

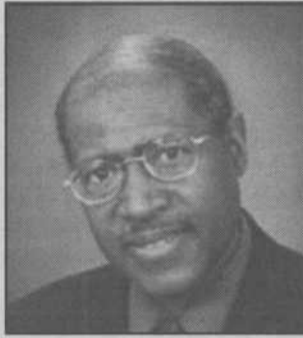
## C O M M E N T A R Y

## The tiger vs. the Tiger Woods of Black politics

By Ron Walters

Special to Sentinel-Voice

One of the visible aspects of the just-concluded Democratic national convention is that there is slowly evolving a new leadership class and without a doubt, there is some contention involved. It is captured by the fact that when he was being interviewed, one reporter had the



RON WALTERS

temerity to ask the Al Sharpton whether Senator Barack Obama was the future of the Democratic Party. Not surprisingly, Rev. Al shot back, "Both of us are!"

It is without question that Barack Obama gave a great speech last week at the convention. It was billed as the keynote speech of the evening and he proceeded to lay out the reasons why he has been an exceedingly successful politician who will probably be the third Black U. S. Senator since Reconstruction. He talked about his diverse background, being born of a short marriage between a Kenyan father and a White mother from Kansas; then as a result of her second marriage being raised in Hawaii. In fact, because of his mixed background, he was referred to by the press as the "Tiger Woods" of American politics.

Obama went on to lightly criticize the Bush administration for its handling of public policy and to wrap himself in the

signs and symbols of American patriotism. Most important, he reaffirmed the American dream by citing himself as an example. But his most important role was to support John Kerry and link his candidacy and perhaps his governance to the community that Obama represents. Obama, however, did not say that he

represented the Black community, but that the pigeonhole of race, class and region paled beside the human needs of people and was a very unifying and attractive posture with the delegates. He is ready to be senator; but is he ready to be our Black President?

Should Barack Obama win his election, his national image will grow. And he will become — and there will be an attempt to make him — the president of Black America. It will be interesting to see how he handles that. So far, he has been savvy and mature in his handling of the pressure that has been created by the massive expectations placed on him. Nevertheless, it should be noted that, as he said it, he is the "flavor of the month" for the Democratic Party establishment. In another month, you can drop as quickly as you rise. It should be noted, however, that in the 2000 election,

(See Walters, Page 12)

## Kerry highlights scant Black issues in address

By George E. Curry and Hazel Trice Edney

BOSTON (NNPA) — In outlining his plan Thursday night to restore trust and credibility to the White House, John Kerry placed little attention on issues of special concern to African-Americans, opting instead to discuss how he is better equipped than George W. Bush to lead the country in a time of war and direct its battle against international terrorism.

Kerry did not address in any kind of detail such issues as affirmative action, future appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court or racial profiling. But he touched on a number of other issues — the need for affordable health care, Iraq, a fair tax system and homelessness — that will impact most African-Americans.

"I will be a commander in chief who will never mislead us into war," Kerry said. "I will have a vice president who will not conduct secret meetings with polluters to rewrite our environmental laws. I will have a secretary of defense who will listen to the advice of military leaders. And I will appoint an attorney general who will uphold the Constitution of the United States."

Saying U.S. voters are facing a major choice in November, Kerry stated: "I know what we have to do in Iraq. We need a president who has the credibility to bring out allies to our side and share the burden, reduce the cost to American taxpayers,

reduce the risk to American soldiers. That's the right way to get the job done and bring our troops home.

Here is the reality: That won't happen until we have a president who restores America's respect and leadership so we don't have to go it alone in the world. And we need our alliances, so we can get the terrorists before they get us."

While most of Kerry's speech was crafted to show that he will be better on international affairs, an area where Republicans have traditionally claimed to be stronger than Democrats, the party's nominee also sought to provide a contrast in the way domestic issues are handled by the White House.

"We're told that outsourcing jobs is good for America. We're told that jobs that pay \$9,000 less than the jobs that have been lost is the best that we can do. They say this is the best economy that we've ever had. And they say anyone who thinks otherwise is a pessimist. Well, here is our answer," Kerry said. "There is nothing more pessimistic than saying that America can't do better."

