campaigns say they're confident black voters will carefully pick their votes in November. Both are confident the community as a whole will support those who've proven themselves over the years at the local level rather than be swayed by intangible promises of those at the national level. No matter what political pundits claim, considering Illinois' wide diversity of the nation's fifth largest population, it's really unpredictable to know what will happen among African-American voters in November. But it's for certain the direction they choose will be pertinent to America's future – at all levels of government. ■

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The Haves and the Have-Nots (Of a Clue)

By Herman Cain

America is divided between the haves and the have-nots. In this case, I am referring to those who have a clue as to what's really happening to America, and those that have not a clue. The latter group is certainly not stupid, because as some people have observed, you can't fix stupid. They are just severely uninformed and misinformed. The have-nots are being taken advantage of to pull off one of the biggest political power grabs in U.S. history at the expense of our nation.

No. It is not the Republican leadership in Congress or the White House. They simply disappointed us when they had a golden opportunity to solve some big problems in a big way during President Bush's first term. Now they are in the minority and are being bashed, stonewalled and whipsawed by the Democrats at every turn.

Yes. It is the Democratic leadership.

We may as well start with the Democratic Majority Leader in the Senate, Harry Reid. In response to a losing vote to not end debate on the Climate Tax Bill, a.k.a. the Cap and Trade Bill or the Lieberman-Warner-Boxer Bill (S.2191 and now S.3036), Senator Reid complained about "the nerve of Republicans to dare talk about what the bill would do to raise people's gas and electricity prices, and how many manufacturing jobs would be lost."

In other words, how dare you tell people the truth! By failing to end debate which requires the annoyance of 60 votes in the Senate, the bill will remain in limbo most probably until next year. This is when Sen. Reid and the Democrats hope to have 60 Democratic senators and a Democrat in the White House.

At that point, they can ram as much of their socialist agenda down our throats as they desire, which is a lot. Sadly, at least five Republican senators are ready to vote with them on Cap and Trade. Our only hope for continued defeat of the bill would be for it to not pass in the House. There again, the Democrats are looking to increase their majority by an almost veto-proof number of Democrats in the House.

This kind of stuff (I wish I could use a more graphic word) goes unchallenged by the have-nots in this country. Just as they did not challenge the Democrats' voting down a bill to allow exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Outer Continental Shelf, and for oil shale in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

The Democratic leaders and their presumptive presidential nominee, Sen. Barack Obama, have persisted with their pledge to allow the existing tax rates to expire. This will, in fact and not speculation, produce a devastatingly negative hit to taxpayers and the economy.

They are called the Bush tax cuts to constantly remind the have-nots that low taxes must be a bad thing. You see, the Democrats have succeeded at creating so much Bush hate with the have-nots, that if it were a fossil fuel we would not have an oil crisis.

The list of Democratic socialist desires is long, but we must at least mention their kumbaya national security strategy, and their denial that a federal spending tsunami is no longer over the horizon, it is around the corner. Despite this fact, the Senate has proposed a 5 percent increase in domestic agency spending for the 2009 fiscal year starting in October 1, 2008.

In Washington, they call that increase nominal. I call it irresponsible. Neither the haves nor the have-nots have time to keep up with all of the Democrats' political jockeying and positioning, but at least the haves possess enough of an awareness to know when to challenge something that does not pass the common sense test. If the have-nots do not wake up, then the federal government will have it all. At that point, there will be no United States of America. ■



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The End of Race and Gender Politics

Star Parker, President of CURE

Who would have ever thought, when we were dozing off in the middle of John McCain's presidential campaign, that he'd reel in Sarah Barracuda and change the game overnight?

"Barracuda," of course, was what they called Gov. Sarah Palin when she was a star point guard on her high school basketball team.

I'm not fond of sweeping pronouncements suggesting that any development is "historic" or "changes things forever." But this time I'm giving in to temptation.

This presidential campaign is historic and will change things forever.

