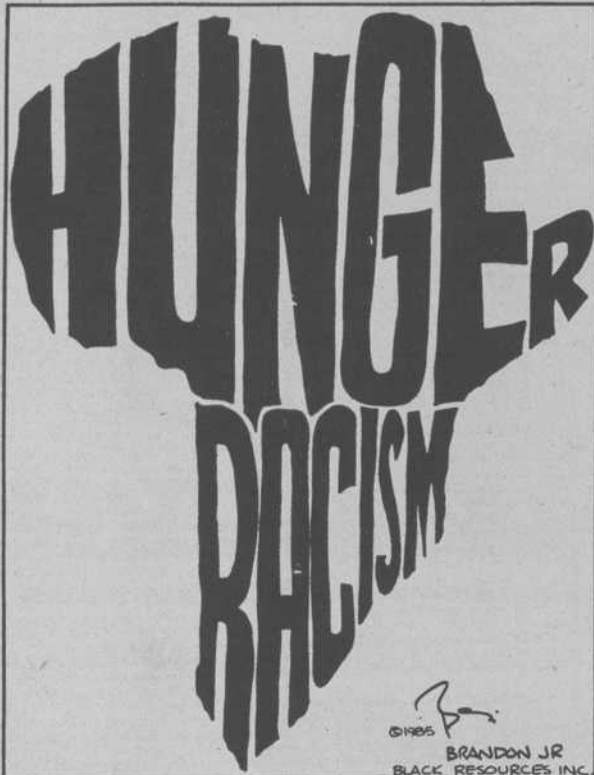


Point of View



EDITORIAL

Greater The Votes, Greater The Power

It is apparent that voter registration and voter education remain paramount toward gaining the power needed in the election process. It is an uphill battle and a long, drawn-out, frustrating experience.

Now, more than ever before, there is a determined effort being made to turn around "the system" and to take positive steps toward exposing the "machine" -- a catalyst which stands in the way of community progress.

A machine, as we know it, is an element of the leadership that inhibits growth and organizes, by design a political entity that places into office individuals who will accede to their desires rather than those of their constituency. Their choices in office are manipulated as they see fit. The end result, is of course, disastrous for the community. There's chaos and distrust...there's the beginning of a toppling municipality.

Here's an example of how the "machine" could work: The political action committee will make a determination as to whom they want in office. While there may be two good prospects running for office, the committee makes a prior determination as to whom they want in office. The reason could be racial, religious affiliation, economic or "one of the boys."

Politicians in office could, by design, pad the work force with extra, unnecessary workers who they know will place votes in their camp. This method could mushroom through votes from relatives and friends. The committee also could look cautiously at the candidates to ascertain which one would assure allegiance to the committee or party rather than to his or her constituency.

The case is clear. Voter education and voter registration is the only answer. Numbers count. That's the only name of the game. At this point, positively 10,000 or more registered voters are needed in the Black Community. There are no Blacks in the office at the city level. There will be none if we don't get the numbers of registered voters desired.

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The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.
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To Be Equal

COMPETING FOR BLACK VOTES

By John E. Jacob

The November election results blew some holes into myths about the black vote, such as the one that black candidates can't win state-wide elections, especially in the South.

But L. Douglas Wilder was elected lieutenant governor of Virginia with strong support among white Virginians who respected his record in the state legislature and agreed with his positions on the issues.

The Wilder victory should inspire many black mayors and other office-holders in the South and elsewhere to consider running for state-wide offices. It may well be that Virginia is an exception, and other states will not demonstrate the same open-mindedness but even running and losing would be a step toward conditioning the electorate to the viability of black candidates and turn

today's losses into tomorrow's victories.

Another myth derives from the overwhelming rejection of President Reagan's candidacy by black voters. He got under ten percent of the black vote, leading many to believe that the Democrats



John E. Jacob

have the black vote locked up.

But the President is not the Party. Black voters were appalled by the way his Administration tried to gut

black civil rights gains and by the harshness of domestic policies that cut social programs desperately needed by the black poor.

It is a virtual certainty that no candidate from the Party's right wing who is soft on civil rights has a chance to win more than a handful of black votes.

But individual Republican candidates who have

Republicans.

In New Jersey, Governor Thomas Kean was re-elected with the help of 60 percent of black votes--a huge increase over the last time he ran.

In his last race, Mr. Kean was perceived as a conservative with ties to the Administration. After a term in office in which he demonstrated his moderation and courted

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campaigns among black voters and demonstrated support for black progress have always been able to count on black votes.

That's why it's surprising to find the political pundits look at the black votes for Republicans in New Jersey and Cleveland in November and conclude that there may be a new black shift to the

black voters, he was perceived as a friend of the black community and got the votes he needed.

The other election result often cited is the re-election of Cleveland's Republican mayor, George Voinovich, who got more than eighty percent of the black vote. He did so well because blacks

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NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



Dilemma of the Black Woman

His name is Howard, he is black and in his mid-30s. Six years ago, he had a really good job. He was on top of the world and got married to the prettiest woman he knew. Since he was a swinger, he needed a wife to take care of the house and his sexual needs. On the weekends, he partied with his friends.

Her name is Anne, she is Howard's wife, and also, black. Anne grew up in a household that emphasized the principles of kindness, understanding and adherence to the traditional laws of society. Anne was

reared to be a good wife and to support her husband through good and bad. The happiness of her husband was secondary to her own.

Howard, although earning a good salary, couldn't handle family expenses by himself. A second salary was needed, so he told Anne to get a job. Having become the traditional "housewife," Anne had a difficult time finding the inner drive to get a job and assert herself in the work-a-day-world.

But, after much inner turmoil, Anne found a job and began to move up in the business world. She had

become confident, assertive and ambitious. She could stand on her own two feet and began to earn as much money as Howard. She discovered that life involved more than ironing her husband's shirts.

Two years after Anne began to work, Howard lost his job. Almost immediately, he experienced frustration, a lack of confidence, ego destruction and depression. The loss of his job, and his superior status at home, was slowly destroying him emotionally. He needed the moral support of his wife more than at any point in his

life; the maintenance of his strong masculine self-image depended on it.

But, his wife, Anne, was no longer the retiring, dependent housewife. She was now an assertive, competitive businesswoman, with little time or energy for anything other than the demanding job. Unable to deal with his own unpleasant situation, Howard began to drink and, generally, lose control of his life. He was headed downhill emotionally.

What was Anne to do? Should she quit her job and attend to the urgent needs of her husband for moral support? Could she again

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The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice welcomes expressions of all views from readers. Letters should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. They must include signature, valid mailing address and telephone number, if any. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished individual letters cannot be acknowledged. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 1201 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.