Praising the Clinton years, Kerry said: "...And let's not forget what we did in the 1990s. We balanced the budget. We paid down the debt. We created 23 million new jobs. We lifted millions out of poverty and we lifted the standard of living for the

(See Kerry, Page 12)

## Economic empowerment for dummies—that means most of us

By James Clingman

Special to Sentinel-Voice

In keeping with the K.I.S.S. method, which most of us are familiar with, we initiated the Blackonomics Million Dollar Club (BMDC) in April 2004. We issued a call on the Internet and via this weekly column, for 200,000 persons to sign up and commit to send \$5 (or more if they so desired) to a designated institution or cause. By doing so, we would be able to give \$1 million to the group of our choice. That's as simple as it gets, right? It's like all of those books, titled, "... For Dummies"

Well, despite the BMDC having not yet attained 200,000 names, the current members decided to go with who we had; we wanted to send contributions to a designated Black organization. Thus, the BMDC made its first donation to the Marcus Garvey School in Los Angeles. Members from cross the country sent checks and money orders to the school, just like they said they would when the call went out.

I had the good fortune to visit Marcus Garvey in June 2004, during the Los Angeles Black Book Fair, and based upon that visit, I am confident we made the right decision. It was good to meet Anyim Palmer, founder of the school, and to spend time with and the principal, Linda Saunders, and her staff. It was great to see the students as they went about their daily schedules, eager to learn and dedicated to solidifying their educational future.

I'd like to share two wonderful examples with you, among many of the worthy students at the Garvey School, who have convinced me that we did the right thing.

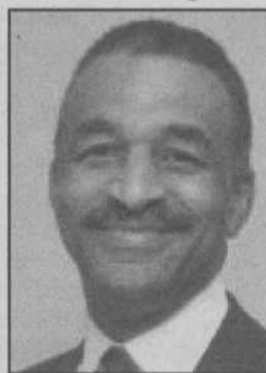
Daryl Hobbs is a 13-year-old college student. That's right, a 13-year-old college student! He decided when he was 12 that he would enter college after he finished the sixth grade at Marcus Garvey School, where he has been a student since he was 4 years old. He now attends West L.A. College.

Daryl excels in academics, athletics, music, and computer science and has been featured in several newspapers and periodicals. He has traveled to Africa and has been a guest on L.A.'s famous morning show, Front Page, on KJLH Radio. Oh yes, Daryl is carrying a 3.0 average in college.

What excites me the most about Daryl is his interest in becoming an entrepreneur.

After designing, publishing, and managing the Web site: [www.queenaminahs.com](http://www.queenaminahs.com), he and his younger brother launched their own Web site development company, "DM Webguyz," investing their initial profits in a digital camera for the company.

The other former Garvey student is Mariah Godsey, who also went to college at the tender age of 13. She took an overload of classes, 17 units per semester, and entered the



JAMES CLINGMAN

biochemistry program while completing the requirements for high school graduation as well. She went to Ghana to demonstrate how to design and assemble sophisticated computer systems, and she continues to pursue excellence in her chosen field of endeavor.

Those are just two of many examples of what our children can do if provided the right tools via concerned, dedicated, and committed teachers. The Marcus Garvey School, since 1975, has been and still is uncompromising in its mission to properly educate our children and prepare them for the global economy.

Now for the sales pitch. Why don't you — right now — or at least after you finish reading this column, sign up for the Blackonomics Million Dollar Club?

What simpler and symbolic way to show that we are willing to support our own institutions with our own money? What better way to involve brothers and sisters, from all strata of our populace, than to commit to sending a minimum of \$5 to the entity of our choosing, thereby contributing up to \$1 million with the click of a mouse?

We have had efforts to count the number of Black people on the Internet; we have had movements to "show" everybody how much money we spend in this economy; we have had efforts to demonstrate our contributions

to the gasoline industry by not buying gas for one day.

If we can do those kinds of things, we should certainly be able — and willing — to use the power of our collective resolve and our collective financial resources to "show" everyone that we are serious about our own economic empowerment.

The Blackonomics Million Dollar Club has already demonstrated what a committed group of individuals can do, through our support of the Marcus Garvey School. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we would put our energy into a campaign such as the BMDC, by attaining the 200,000 names, and many more, and by sending millions of dollars to assist with our children's education, or to Cynthia McKinney's political campaign, or to Claud Anderson's Harvest Institute or to another familiar cause?

Join the BMDC NOW! This is too simple for us not to do it, brothers and sisters, and even though some of us like things to be difficult and in crisis mode before we act, let's change that paradigm and rally together via the BMDC.

Before someone writes a book, titled, "Economic Freedom for Dummies," let's help ourselves with our own resources, \$5 at a time.

Go to [www.Blackonomics.com](http://www.Blackonomics.com) and add your name to the BMDC list.

James E. Clingman is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department.