

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

## McGreevey resignation done to avoid more trials

By Lloyd Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

*"If they don't have the guts to come up here in front of you and say, 'I don't want to represent you, I want to represent those special interests.' I call them girlie men."*

— Arnold Schwarzenegger, July 17th

*"My truth is that I am a gay-American! Shamefully, I engaged in adult consensual affairs with another man... Given the circumstances surrounding the affair and its likely impact upon my family and my ability to govern, I have decided the right course of action is to resign."* — N.J. Governor Jim McGreevey, August 12th

Less than a month ago, Arnold Schwarzenegger leveled a challenge at crooked Democratic politicians to clean up their act in words which were interpreted as homophobic in some circles. The remarks were really more of a slap in the face of women than gays, evidenced by the fact that an enterprising clothing designer quickly cashed in on a lavender line of T-shirts emblazoned with "GIRLIE MAN."

Meanwhile, the Governor refused to apologize, never explaining whether he intended for the term to be taken literally or figuratively. He might have meant both, judging by the recent resignation of Jim McGreevey, the corrupt Governor of New Jersey who deserves to be impeached and imprisoned, or at the very least impaled on a seat-less bicycle and ridden out of town.

Part of the spoils of winning the gubernatorial race is the power to fill thousands of patronage positions around the state.

And though rumors of irregularities have long plagued his administration, the K-Y Governor always managed to slip away from any accusations of impropriety himself. Until now.

In the wake of 9/11, every state in the union rushed to create a Department of Homeland Security. In New Jersey, there was a particular urgency because of the fear of the presence of sleeper terrorist cells, since at least a half-dozen of the hijackers had lived in Paterson. Furthermore, there is the still unsolved anthrax case.

Many of the anthrax-laden letters sent to congressmen and journalists had been traced back to the Princeton area where five postal workers were found to be infected and where many others had to take antibiotics as a precaution. In fact, enough of the deadly spores were found scattered around these parts to close four local post offices, one of which remains an abandoned ghost facility to this day, an eerie, ever present reminder of the terrorist threat.

So, who did McGreevey tap as his head of Homeland Security? Not former FBI Director Louis Freeh who offered to take the job for free! No, instead, Jim decided to give the pivotal position along with a six-figure salary to unknown Israeli poet Golan Cipel, a 30 year-old hunk he had apparently fallen head-over-heels for while visiting the Middle East.

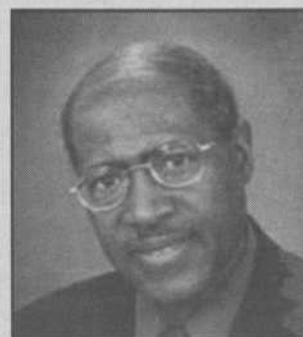
In the rush to get his boy-toy clearance, the smitten McGreevey overstated his (See Williams, Page 12)

## Bill Cosby tries to make right—after being wrong

By Ron Walters

Special to Sentinel-Voice

In the full glare of television cameras running, Bill Cosby recently selected four young Black men and committed himself to pay for their education at Hampton University in Virginia. The Today Show carried the story, with Cosby talking about remarks he made in



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May about some youth behavior, explaining that he misunderstood the fact that some people would not know that he meant. He said his critics have focused solely on the young Black people acting out, cursing, calling each other the n-word while ignoring students who are doing well.

The young men, of course, agreed that Cosby had a point and was telling the truth about their peers. Cos, in turn, stated his expectation that they should study hard and develop an attitude of excellence toward their studies.

It struck me that this was the easy way out, a publicity stunt. For while it is a good thing that four young men are getting the benefit of a college education at a fine Black institution paid for by Bill Cosby, you wonder why he doesn't understand that with his wealth, he could make a systemic difference in the problems that he has publicly flagged that might effect the lives of 4,000, 400,000 or 4 million young Blacks.

I've said in the past that we have too

many wealthy Blacks who take the easy way out when it comes to giving back to the Black community. And because of it, I have heard from those who say, in effect, what's a brother to do? He can't win.

It's not about him winning, it's about many in the generation that Cosby has publicly spanked for their

bad behavior winning. There are lots of Black organizations that pay the way of thousands of students to college each year. So, what should Cosby have done differently to address the issues that he has raised?

I think that Cosby might have taken a more serious route by calling together a group of educators, sociologists, community leaders and others to engage in at least a year-one think tank about what to do that would make a powerful difference in lives of young Blacks. There are so many dimensions of the problem: Black poverty, babies raising babies, glorification of the thug culture, the inner city drug trade, the easy availability of weapons for youth, social disorganization in Black families, living in cast away neighborhoods — and more. The dimensions deserve serious study and serious solutions.