We've a black man on the Democratic ticket and a white woman on the Republican ticket, and both are out of the mold of conventional race and gender politics. The result will be, if not the end of race and gender politics, then certainly the beginning of the end.

The irony of the Obama candidacy is that it did not begin to soar until it was clear to blacks that this was not business-as-usual black politics. This was much different from electing a black candidate in a racially gerrymandered district that practically guarantees that a black is elected.

Consider the contrast between Obama and now ex-Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Kilpatrick has just agreed to resign his position as mayor, despite eight felony counts filed against him and overwhelming evidence that he lied to the Detroit City Council about his extramarital affair with his chief of staff, Christine Beatty. Kilpatrick's shenanigans have cost Detroit taxpayers millions, including \$8.4 million used to settle a whistleblower lawsuit filed to expose his affair.

Despite the compelling case against him, and huge costs imposed on taxpayers, Kilpatrick hung

on to his mayoral job for almost nine months after the Detroit Free Press broke the story that he was lying about his affair.

It took Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm to agree, at the request of the Detroit City Council, to preside over a hearing on whether to remove him to cause him admit he lied and step down.

What fueled Kilpatrick's stubbornness in the face of obvious guilt? The sense that he could hide behind race. Many Detroit blacks dug in with their support of Kilpatrick as white suburbanites called for his resignation. He even pulled the gender card when he lied under oath.

"My mother is a congresswoman. There have always been strong women around me," he testified. "I think it's absurd to assert that every woman that works with a man is a whore. I think it's disrespectful, not just to Christine Beatty but to women who do the professional job that they do every single day." This is classic race and gender politics, rooted in a core cynicism about this country and about life in general. It relegates idealism and integrity to the weak and the naive.

Obama changes all this. His candidacy, by necessity if for no other reason, transcends race. A black candidate could never succeed on the national stage if he were not a candidate who happened to be black. And Gov. Palin? Here is a young woman who says that being governor of Alaska is a "cool job," calls her husband, a blue-collar worker and union member, the "first dude," and is a pro-life Christian with five children and a corruption fighting, limited government Republican.

Word is that Democrats are rolling out female surrogates to counter the surprise Palin onslaught. This to be led, of course, by Sen. Hillary Clinton. If there is one line from Sen. Clinton's campaign that defines her, I think it would be "fairness doesn't just happen. It requires the right government policies." It's the left-wing call to arms. Only bureaucracy can produce the good.

Yet, ironically, whether we talk about the settling of America, the abolitionist movement, the women's suffrage movement, or the civil rights movement, the initiative has been from motivated, idealistic private citizens. Not bureaucrats.

Now we have a black candidate and a woman candidate on the respective national tickets that defy political clichés. The result can only be a new excellence. More proof of the greatness of this country and the power of freedom.



Star Parker is president of the Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education and author of the new book *White Ghetto: How Middle Class America Reflects Inner City Decay*.

The Real Importance of Barack Obama's Presidential Run

By: Lee H. Walker

For the past four decades liberal Democrats have typically dominated issues involving gender and race, as they pressed for more inclusion of these groups in positions of power in American society. It has come as somewhat of a surprise, then, that Illinois' junior U.S. senator, Barack Obama (D), is being supported by a wide variety of white conservatives, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents in his run for U.S. president, while liberal Democrats are playing the race card in attempting to stop him in his historical campaign for the presidency.

It is amazing, and profoundly sad, how quickly 40 years of racial healing can be undone by a few politicians and demagogues. Yet it seems highly possible that Americans are finally fed up with petty politics and now ready to support the candidate that we feel can lead this country in the restoration of America's integrity and its standing as the leader of the free world, regardless of that person's color or sex. As the Democratic governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson, the nation's highest elected Hispanic official, said when endorsing Obama, the Illinois senator's presidential run is a "once in a life time opportunity for our nation."

Since the early 1970s Thomas Sowell, a Hoover Institution scholar and author, has been perhaps the nation's foremost authority when unpacking the issues of economics and race. Discussing Obama and race, Sowell has been very clear.

