

POLITICAL POINTS

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exact same things that are being brought up to education policy makers even today. And the key point of the petitions was to hammer home the point that those who pay into the system should receive equal and fair educational services.

So the bottom line is, those who have information will always have the edge on those who do not. And as American Education Week is celebrated Nov. 14-20th, we must use it to reflect on educational progress and recommit to the elevation of our people; through providing as many quality opportunities as possible. It was Frederick Douglass who said more than a century ago, "If we are ever elevated, our elevation will have been accomplished through our own instrumentality - no people that has solely depended upon outside aid, ever stood forth in the attitude of freedom."

The newest effort locally is the upstart of Prime 6. For Prime 6 to be effective for our children it will need all of our support. Please don't miss Prime 6 Parent and Community Nite Out on Nov. 16 at 7:00 p.m. at H.P. Fitzgerald School. With all of us working together, it will work.

WHY ARE WE ABANDONING OUR PRINCIPLES? WE'RE NOT

By Council Nedd, II, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)

Watching the morning news shows last week, I learned of a poll by the Christian Coalition that stated that in spite of African-Americans' allegiance to the Democratic party, the majority of African-Americans think abortion and homosexuality are wrong.

As an African-American, I did not find that odd at all.

I have known all along that, despite the political leanings of the traditional civil rights leadership, the views of my community tend to be conservative.

While I expected the poll to get at least some attention in the mainstream media, I was surprised to see how carefully it was reported in the black media. Black Entertainment Television News, for example, gave news of the poll extensive coverage. Is the black community finally starting to realize that maybe I am not such an oddity as a "black conservative," and that maybe

it's only logical that I would work to elect people that hold the same views I hold on family and morality — be they black or white?

I think reasonable people can agree that there is a crisis in the black community, and we can no longer leave unquestioned the way in which their traditional black leadership ignores moral issues and traditional values. When I think of the 180 degree turn that the traditional leadership has made, I have to question their motives.

There was a time when Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the N.A.A.C.P. and countless other organizations held to the time-honored traditions with which most of us were raised. I do not believe that the leadership nefariously contrived to trade moral beliefs for the political clout that is essential to making our voices heard in Washington. Nonetheless, at some point in our struggle for equality we forgot of the need to
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GUEST COMMENTARY

FOLLOW THE LEADER

By Kurt Monroe

Young people today really have their heads together, a lot more than we care to think. All by themselves, they are embracing their own ideas about ethnic values while respecting other cultures. All by themselves, they are forming their own ideas about who is really concerned about our communities and who is not. Many of you officially, and unofficially, claim to be spokespersons of our communities. Most young people are not reciting anything that you say or write, they do not wear anything that represents you, and most do not know your names or care to even pretend. In short, you are not seen or heard.

Do you think that perhaps we are writing our young off as unwilling troubled deviants? If so, besides parents, who else should bring these people around, if they are without understanding? There is a big difference between those who young people respect, and those who consider themselves worthy of respect. They see our leaders as engaged in style and profile politics, in other words, as selling out.

Don't be fooled, these young people are hungry for direction. They don't look at themselves as enslaved. They realize, even as some of you may have forgotten, that we are in boot camp hell. We have always been, ever since we were brought to this land. Battles have gotten us out of some situations. The only problem is that many of our young feel they are in boot camp hell all alone. No drill sergeants or officers to show them the way. Many of you are guilty of this.

And so, our young people

are drawn to, and led by street soldiers like Ice Cube, Ice-T, Public Enemy, Huey P. Newton, and Malcolm X. The media calls these rappers and leaders controversial, the government calls them the same. I, on the other hand, call them reporters and heroes who tell the truth which gets through to the youths. They use a language which is foreign to typical style and profile politics. They speak on subjects just as foreign, subjects like, ending the disrespect by people who have historically taken advantage of us. They speak also of ending talks for change someday, but rather, today. They know that the President down to the police have no interests in carving a cleaner path to their positive future. There is a lot of talk about getting the job done with or without leaders, since none of you are willing, in the eyes of many, to come out and get your hands dirty, anyway.

Most of the respect is going to people who see that they have nothing to lose in telling the truth. By the truth, I mean through all of the nice nice rules of the power structure game, which is really a stall tactic, and getting on with how our people are still being lynched. DO you see the KKK, Skinheads, or other opposing politicians playing by these rules while this is happening to us? The unnecessary baggage of ego and internal conflict, or the quest of fame and fortune, is severely getting in the way of our peoples progress, as the other side laughs at us.

The street soldiers I mentioned earlier, are by no means uneducated hoodlums. I have taken the frustration of the common youth to my classroom

and watched how university professors changed the way they teach history (some of us say his story) and sociology, at least while I was in the room. Just looking at police records, which in many cases, should be interpreted as criminal records against police, would reveal the fact that blacks are being singled out for extermination. You can verify what is going on in our society by simply opening your eyes my friend. These are the things that are on the minds of our youths. Are they still unwilling troubled deviants? These are also the things that the street soldiers help the youths to deal with.

Don't sell the youths short, just show them what to do with

all of their energy, rage, and education. They can not possibly get all of the answers from inferior school systems with poorly written books, and they certainly can not get it all from a sixty minute CD. Please give them the rest, fill in the blanks to bring us all together to get us out of this big mess we are in. The young people are looking for signs of your intentions to be what you are claiming to be. Amplify your voices somehow. If you don't, you will continue to hear the rage in the music about our society. You will hear more angry youths, and will see that the only way that some of them will engage in politics, whether right or wrong, is through de-

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NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

We're all familiar with the old adage "Money doesn't make a man, man makes money," right? Well contrary to popular belief not only can man make money, but money can most definitely make a man figuratively, and in the probable near future, literally.

Case in point: Ross Perot or "Pea Rot" as he's called by Bro. Steve Cokely. Who is this guy? Some big-eared, Alfred E. Newman look-a-like, bit money white boy from Texas who claims to care about the American people.

I maintain that no wealthy white man cares about the welfare of the masses. His concern lies in the fact that ultimately he will be affected by massive job loss. What am I talking about? Simple, the more people that work, the more people can buy goods and services. If you own a company or two that means good business for you. But as more people become unemployed there's a decrease in buying power. It all boils down to how much money can be made.

Let's go to "Pea Rot." He's against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). His argument is that it will mean millions of job loss for Americans. He could care less about you or I losing our jobs but as more people succumb to unemployment his concern then becomes, not how will that family eat or how will they pay the rent, but how will I maintain my profit margins.

American culture (my apologies to those of you who propose that America has no culture) predisposes people to selfishness and greed; the wealthier you become the more selfish and greedy you become and the more power-fed you seem to be. So it is understandable how a Ross Pea Rot can come to national prominence as a spokesman for this or against that; he fulfilled the prerequisite, he has money to propagate his views.

Money is the blood that flows through the veins of America. Economic health is based on the mighty dollar. Disrupt that blood flow and America suffers high unemployment, high crime and in severe cases, a recession just as one suffers chest pain or blocked arteries. And as for the men with money, he suffers too, psychologically, that is, as he feels his status is jeopardized.

If Africans continue to use the Ross Pea Pots of the world to measure your success, then you've lost the game before you even get to the stadium. But if you look to your own heroes as the yardstick for which success is measured then you'll be rich in a true sense. Until next week, this has been the Minister of Information.



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