

OUR VIEW

Four More Years, Much More Tears

In the end, fanaticism beat pragmatism. GOP fanaticism won over sensible pragmatism. Right-wing ideology fueled by pseudo-Christian narcissism over reason. Evil over good.

George Bush won the right to another four years of playing fast and loose with the truth (WMD's in Iraq), constitutional gerrymandering (Patriot Act) and creating unfunded mandates (No Child Left Behind). With the first Bush term featuring the mass detainment of Arabs, Iraqis and South Asians post-9/11 (most of those arrested have neither been charged with a crime or proven to have terrorist ties), along with repeated assaults on affirmative action, an increase in Black unemployment and minority incarceration, a hands-off approach to solving inner-city woes and laissez-faire attitude about the fate of Africa, what might the second term bring?

Expect it to bring the most conservative Supreme Court in history. With Bush allowed to make several appointments to the bench—the justices are lifetime appointees—expect the court to be made up in his fanatically conservative image. Should Bush appoint an African-American to the nation's highest court, rest assured he or she will be cut from the Clarence Thomas cloth—a racial opportunist who sees his or her own societal ascendance as the product of rugged individualism, not government handouts.

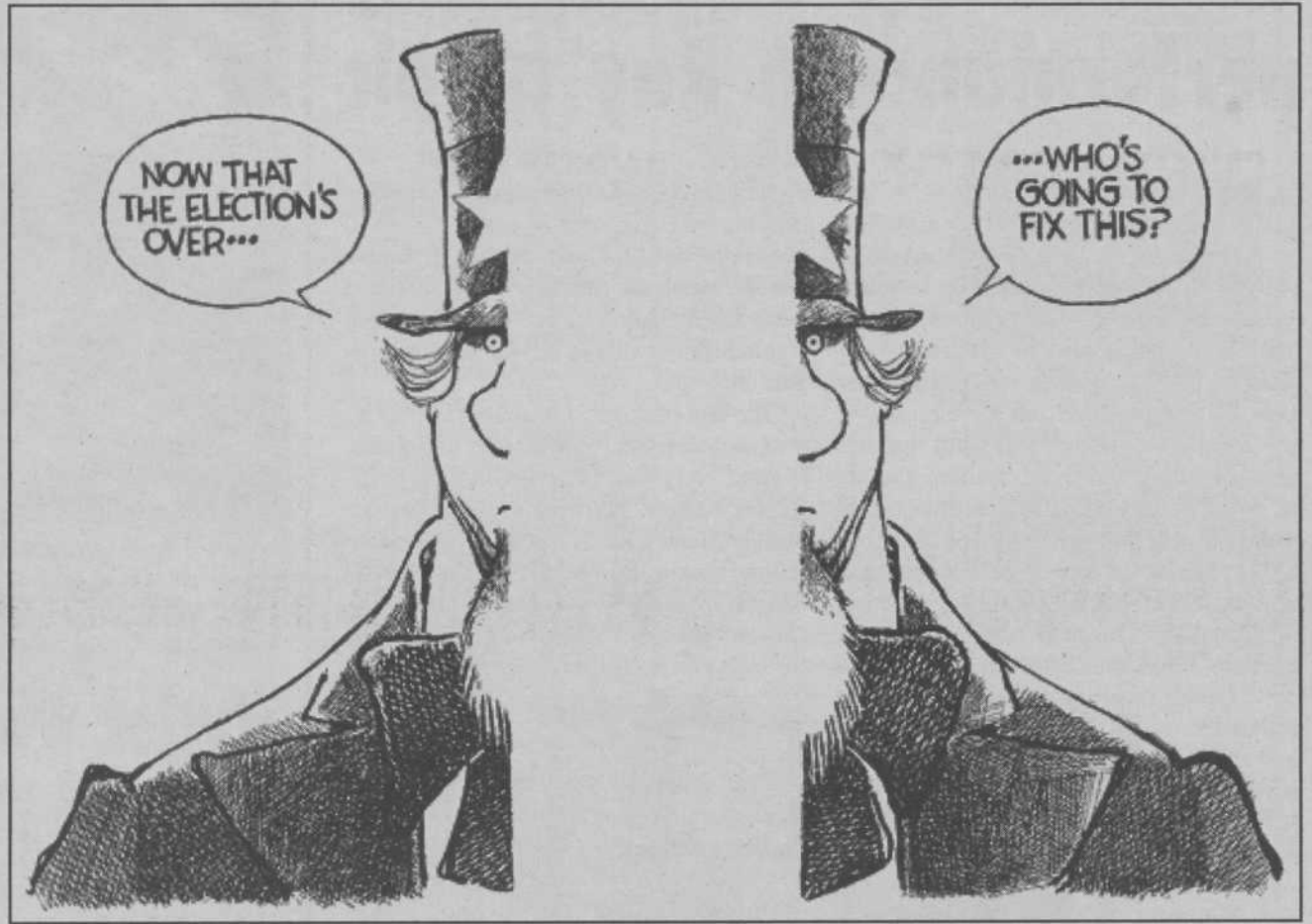
The Bush repeat might also see continuing ignorance of and indifference to Black America's HIV/AIDS crisis. Indicative of how far south of knowledgeable the administration is, Vice President Dick Cheney admitted during his debate with Sen. John Edwards that he didn't know AIDS was a pandemic among Black women in America. And this is the man who'd step in to fill the biggest political shoes in the world if the president couldn't? Back in December 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that one in 50 African-American males and one in 160 African-American women were infected with HIV and, here it is, nearly three years later, and Cheney still doesn't know that AIDS is a problem in the African-American community. Houston, we have a problem.