Sowell said, "Whatever one may think about Obama as a candidate or as a potential President, his candidacy has brought something new to the American political scene." With his focus on hope and change, Obama's basic mes-

sage is that it is not too late for America to change from some bad habits to better habits. "We are the change that we seek," Barack tell his audience at every stop.

Although it is certainly true that race still matters in American society, as does gender, neither was acknowledged as a factor at the beginning of the 2008 campaign. In fact, Obama intentionally avoided the issue of race even after winning the first primary in a state that is 96 percent white.

After losing in Iowa, the Clinton strategy, by contrast, seems to have been to remind whites that although Obama was born to a white mother, they should not forget that he really is black. Her campaign has continued to play the race card since then, with varying degrees of openness. Even many members of the Congressional Black Caucus opposed Obama--until he started winning in the states with large black populations.

Deval Patrick, the first black governor of Massachusetts and a personal friend of Obama, said, "Once in a generation, a candidate comes along who is committed to more than succeeding at the partisan food fight in Washington. Once in a generation a candidate comes along who is both book smart and street smart, who is equally at ease with the meek and the mighty." Several hours before Obama made his successful speech on race, a Gallup poll found that 62 percent of Americans had a favorable opinion of him despite his association with his controversial pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Yes, race matters; it has always mattered. However, if Alexis De Tocqueville were alive today he would probably say that democracy in America is finally beginning to work for all. His conclusion about race relations in the United States in 1831 was that among whites, Indians, and Negroes during that era, only whites were enjoying the new idea of democracy, and that this was "the present and probable Future Condition of The Three Races."

When the history texts are updated, they should strongly reflect the contributions of Booker T. Washington and Sen. Barack Obama as blacks who could lead both blacks and whites at challenging times in American history when race relations were at a critical turning point. Barack Obama's presidential candidacy is powerful confirmation of the truth of Washington's vision of hard work and self-reliance as the route to success for blacks as for all Americans.



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With Sarah Palin - The Joke Is On The Democrats

By Ceasar I. LeFlore III

You can't take liberal Democrats seriously! Really, you can't! I guess that's why most of their main spokespersons are either comedians or Hollywood elitist who spend most of their lives in a fantasy world, living by fantasy values.

Leftist court jesters like Bill Mahr, Stephanie Miller, Al Franken, and Keith Oberman have continuously assaulted traditional American values, and those who believe in them, through crude and oft times offensive attempts at humor that give subtle voice to extreme Democratic ideals that their main stream voices cannot safely express. Nothing is off limits to them, and they can always depend on their legions of liberal sycophants to mindlessly laugh at jokes that if examined closely, actually represent a sick and invidious social and political worldview that is nothing less than dangerous to our nation.

Now, desperate for new material, they are setting out to disparage the credentials and experience of Governor Sarah Palin saying she is not qualified for the office of Vice-President, all the while, on their own knees at the alter of worship for their neophyte, messianic presidential candidate, Barack Obama. Now, that's funny.

Barack Obama is by the far the least experienced and least prepared candidate to ever run for the U.S. presidency; and that's no joke. With only two years in the U.S. Senate – half of which has been spent running for president – and a non-distinguished career in the Illinois State Senate; Barack Obama's contention that he is more prepared than others to be president is exactly what Bill Clinton identified it to be during the primaries, a fairy tale.

Barack Obama has very little to hang his hat on. He is always credited and praised for the work he did as a community organizer in Chicago, but you seldom hear any critique as to how effective he was in that position; and what lasting accomplishments from his involvement in those communities the citizens are benefiting from today. Those questions deserve answers if we are going to continue to allow Obama to list

them as the accomplishments that qualify him to be president. He'd better have been one of the greatest community organizers of all time to make that his justification to lead the most powerful and prosperous nation in history during times of extensive world crisis.

To his credit, Obama did good work as director of the Developing Communities Project (DCP), a church-based community organization that during his three years as director grew in staff from 1 to 13, and in annual budget from \$70,000 to \$400,000. Obama also helped set up a job training program, a college preparatory tutoring program, and a tenants' rights organization in Altgeld Gardens; accomplishments that are laudable, but not extraordinary.

