

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Post election, Blacks must reassess plans

**By Hazel Trice Edney**  
*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As Democrats ponder how to revive their party, African-Americans should consider exploring different political strategies to increase their clout, political observers say.

"You've got to be realistic about politics. We keep playing politics as if it's some playground activity," says Arthur Fletcher Jr., former assistant secretary of labor in the Nixon administration. "I didn't get President Nixon to allow me to establish the first affirmative action program by carrying signs and marching around the building. I was inside as the Assistant Secre-

With 90 percent of its vote going to John F. Kerry Fletcher says, African-Americans are limiting their potential influence.

pressure on the Democrats and the Republicans and hold them responsible," says Kathie Golden, political science professor and director



*"I don't think anybody can talk about what African-Americans are going to do until we see what Bush is going to do."*

—Katherine Tate, professor of political science and Afro-American studies at the University of California

Pointing to Secretary of State Collin Powell as an example, some critics say that even when working on the inside the Republican Party,

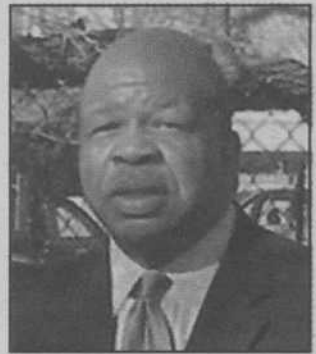
of the Delta Research and Cultural Institute at Mississippi Valley State University. "We have to speak in a collective voice. Although we are not monolithic, we are impacted by the same issues."

The idea of an independent Black political party may be enticing, but it has been tried several times, all unsuccessful.

"I don't think anybody can talk about what African-Americans are going to do until we see what Bush is going to do," says Katherine Tate, professor of political science and Afro-American studies at the University of California at Irvine. "If he turns toward a very hard-core conservative track, African- (See Politics, Page 6)

*"We've got a lot of evaluating to do. But one thing I don't want us to do is take the focus off of those things that affect people on a day-to-day basis."*

—Elijah Cummings (D-Md.)  
Congressional Black Caucus Chairman



tary of Labor. If you are not inside the system, there are no levers that you can pull. And you can't risk being outside every time there's a national election."

there is only so much a Black person can do.

"We may even have to think in some ways about a viable third party strategy whereby we collectively put

## Two-drug combo could help Blacks with ailing hearts

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A two-drug combination pill dramatically reduced deaths among Blacks with heart failure, a landmark finding that is expected to lead to government approval of the first medication marketed for a specific race.

Black cardiologists hailed this form of racial profiling after years in which minorities got short shrift in medical studies. Others complained that the drug also might help Whites and should have been tested in them, but wasn't for business reasons. "At times you can't win,"

said Dr. Augustus Grant, past president of the Association of Black Cardiologists, which supported the study. "Here we have a wonderful trial that shows a clear result and the issue is raised, 'Why was this trial only done in African-Americans?'"

The nationwide study is the largest ever done solely on Blacks with heart failure. The findings were reported Monday at an American Heart Association meeting in New Orleans and will be published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The drug's maker plans to



seek Food and Drug Administration approval by the end of the year.

Heart failure affects 5 million Americans, but Blacks are 2-1/2 times more likely to

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develop it. It happens when the heart is too weak to pump effectively, causing fluid to back up in the lungs and leaving people weak and short of breath. Half die within five

years of diagnosis.

Earlier research suggested that standard heart failure drugs called ACE inhibitors do not work as well in Blacks, and that Blacks may have lower amounts of nitric oxide, which plays many roles in heart health, in their blood.

Two chemicals — isosorbide dinitrate and hydralazine — boost this substance, but administering the right dose is complicated when they are prescribed separately. A Massachusetts biotechnology company, NitroMed, developed a combination pill, BiDil, that gets

around this problem, but the FDA refused to license it as a new drug because earlier studies involving mostly White patients who got the chemicals separately showed no benefit.

But there were tantalizing signs that BiDil helped the few Blacks in the studies, and NitroMed won a patent to use it just in that minority group.

The company then launched a study of 1,050 Blacks. Half of them got standard heart failure drugs; the other half got those drugs plus BiDil. The study was stopped (See Drugs, Page 7)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

MGM Mirage executive Punam Mathur enjoys the annual Adoption Exchange with her children—Richard Noyes Mathur, Joseph Mathur and Shawntai Mathur.

## Adoption exchange fair raises hope for children

**By Lés Pierres Streater**  
*Sentinel-Voice*

The seventh annual Adoption Exchange adoption fair was held Saturday at the Clark County Government Center to find permanent homes for local children awaiting adoption.

The Adoption Exchange is a non-profit organization that connects children with families in a safe and nurturing environment. Since its 1983 inception, more than 4,100 children in foster care have been placed in permanent homes.

Presently more than 90 children in Clark County need permanent homes and about 75 percent of those children are African-American. In helping to introduce the chil-

dren to prospective parents, event organizers displayed a photo album entitled Forever Families of children awaiting placement.

Sharing her perspective regarding the fair was Clark County District Court Judge Nancy Saitta who also serves as chair of the Adoption Exchange board of directors.

"Today is the seventh annual Adoption Fair, bringing together every provider in the community, both public and private, dealing with adoptions, foster placement or any agency providing assistance for children who are wards of the court. Most of our children are in state care because they have been removed from their families for

(See Adoption, Page 2)