Second, I think that Cosby could set up an institute and empower a group of Black researchers to come together, tasking them (See Walters, Page 12)

## Vote for me, I'll set you free!—and more campaign lies

By James Clingman

Special to Sentinel-Voice

*"Nobody frees a slave; a slave must free himself."* — Marcus Garvey

As we continue to celebrate Marcus Garvey's birthday (August 17), we should all take a moment to reflect on his writings as well as his accomplishments despite the tremendous adversity he faced. In addition to the above statement, Garvey admonished Black people to build and maintain a strong economic base and harness true economic power, without which there would be no reason for us to think we will ever have any real political power. Unfortunately, many of our people know very little about this giant of a Black man, and some of us fail to heed the lessons Garvey taught us.

Every four years Black folks get so fired up about the presidential election that it consumes us and takes up every ounce of our energy. It holds our attention and captures our wildest imaginations; it makes us long for the day when we will finally be free; and it entices us into believing that there really is a political White knight on a white horse (or should I say, a donkey?) that will ride into our lives and make it all better. Newsflash!! He ain't comin' ya'll. And, even if he (or she) does come, it won't be to free Black people. Aren't 139 years long enough to wait?

Have you ever wondered where the statement, "...and I'll set you free" came from

anyway? Well, who has been enslaved in this country? Bingo! It's a statement often used in a comical context and has survived so long because Black folks really think our salvation will someday be gained because we vote for a particular presidential candidate. Maybe that's why it's so funny; it's a joke.

This year's political election is very important. But so was the election of 2000. Now we are "really" mad and we plan to "really" get our people to the polls this time — just like we did in 2000. The pundits are fired up; the preachers are getting "all souls to the polls;" the Hip Hop folks are rocking the vote — once again; and the talking heads are poll-watching and prognosticating on who will be our leader in 2005. Don't you just love it?

Brother Sharpton told Bush the Black vote is not for sale. I don't know, Al. You could be wrong on that one. I think many of our votes are for sale, and I think many of those who say they operate in our interests are selling their vote and ours, too. They are the ones who maintain that all we have to do is vote for a certain one and we will be free.

Will Black people ever learn that our redemption is not in the hands of Bush, Kerry, or any other president? Sure, it makes us feel good to fantasize about our role in determin-



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ing the outcome of the presidential election, but all we are really doing is choosing between two decisions that were made without our input. We choose; they decide. But you already know that.

What is more important is what Garvey tried to make us see. We will have to free ourselves, thus, we cannot and never should have bought into that promise of "vote for me and I'll

set you free." Neither this upcoming election nor any other election will set us free. Our freedom will come by building our own economic foundation, from which we can reward our friends and punish our enemies.

Like most of you, God willing, I will cast my vote in November, but it will not be accompanied by an orchestra playing the William Tell Overture or someone singing, "Happy Days Are Here Again." I will do it because it is my duty and my right, and I will do because it's better to have the lesser of two evils in office than it is to have the greater of two evils there.

Yes, I am concerned about who picks the next two or three members of the Supremes, and I would like to see someone else in charge of those important Congressional committees, but in the long run, I know that no matter who occupies those seats, economic freedom

will only come to us, as Martin Delaney said, "...by the work of our own hands."

Barack Obama, the new fair-haired child, has recently been crowned as the probable first Black president. (Whatever happened to Harold Ford? Wasn't he crowned earlier?) But Obama may turn out to be the Tiger Woods of politics; we will have to wait and see. Some say Obama "transcends race" because he is not the "stereotypical Black man" (that's what they said about O.J.); one commentator said, "...he is not Black in the usual way." What in the world does that mean? (Rhetorical question, folks.) Does it mean that he is light-skinned and doesn't seem too threatening? Harold Ford is light-skinned; does he not fit the mold? Maybe he just doesn't say the right things.

Obama is certainly an excellent candidate for the Senate, but let's not fall for the game, brothers and sisters. If he is deemed "safe" then what label will be put on the rest of our Black politicians? Besides, even Obama will not set us free. That's our job.

One last question: What's up with Alan Keyes? Haven't the Republicans used and abused this brother enough? I guess not. I can hear him now, "I'll do it; I'll do it; please let me do it!" Is he getting paid for his latest political charade? Oh, silly me.

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