Obama was also Chairman of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, which received a 49.3 million dollar grant written by one William Aires, known also for his works of terrorism as a member of the Weather Underground. The project was established to improve the Chicago public schools, but is universally considered to have been a huge failure with lingering questions about methodology and fiscal integrity.

A comprehensive study by the Consortium on Chicago School Research for example, concludes: "Results suggest that among the schools it supported, the Challenge had little impact on school improvement and student outcomes, with no statistically significant differences between Annenberg and non-Annenberg schools in rates of achievement gain, classroom behavior, student self-efficacy, and social competence."

Controversy still remains as to how the millions of dollars that were left in the fund were directed by Barack Obama, as well as some of the leftist, radical groups that received money from it, including a group associated with William Aires. More on that will follow at a later time.

By contrast, Sarah Palin began her political career in 1992, running for Wasilla City Council as a supporter of a controversial new sales tax proposal and promising "a safer, more progressive Wasilla." She won and served two terms on the



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Unto One of the Least of These

By: **Eric M. Wallace, PhD.**

Not surprisingly during the recent Saddleback interviews, Senator Obama gave us clear insight into his theology and worldview; which if not vigilant, many may have missed. At one point he mentioned that he “hoped his sins would be forgiven”, a clear indication he doesn’t quite understand Christ’ atoning once-for-all sacrifice for the sins of the world. All we must do is “confess our sins and He is faithful and just to forgive us” (I John 1:9). There is no need to “hope.” The only requirement we have (as Believers) is to confess our sins, that’s it. If we have not yet trusted Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we need only repent and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead; and that His death was the substitution for all our sins, and all like us.

But equally troubling, was his quoting of Matthew 25:40 where essentially Jesus commends the actions of those who give food, shelter and compassion, etc. to others in need, as things done for Christ himself. I have two observations to make, for clarity.

First, Matthew 25:40 is not a government mandate. It was written to the Church, and by extension its foundational principles support faith-based initiatives, which likely include feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting those in prison. This isn’t the government’s job. It’s God’s mandate to the Church in response to our salvation by grace.

Secondly, by quoting this verse Obama further reveals a misuse of the text. Instead of pointing to the moral responsibility, we have as believers, to give to others because of what Christ has done for us; his explanation suggests that, as a nation, our obligation should be to “provide a ladder of opportunity” for those in need-- simply out of the abundance of our wealth. This, at its core, is one of the teachings of Black Liberation Theology. One must help the poor and needy in order to please God and bring about salvation for the “rich” and the “poor.” It is all about the redistribution of wealth from the ‘haves to the have-nots’. Don’t get me wrong, helping the poor is a good thing when done correctly; but it will not save anyone. Good works are a by-product of salvation-- not the means. Loving your neighbor, giving aid to the poor, visiting the sick and shut-in, etc. are not works to gain favor from God, but acts of obedience and good will because God loved us and forgave our sins through Christ’ sacrificial life, death and resurrection.

Christians who are tempted to support Barack because of a feeling that we aren’t doing enough to fight poverty, racism or sexism, etc. need to realize that the government cannot (and should not) do the work of the church. As a matter of fact, government will, in almost every case, limit what can be done. Ironically, Barack implied that his brand of governing would not allow discrimination in hiring people, which staff outreach or drug rehab programs if they received money from the government. However, there would probably be limits on proselytizing, which many strongly feel is the only way for drug addicts, murderers, and alcoholics to live transformed lives. The truth is God must do a work inside, before any real change in behavior takes place. Consequently, government can’t, won’t (and never will) be capable of doing that. Prisons don’t rehabilitate people; they just remove its threat from society for a period of time (and in many instances, the criminal is worse off when he/she returns to society).

