



National Urban League President Marc H. Morial says the presidential debates ignore Black America's issues.

Urban League chief denigrates debates

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — National Urban League President Marc H. Morial says the three presidential debates, all moderated by White males, are not likely to provide sufficient insight into where the two major candidates stand on issues important to African-Americans.

"Realistically, this means that the vast majority of Americans may never hear the next president's views on how to create good paying jobs, deliver a quality education, create affordable health care, support economic empowerment, consider the future of our American cities, extend the Voting Rights Act, remedy the retrenchment on civil rights through the Civil Rights Act of 2004, select judicial nominations, and address gross inequalities in our criminal justice system," Morial wrote in a Sept. 22 letter to the Debate Commission, the sponsor of the three face-to-face meetings between John Kerry, the Democratic nominee, and President Bush.

The non-partisan, non-profit Commission on Presidential Debates is responsible for bringing the candidates together for the debates.

The commission insists that the candidates not participate in any other debates.

"This whole process of limiting the number of face-to-face encounters between the two candidates and limiting the number of debates is not what the American public — Black, White, Brown, Yellow and Red — want to hear. They want to see these candidates side-by-side discussing the issues," Morial says.

Last week's debate focused on Iraq and international issues. This Friday's presidential debate will take on a town hall setting at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Questions from the audience will focus on both domestic and foreign affairs. The Oct. 13 forum at Arizona State University will focus on domestic and economic policies.

Morial says it's an insult that no African-American is a questioner on the presidential debates. Gwen Ifill, an African-American, moderated the vice presidential de-

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Pastor dies during lake storm

After staying night on island, companion rescued

By Mary Manning
Special to Sentinel-Voice

A sunset fishing trip turned deadly for one Las Vegas man Monday night and left a second man stranded on a small island overnight after an unexpected thunderstorm raked Lake Mead with gusty winds.

Donell Horn, Sr., 50, pastor of New Revelation Baptist Church, and associate minister Garland Washington, 58, were catching catfish



Pastor Donell Horn, Sr.

and striped bass near Echo Bay in Lake Mead when a fierce storm unleashed gusty winds, thunder and lightning.

The radio on the boat predicted winds of 10 to 15 miles per hour and gave no hint of a storm.

"I said, 'Oh, boy, look at all the lightning,'" Washington said Tuesday night, recounting how he felt the boat begin to rock and move away from its moorings.

About 8:30 p.m., a gust of wind whipped the 23-foot Sea-Ray like a toy and slammed it against jagged rocks protruding from the shoreline, Washington said.

Then all the lights went out. Washington grabbed a rope and a flashlight.

With water pouring over the sides, Washington jumped through the wind-whipped waves onto land,

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Politicians not courting ex-felons

By Mary Bleier
Sentinel-Voice

Considered long overdue by many, Nevada legislators stepped-up last year and passed a first-time law that restores the voting privileges of ex-felons, but under the new law only a select group will have a chance to head to the polls.

The law prohibits those convicted of violent crimes

from registering in Nevada.

As the clock ticks closer to the November elections, politicians are keeping Nevada under close watch. One of the 17 swing states — Nevada is caught between the tug-of-wars of political candidates. And with every vote counting in our state, who is going after the vote of the ex-felon?

Not very many, says

Launa Hall, Racial Justice and Field Organizer of PLAN (Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada). "Some politicians have been reaching out, but I wish more of them were." PLAN, a non-profit organization that helps former felons register to vote, was instrumental in getting the law passed. Hall, who says PLAN has about 300 ex-felons in its database, adds that

the paperwork alone is enough to make any person shy away from registering to vote. "I'm helping them through the process and through the hoops they have to jump in order to prove they are eligible to vote."

As a non-partisan organization, Hall says PLAN does not work with any political groups, but has worked with (See Felon Voting, Page 5)

P. Diddy, James Brown fete Sharpton on 50th

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton celebrated his 50th birthday on Sunday with speeches, musical acts and a rendition of "Happy Birthday" with James Brown and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs on stage at Harlem's Apollo Theater.

Brown performed at the afternoon program, which also featured gospel singers and rappers Doug E. Fresh and Foxy Brown, who paid tribute to the preacher, former Democratic presidential candidate and political fixture.

"He says what he feels, he means what he says, and he acts on it," Foxy Brown said. "He has marched, has been jailed, and many times maligned in his fight for recognition of the downtrodden."

She called Sharpton "our present-day link to our great leaders who have gone on to glory," citing civil rights activists Martin Luther King, Jr. and A. Philip Randolph, among others.

Seated in the audience



Former presidential candidate, the Rev. Al Sharpton, points to the audience as P. Diddy stands by Sharpton, a longtime civil rights activist and current reality TV show host, celebrated his 50th birthday Sunday at the Apollo Theater.

were several elected officials, including City Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Councilman Charles Barron. City Comptroller William Thompson and N.Y. State Sen. David Paterson made remarks.

Sharpton introduced midway through the two-hour program by one of his two teenage daughters, paid trib-

ute to his mother and said he remembered going to see James Brown at the legendary theater as a child with his father.

"I don't know where my daddy is today, but wherever he is, tell him I'm back at the Apollo at 50 years old," Sharpton said.

Sharpton introduced James Brown, who per-

formed a soul version of "The Lord's Prayer."

Later, the audience roared when Combs took the stage and hugged Sharpton. Sharpton then called James Brown back, two cakes were brought out and the crowd sang for Sharpton, who led a chorus of "Amen's" before blowing out his candles.

Sharpton used the occasion to ask for donations for the civil rights organization he founded, the National Action Network, whose headquarters were damaged by an electrical fire last year.

He had begun the day's festivities at a symbolic ribbon-cutting to reopen the network's Madison Avenue building, called the House of Justice.

"We're here to say that there will always be a House of Justice," Sharpton said, before leading his supporters along West 125th Street to the Apollo, greeted by people who recognized him along the way.