

# Point of View

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## CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

# ANOTHER WAR ON IRAQ IS FUTILE

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Just as we had earlier predicted, the Bush Administration is moving speedily toward resumption of war with Iraq. President Bush seems determined to proceed to unleash another military expedition against the Iraqi regime more for domestic political reasons than for any real concern for the plight of the Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq.

Remember the past concern for the Kurds in northern Iraq just after the Persian War last year? This administration changes its "caring" focus in the most flagrant politically opportunistic manner of any nation in the world. But the deeper question is why does so much of the American public continue to fall for these bogus and violent maneuvers?

Remember the threat a few

days ago to "bomb Baghdad" if the Iraqis attempted to prevent the U.N. inspectors from entering a government ministry building? The problem is that the "smart bombs" have destroyed countless more people than targeted buildings.

As of this date there is still no official verification of the actual number of civilians that were killed by the U.S.-led allied forces during the Gulf War. To be sure the actual figure is probably in the tens of thousands. It is immoral for the President or anyone else in power to devalue the worth of a human life. The saying that "all is fair in war" sheds light on the terrible and tragic reality of senseless war.

Not surprising is the fact that as soon as Iraq and Saddam Hussein became the focal point

of the President's platform, Bush began to rise in the public opinions polls. The timing of the Republican National Convention and the announcement of new threats against Iraq were well planned and orchestrated.

The Republicans have mastered the art of deception. But if the public can keep part of its attention on the domestic front, then Bush will have a difficult time diverting attention toward the Persian Gulf. Of course, we stand up for the human rights of all people.

It is, however, a strange situation when the President of the United States is more than willing to go to war ostensibly to protect the rights of minorities in another country while racial and ethnic minorities here in this nation suffer from systematic

discrimination and exploitation.

To initiate another war on Iraq is an exercise in futility. War is not the solution, it is the problem.

The military industrial complex needs to be transformed into an industry of peace rather than be a gigantic entity prone to war-making. There are many in the African American community and in other communities as well who see through the Bush strategy of diversion.

It is rather sad that even the United Nations under the guise of seeking peace will authorize the use of war to achieve its objectives. When the international community as a whole engages in threats and recriminations it does very little to set an example for a single nation that feels it has to strike out to

reach its strategic goals.

The civil rights organizations have raised once again the increasing disproportionality of people of color in the U.S. armed services. There is a glaring contradiction when a multiracial army defends a nation that refuses a multiracial distribution of its wealth, justice and basic freedom.

We say "No more war on Iraq



**BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.**  
or on any other nation.' Let us focus the resources of the nation on solving some of the life and death problems right here rather than thousands of miles away.



## HEADS IN THE SAND?

It's no secret that most African Americans in the U.S. today are registered Democrats. Just like everyone wants a party that represents them, so do African Americans. lately, however, the debate is becoming more widespread among African American scholars, on the subject of serious examination of our unspoken alliance to the Democratic Party. It is becoming more and more obvious that the Democrats intend to keep this large number of loyal Democrats at arms length. And the question of whether the Democratic Party is really the party of inclusion or not, is being of asked more frequently than ever before.

In fact, in the last four years, the biggest strategic question was whether the party should openly court its African American supporters. Michael Dukakis in 1988 did very little

to reach out to African American communities. And a growing number of moderate and conservative Democrats feel that embracing African Americans chases more whites from the party.

Even here locally, many of my constituents have questioned me about the last time I've heard from the Democratic delegation that serves Nevada in Washington, D.C. And to be truthful to them, I can't remember the last time. Maybe they don't want to be tagged as paying attention to "special interest." I also find it interesting that one of our top city officials who claims to be a strong Democrat, and has been hinting at running statewide soon, has been trying to help my Republican opponent in the upcoming November election. What kind of Democrat is this elected official anyway?

Quite frankly, Democrats are playing too much of a simple and

foolish strategy of "bury your head in the sand." Democrats taking the African American vote for granted have caused a downward swing in African American voter turnout in both 1984 and 1988. This year there were 107 African American delegates at the Republican National convention, exceeding the 100 mark for the first time in the party's history. This represents a 75% increase over the 61 delegates four years ago.

This is not to say that there will be a great number of African Americans shifting over to the GOP, but it does mean that if Democrats don't embrace a true message saying they are an inclusive party, then they are going to be in trouble nationally, and here in Nevada as well.

The sad thing about all of this, is that Democrats have so many opportunities to show it's true side, and they balk almost everytime. A few years ago when



**Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams**

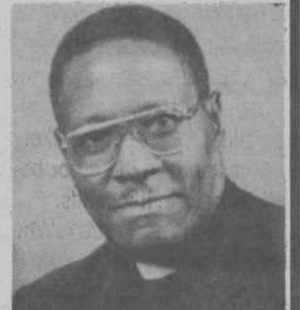
basketball player Greg Anthony was really basking in Republican sunshine, state Democrats were pulling their hair out because of the exposure the GOP received politically, especially with young voters, because of Anthony's involvement.

Now for the first time in the state's history, an African American female is on the verge of being elected to the Nevada State Legislature. An African American woman who happens to be a Democrat. An African American woman that is not running in a district that is perceived as a "Black District." You would think that the Demo Party would be doing everything possible to help her get elected. But it looks like the party, from the top to the bottom, has it's damn head in the sand!

### THE NAACP AND YOU!



**Rev. Jesse D. Scott**  
President  
Las Vegas, NAACP



## NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET '92

The Las Vegas Branch NAACP will hold it's Freedom Fund Banquet '92, Saturday, October 24, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of Bally's Hotel on the Strip. The proceeds from this banquet will be used pay for the daily cost of operating the Branch office. The public is invited to attend for a donation of \$100.00 per ticket. For further information call attorney Arthur Williams after 5:00 p.m. at 873-6836.

### U.S. Presidential Election, November 3, 1992:

The Nevada Voters League, the political endorsing arm for the Las Vegas Branch NAACP made 45 endorsements in the September 1, 1992 Primary and 31 of them won outright or will be in the November 3, 1992 general election. This number gives the League a 69.5% winning average. The Voters League's next candidates night will be October 26, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. at the Moulin Rouge.

### NAACP Election Meeting Schedule:

1. Sunday, October 11, 1992 at 3:00 p.m. - Nominating Committee Election.
  2. Sunday, November 8, 1992 at 3:00 p.m. - Nominating Committee Report
  3. Sunday, November 20, 1992 at 10:00 a.m. - Election Day
- All these meetings will be held at the Heritage Lounge, 1012 W. Owens Avenue. For further information call 646-1662.

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