Surely Bush's second term won't bring an end to racial profiling. In the wake of 9/11, President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft warned (tepidly) against profiling American Muslims and Arab-Americans and threatened to prosecute those committing hate crimes against them. Some threat. It was just that. Perhaps the threat remained so because it would've meant Bush and the boys would have had to prosecute themselves.

Although Bush expressed mild concern for disparate sentencing between ethnicities, don't count on an end to mandatory minimum sentencing. Bush has twice ignored recommendations from the U.S. Sentencing Commission to modify the laws and has ignored both his predecessor's (Bill Clinton) support and former Attorney General Janet Reno's backing of amending the racially injurious statute.

Black leaders shouldn't expect much from Bush's way. Supporting what turned out to be a misguided, poorly executed war and siding with him on key economic legislation merely won them the cold shoulder. The Congressional Black Caucus couldn't buy a meeting with the president. Which should be a message to you Blacks who helped Bush to a better-than-expected-though-still-dismal performance among urbanites. Bush got your vote but, as his record shows, he doesn't have your back. We're sure the reasons you voted for Bush were justifiable in your minds, but by failing to take into account his horrid performance on the economy (more jobs lost than created), environment (letting industry officials write regulations) and Iraq (the body count continues to rise), you greenlighted another four more years of the same old crap. Hope you enjoy it.

P O I N T O F V I E W



Election reflection: What to do now?

By Louie Overstreet

Back in May, after the filing deadline for persons seeking elective office closed, I wrote that of the twenty-six (26) African-Americans seeking public office, eleven (11) of these persons had no chance of advancing beyond the September primary.

As things turned out fourteen (14) did not make it out of the primary. Persons I hoped as well as predicted would be on the November ballot and didn't make it were my man Wendell P. Williams in Assembly District 6, first time office seeker, Ricki Barlow in Assembly District 1, and Attorney Tim Williams for a District Judge seat. Now, here comes my face saving move. I successfully predicated the outcome of 78.5% of the races.

Of the twelve (12) who were on the November 2 ballot, I correctly predicted (read to mean guessed), accounting for the fact that two of the races were head to head events among African-Americans, the outcomes at a rate of 100% (12/12).

Two such outcomes involved Yvonne Atkinson-Gates handily defeating Chester Richardson, who filed for office from a jail cell. Commissioner Atkinson-Gates has done a very good job for the people she represents during her tenure as a Clark County Commissioner and sitting Supreme Court Justice Michael



LOUIE OVERSTREET

Douglas' victory over Joel Hansen was a good thing for our state.

While having 12 Blacks elected to office, is great to see, it's the results of races involving Whites that is not only going to have the greatest impact on persons of color, but persons of all hues at the county, statewide, national, and international levels.

Jon Porter's defeat of Tom Gallagher is quite puzzling. All we heard about during the election was how important it was to have another person in Congress to work against the forces of both Republicans and Democrats who are intent of shipping spent nuclear fuel to Yucca Mountain. Yet, persons in Nevada's 3rd Congressional District returned Jon Porter to Congress by a double digit margin.

Further, a Nevada poll published in the Sunday, October 31st edition of the Review Journal showed Bush with a 50% to 44% lead over Kerry. Bush's margin of victory turned out to be less than

half (3%) the projected amount. Even this margin of victory amazes me. However, it confirms my belief that often supposedly informed people (I wrote about this last week) do not vote their interest. As a result, which I have often stated in the past, you can now really get ready for Yucca Mountain based on Nevadans giving its five (5) electoral votes to Bush. If you suffer from short-term lapses, I remind you that Bush signed the law designating Yucca Mountain as the nation's permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel rods.

Assuming national exiting polls to be correct in that Bush's margin of victory of 3% is due to the support of people who listed family values as their number one issue, not the economy, Iraq or the war on terrorism then you should be able to surmise that

something "ain't" right with America.

In fact, these results fly in the face of a dude named Abraham Maslow and his theory of "Hierarchy of Needs." His theory is that human beings satisfy their needs in the order of (1) physiological, (2) safety, (3) love, (4) esteem, and (5) self-actualization.

Our physiological needs include air, water, and food (economic). Our need for feeling a sense of security (safety) comes in a close second. The concept of self-actualization (what you value and strive to obtain) comes in a distant fifth.

Thus, you have to conclude if the moralistic concept of family values ranks higher than our personal physiological and safety needs then many of us in this country have our priority of (See Overstreet, Page 12)

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