Inevitably, Barack Obama's world view has been shaped by his 20 years under the teaching of Rev Wright and the theology of Dwight Hopkins, professor of theology at the University of Chicago. Thiers is a narrow view of the world that purports the resources of this planet as, somehow, limited. The rich gain their wealth by exploiting the poor; and in turn, restitution is needed to give back to those in need (justifiable through forced re-distribution if necessary). Salvation for the rich and the poor is in the sharing of wealth. And, according to some, salvation is based on an arbitrary notion that people are better off with more material goods and the ability to live a comfortable lifestyle.

This is not the good news of God's Word. The good news is, we were lost and separated from God through our sinful nature but "God so loved us that He gave His Son" to take our punishment (John 3:16). Jesus willingly took our punishment (a punishment He did not deserve); so it's by faith in Christ (not faith in 'faith' itself) that brings salvation. Recognizing, and believing that Jesus God's only begotten Son died on our behalf (so we wouldn't have too) is the gospel truth, in a nutshell. Good works are a result of our new relationship with Christ; not the means by which we are saved. Unfortunately, Black Liberation Theologians have incorrectly interpreted scripture; which means any world-view (i.e., Barack Obama's) based on this faulty theology incorrectly represents the relationship of the rich vs. the poor, and inappropriately assigns the task of redistribution of wealth as not only a mark of our salvation, but our duty.

This ideology (usually formulated under the hidden agenda of

ascribing higher taxes to the "rich") mandates legislation, which unjustly prescribe that the rich pay more taxes than the rest of society. The single most important reason: they have somehow exploited the poor and middle class in their accumulation of wealth, and therefore it is only fair that they be made to give it up in order to support others who are less fortunate. Interestingly, the products and services we all enjoy (and choose to pay for with a price) somehow exploit an entire 'class' of people. Manufacturing dishwashers, cars, boats, houses, etc., which all provide a living for many, is exploiting the masses because the owners (who invested their money, time and labor) are becoming wealthy. I believe this is merely the bi-product of hard work and good planning. But I digress. The theology that Barack has been taught over the last 20 years is, at best, the basis for socialism. This understanding that salvation can be earned by the redistribution of wealth is not only unbiblical; it is dangerous, and will only lead us down the road to a totalitarian state.

Again, the admonition in Matthew 25 is to the Church, which is called to be God's agent of love and grace in the world. We must "freely give" what we have to others, for no other reason than the relationship with our God made possible through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. The State could never fulfill this admonition--nor should it ever try. It is better that she gets out of the way of the Church, and lets us do our job. We have fed more hungry people, clothed the needy and visited more people in jail than the state could ever hope to-- and we do it more efficiently. ■

The Joke Is On... cont'd. from pg 55

council from 1992 to 1996. In 1996, she challenged and defeated incumbent mayor John Stein, criticizing wasteful spending and high taxes. Palin followed through on her campaign promises to reduce her own salary, and to reduce property taxes by 40%. She ran for re-election against Stein in 1999, this time winning by an even larger margin than before. Palin was so respected among her peers across her state that she was also elected president of the Alaska Conference of Mayors.

In 2006, running on a clean-government platform, Palin defeated then-Governor Murkowski in the Republican gubernatorial primary. She declared that education, public safety, and transportation would be the three cornerstones of her administration. Despite having less funding than her Democratic opponent, she won the gubernatorial election in November, defeating former Governor Toney Knowles 48.3 percent to 40.9 percent. With her historic victory, Palin became Alaska's first woman governor and, at 42, the youngest in Alaskan history. After two years in office, Palin realized an 80% approval rating from her constituents and has established a reputation as a highly principled and honest politician. She is especially lauded for her toughness and her willingness to take on political corruption and wasteful spending, even when it takes place within her own party. As governor, she did what the U.S. Congress could not do in defeating Republican Senator Sander's infamous "bridge to nowhere project."

You would think that even the most liberal idiot would clearly see that this woman is no joke; but they don't. The usually immature and non productive jokes have already begun about the way she looks, where she's from, and even worse; her family situation. News about her teenaged daughter's pregnancy is already on the front page of all the major newspapers and on every talking head cable news show in the country.

