

Letter to the Editor

Sentinel-Voice: Tool of Democrats

After reading "Our View" in your July 15 edition, I once again have had a view that I had held in my mind for a number of years confirmed. African-Americans get a large part of their news and information from the Black press and so-called Black leadership. It is so very unfortunate that African-Americans don't get both sides of the issues that face their lives and the lives of their families. This is even more deplorable when African-Americans can't even get balanced media coverage from African-American news organizations.

The very thing that the Sentinel-Voice has over the years accused the so-called White media of, this paper engages in the very same (poor) coverage or skewed coverage or no coverage at all. You might want to consider a name change: **The Democratic Party Sentinel-Voice**. Our objective is to deliver as many Black votes to the Democrats as possible, so that we might gain some favor.

African-Americans should expect to be left behind in this country for the foreseeable future as long as they are fed a regular diet of liberalism, no hope, blame the White man and let the

government solve all your problems and no personal responsibility. This is the kind of nonsense that is coming from the so-called Black leadership and the Black press. I guess its newsworthy.

The President of the United States has shown a commitment to African-Americans unlike any President before him. There are more African-Americans in this current administration than at any other time in the history of this country, but I guess they are not Black enough. And please explain what it is to be Black enough. As a Black man and Bush supporter, I am not hard pressed at all to tell you (about) one program that has helped Blacks under President Bush.

First, the No Child Left Behind Act, it is the law of the land that every child must be able to read and write. African-American kids have been (miseducated), not taught and outright ignored over many years. Under the Clinton Administration, test scores of African-American kids hit an all-time low, so today we talk about the achievement gap among the races.

No Child Left Behind was set up by President Bush's point man on education, Rod

Paige, a Black American who has seen over the years how African-American kids have not been educated. So today we need affirmative action because public schools have done a very bad job to bridge the achievement gap. We know why the (National Education Association) supports John Kerry, so that they can keep doing what they have always done to miseducate Black kids.

The next thing is taxes. Under Kerry, we know all of our taxes will go up. Just look at the tax dilemma in Boston, his home state, as well as New York and New Jersey, where people are expected to give more and more of their hard-earned money to the government. I don't think African-Americans like that very much. What about school vouchers? African-Americans overwhelmingly support this idea and so does the President, but guess who does not. Yea, you guessed it, John Kerry and his White supporters. They would rather keep African-American kids ignorant and dumb and they can best do that by weakening the No Child Left Behind Act and keep Black kids trapped in public schools.

Also abortion, the President opposes this crime

against children. I wonder why, because a very small number of Whites do this procedure. This procedure is carried out on African-American women at an alarming rate. What is the number one killer of African-Americans? Yea, you guessed it — abortion. Last year, there were 1.3 million abortions done in this country on all ethnic groups. And guess what, almost 600,000 were done on African-American women. Over the past 27 years, 15 million Black babies have had their lives snatched out because of this crime against humanity thanks to people like Sen. John Kerry.

So there you have my hard-pressed (effort) to find programs that President Bush supports. In all of your guest writers, you have not one African-American who has a different view than what you promote — unlike other local papers. The Sentinel-Voice is doing a grave disservice to the African-American community by not giving different views and opinions so that African-Americans can decide what they think is best for their families and loved ones and being informed of what each political party truly stands for.

Eugene Sloane

Mayor of Compton pays fine for Death Row link

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) - Compton Mayor Eric Perrodin paid an \$11,000 fine to the state Fair Political Practices Commission after he failed to report the same amount that was donated by Death Row Records.

The commission, which reached an agreement with Perrodin last month to settle the case, called it a "serious violation" of the law. The commission is expected to formalize the action Thursday.

The findings have drawn questions among officials at the Los Angeles district attorney's office where Perrodin has worked for the past 10 years. He handled part of a criminal case against one of Death Row's leading artists, Nate Dogg, about the same time he received the unreported contributions of \$3,500 and \$7,500 from the record company.

"We're going to pull the file and look at them," said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office. "Even an appearance of a conflict of interest would violate our policies."

Perrodin blamed an inexperienced campaign committee for failing to disclose the contributions and denied a connection between the campaign money and his involvement in the case against Nate Dogg, whose real name is Nathaniel Hale. "It's not serious, not at all," Perrodin said.

"There was a misunderstanding of what we needed to do and the time frame in which we needed to do it."

Bin Laden

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one of Osama bin Laden's sons in Afghanistan - a claim Binladin says is exaggerated.

"Nobody from my family was at this wedding in Afghanistan except for the mother of Osama," said Binladin. Yeslam and Osama are among the 54 sons and daughters of the late Saudi construction magnate Mohammed bin Laden and his 22 wives.

