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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Swing-state status draws 'foot soldiers' to Nevada

By Mary Bleier
Sentinel-Voice

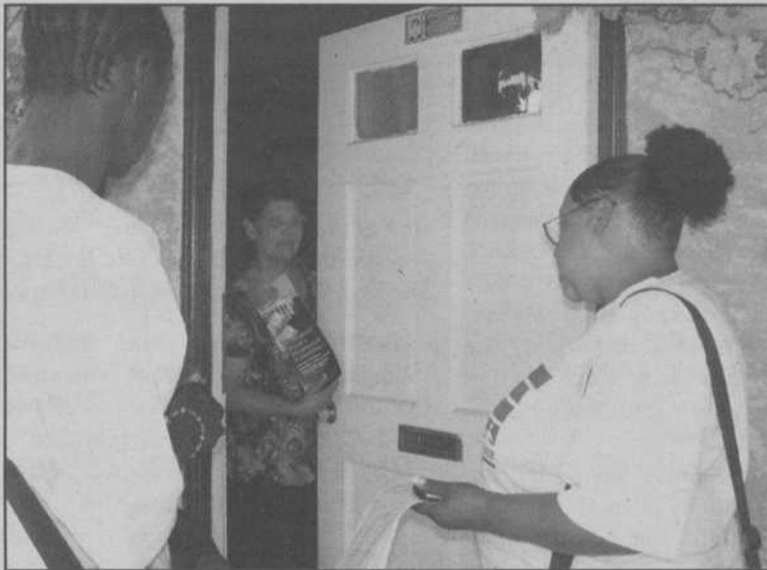
They're called "foot soldiers of the progressive movement." They're here to stay in Nevada—at least until November 2004.

"America Coming Together," also known as ACT, is one of the largest voter mobilization projects in the United States.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Democratic organization, created earlier this year, is led by CEO Steve Rosenthal, the former long-time political director for AFL-CIO. Under their umbrella company of America Votes, ACT is just one of many organizations that the Democrats have put together with the aim of defeating President Bush.

Mostly deep-pocket liberals like billionaire philanthropist George Soros, who made his millions operating a private investment management firm, fund the not-for-profit organization.

According to the March 10, Washington Post, "The Democratic 527 organizations have drawn support from some wealthy liberals determined to defeat Bush. They include financier George Soros and



Foot soldiers reporting to duty. Members of the Democrat-promoting America Coming Together Nevada go door-to-door to talk to voters.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

his wife, Susan Weber Soros, who gave \$5 million to ACT and \$1.46 million to MoveOn.org; Peter B. Lewis, chief executive of the Progressive Corp., who gave \$3 million to ACT and \$500,000 to MoveOn; and Linda Pritzker of the Hyatt hotel family, and her Sustainable World Corp., who gave \$4 million to the joint fundraising committee."

So determined are the Democrats to take back the White House, they have narrowed in on what politicians call "battleground states." Nevada is one of 17 battleground states.

Votes in battleground states or swing states can go either way and usually play a big role in elections because these states will probably

determine who wins the election. With this in mind, both the Democrats and the Republicans pump up campaigns, targeting the swing states, wanting to win electoral votes.

The other hotly contested states are Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico,

Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Here in the Silver State, Democrats are laying their groundwork, working feverishly to change what happened in 2000.

"The Democratic effort was not aggressive enough four years ago in Nevada," said Terence Tolbert, Nevada Director of ACT. "We only paid attention to Clark County and now we are targeting voters across the state."

ACT has sent teams to each battleground state, hoping to sway voters to their side. Originally from New York, Tolbert worked on the John Edwards Presidential Campaign before it disbanded. He is

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Republicans can't win over Black youth

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

BOSTON (NNPA)—The best hope for Republicans to make political inroads into the Black community is in the 18 to 25-year-old age group. Though that age bracket is more independent and less loyal to the Democratic Party than their elders, the GOP is finding that many factors converge to thwart their efforts, including parental influence.

"It runs in our family that we're going to be Democrats," says Brianna Brown,

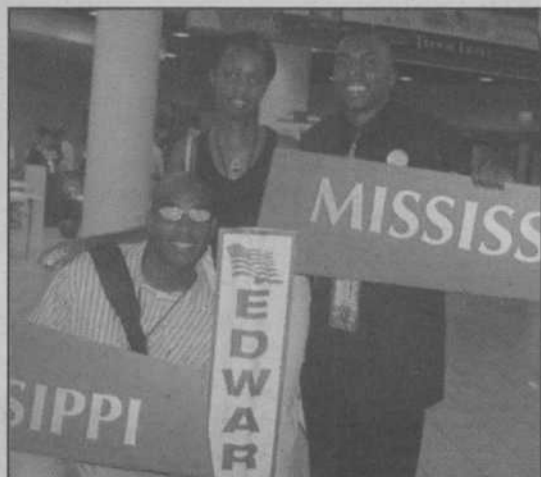


Photo by NNPA/Hazel Trice Edney

Curtis Blyden, Karimi Gituma and Brandon Jones say they're ready to get their peers to vote.

14, of Concord, N. H., a teen volunteer during the Democratic National Convention. "Like, the Democratic policies have reached out to our family and what our family standards are."

Not even old enough to vote yet, it is already a forgone conclusion that she, and at least most of her friends, will vote for Democrats when they turn 18, says the freshman at Saint Paul's school.

Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.), a person who votes

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Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

A'shanti Gholar got an up close look at powerhouse politics by attending the Democratic National Convention last week in Boston.

Young Democrat has time of political life

By Kathi Overstreet
Sentinel-Voice

A'shanti Gholar is a senior at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas majoring in political science and African-American Studies. She is president-elect of the Young Democrats of Nevada, a precinct captain and vice president of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Young Democrats. Gholar will take office Jan. 1, 2005.

"One thing I can say about A'shanti, is she is extremely personable and never afraid to openly speak up for what she believes in," said Kevin Scott Carey, past president of the Young Democrats of Nevada. The group focuses on educating and getting Nevadans between 18 and 35 familiar with and involved in the Democratic Party.

"My feeling is if young people remain empathetic to the political process, the issues that matter most to us will not be addressed," said Carey.

In 1998 Carey was approached by Rory Reid, state chairman at the time, to restart the Nevada chapter.

"American's between the ages of 18 to 35 make-up the largest voting bloc, yet have the lowest turnout at the polls," Carey said. "If we could turnout those numbers, we could change the world like our parents did back in the 60s."

"My parents were involved in

politics then because they didn't agree with what was happening in this country, so they got involved and helped change occur. That's what we must do as young people," said Carey.

The YDN remains active and have also established chapters at the University of Reno and Green Valley High School.

Gholar has been fascinated by politics for as long as she can remember.

"Watching people who wanted to make our country better for everyone through the political process is what caught my attention," she said. "I couldn't wait to turn 18 and register to vote. That's when I really got involved."

From passing out literature to phone banking, canvassing neighborhoods and attending political events such as council and precinct meetings, to speaking publicly on issues that effect Americans young and old, this 23 year-old is definitely involved in the political process and has been bitten by the political bug.

Gholar's deep regard for and dedication to the Democratic Party are two sure reasons she was selected by Nevada's high-ranking Democratic delegates to attend the Democratic Convention as a junior delegate in Boston last week.

"This has been the best experience of my life so far," she said.

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