But I believe, as it concerns Sarah Palin and her contribution to John McCain's presidential campaign, the joke is going to be on them. Despite the mean jokes and unfair media coverage, liberals on some level realize that the comparisons between the McCain / Palin ticket and the Obama / Biden ticket will eventually allow American voters to see behind the punch lines and to the truth of who is really best suited to lead this nation. Like Smokey Robinson said; "there ain't too much sadder than the tears of a clown." ■

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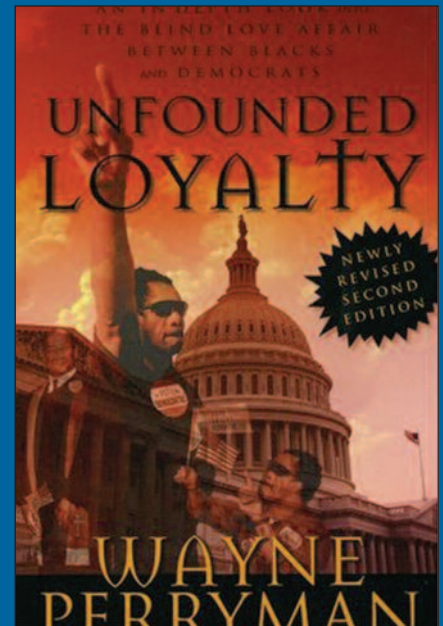
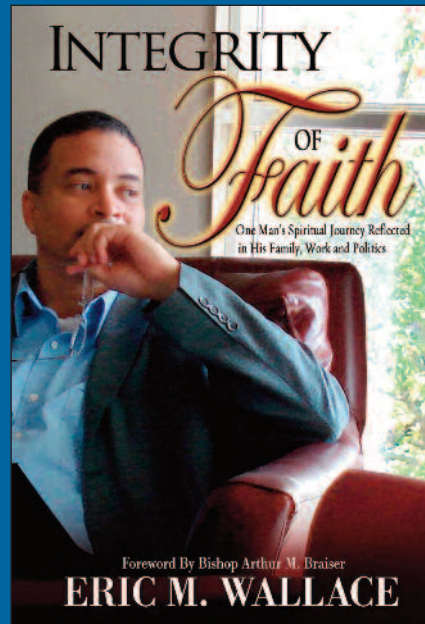
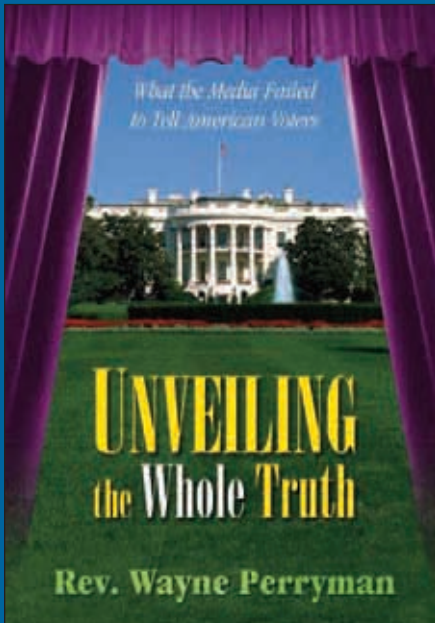
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STARRING: Alveda King, Mason Weaver, Star Parker, Rev. O'Neal Dozier, Derooy Murdock, Rev. Jesse Peterson, Rev. Keith Butler, Niger Innis, Bishop Harry Jackson, Armstrong Williams, George Fraser, Shelby Steele, David Barton, Rev. Peter Marshall, Robert L. Woodson, Sr., Gloria Jackson, Senator Harris Wofford, Roy Innis, Bill Sammon, Barbara Williams Skinner, Bishop Bobby Henderson, Bishop Charles Brown, Pastor Derrick Hutchins, Adam Brown-vocal artist, Felita Kahrs and Michele Ruth Jones - on camera narrators, LeCount Holmes - reenactor

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