Binladin, the founder of Geneva-based financial company Sico, said the last time he saw his younger half-brother was before Osama left Saudi Arabia in 1981.

Kerry

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middle class. We just need to believe in ourselves and we can do it again."

Picking up on a theme popular with people of color and Whites, Kerry promised, "...When I am president, we will stop being the only advanced nation in the world which fails to understand that health care is not a privilege for the wealthy and the connected and the elected — it's a right for all Americans. And we will make it so."

Like many convention speakers throughout the week, Kerry played up his military valor, implicitly criticizing George W. Bush's decision to avoid going to Vietnam by joining the National Guard and even then, having questions raised about his spotty attendance. Vice President Dick Cheney also avoided military service, saying he had better things to do.

"I know what kids go through when they are carrying an M-16 in a dangerous place and they can't tell friend from foe. I know what they go through when they're out on patrol at night and they don't know what's coming around the next bend. I know what it's like to write letters home telling your family that everything's all right when you're just not sure that's true," Kerry said.

"As president, I will wage this war with the lessons I learned in war. Before you go to battle, you have to be able to look a parent in the eye and truthfully say: 'I tried everything possible to avoid sending your son or daughter into harm's way. But we had no choice. We had to protect the American people, fundamental American values against a threat

that was real and imminent.' So lesson number one, this is the only justification for going to war."

He drew thunderous applause when he added, "And on my first day in office, I will send a message to every man and woman in our armed forces: You will never be asked to fight a war without a plan to win the peace."

In one of the few direct references to African-Americans, Kerry said, "What does it mean when 25 percent of our children in Harlem have asthma because of air pollution? We can do better. America can do better. And help is on the way."

Kerry accused the Bush administration of conducting a "backdoor draft of the National Guard and reservists." More than a third of troops assigned to Iraq are members of the National Guard, a unit that under normal circumstances meets only on weekends.

"For four years, we've heard a lot of talk about values," Kerry reminded delegates. "But values spoken without actions taken are just slogans. Values are not just words. Values are what we live by. They're about the causes that we champion and the people that we fight for. And it's time for those who talk about family values to start valuing families."

One way of doing that, according to Kerry, is to de-politicize religion in America.

"I don't wear my religion on my sleeve," Kerry said. "But faith has given me values and hope to live by, from Vietnam to this day, from Sunday to Sunday. I don't claim that God is on our side. As Abraham Lincoln told us, I want to pray humbly that we are on God's side."

Walters

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the keynote role, representing the future of the Democratic Party, was given to Rep. Harold Ford, Jr., a self-professed member of the "Blue Dog" Democrats, the Far Right conservative wing of the Democratic Party. There is something in these choices of Barack Obama and Harold Ford, Jr. that must be sorted out against what has been happening to other leaders.

Without doubt, the speech by Al Sharpton to the convention on Wednesday night was the most important of that night, and for Blacks, one of the most important of the entire political season. Rev. Al lit it up, hitting the right themes of strong opposition to George Bush's policies - raw meat for the delegates who had to listen to speakers instructed by John Kerry handlers to make nice and not alienate the viewers. Most of all, he set out a high water-mark for the meaning of the Black vote and the conditions under which Republicans must consider seriously vying for it. He responded to George Bush's Urban League speech, requesting that Blacks consider voting Republican.

I won't even attempt to describe Sharpton's speech here. Download your own copy from www.BlackPressUSA.com. The point is that the Democratic establishment doesn't see him as the future of the party and he will have trouble claiming any of the political spoils of leadership. Part of this comes as a result of his not doing well in the primaries. But the most important

reason is that there is an image that the establishment, including many Blacks, have of leadership that does not include cultural warriors such as Sharpton and Jesse Jackson. In case there is any doubt, Jackson is still the most widely recognized and most effective campaigner as indicated by Blacks themselves in the recent BET.com/CBS News poll of 1,000 African-Americans. But he was not received in a respectful manner by the convention leadership with all of the accoutrements to which a genuine party leaders is accorded.

Some of this may give Kerry a headache in the streets because, beyond speeches and images, the skills and credibility of Sharpton and Jackson attract massive numbers of people and mobilize them for political participation. Whether Ford or Obama can match them, with so much on the line is hardly a question.

The best of all possible worlds is that both sets of leaders will be used effectively. We need both of them.

If they are to have any standing among Blacks, Obama and Ford must repudiate the politics of replacement that has been engaged by much of the Democratic Party political leadership. They should not get trapped in that divide-and-conquer game that is being offered by the Democratic establishment.

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