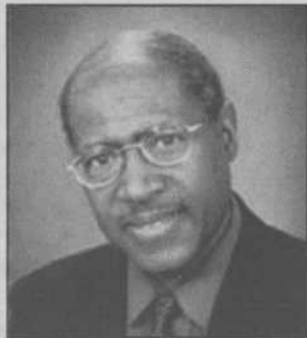


The 100 percent solution for radical conservatives

By Ron Walters
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Republican attack on Democrats for not approving 100 percent of their judicial nominations reminds me of the mind-set played out in the political arena over the last few years on issue after issue. The first time was the attack on affirmative action.



RON WALTERS

In general, the numbers of Black students on the various predominantly White campuses around the country are modest, mostly below 10 percent. At the same time, White students generally comprise 75 percent or more, with the only exception being in California where Asian students have driven down the proportionate number of White students at Berkeley to nearly 50 percent.

Nevertheless, with the attack on affirmative action, some campuses in the country could lose Black students, as has been the case at several universities around the country. In fact, many colleges have been experiencing a decline in African-American students (excluding African-born students), and I wonder whether the conflict around affirmative action has been a contributing factor.

At the same time, Washington University, MIT, and Princeton universities have eliminated their math and science summer programs that were designed to assist African-American students to achieve at the highest levels in competitive institutions. With finite resources, this results in a reduction of resources available to Black students.

With the elimination of Black students, those mounting the attack appear to be saying that they would be comfortable with a 100 percent solution. That is, a few token Blacks, or none at all, as the result of their challenge to the equal distribution of resources in this society.

This 100 percent mind-set is also at work in the current conflict over judicial appointments. The U. S. Constitution, in Article 1, gives the power to each House of Congress to write its own rules, and Rule 22 of the Senate gives a minority of Senators the right to mount lengthy debates, imposing a 60 percent rule for closing that

debate. We have come to know the debate as the "filibuster," a term originally used by 19th Century pirates who held ships for ransom. It has been used for 200 years as originally intended by the framers of the Constitution: to provide the minority with a voice in the decision-making process.

The Democrats approved 219 of 229 judicial nominees put forth and prevented 10 judicial nominee that President Bush put forth from being approved in the previous session of Congress. Bush got the highest number of first-term nominations approved in better than 20 years. But he wants all of them approved—100 percent.

You have to ask why this mind-set when no other president in American history could expect this result? Even the powerful President Franklin Roosevelt was prevented from packing the court in the 1940s.

It is because Karl Rove, the political guru of the White House, recognizes that with the Republican Party dominating all three branches of government, there is a moment of historic opportunity to have radical judges affirmed who will sit on the federal benches and be in line for appointment to the Supreme Court for years to come. Indeed, such a memo was said to have been written by one of Rove's underlings.

The cost of this recent attempt at court-packing could backfire if the Republicans succeed in employing the filibuster blocking "nuclear option" and change the rules of the Senate to shove their nominees through that body. Democrats will doubtless retaliate with their own actions, not only stopping the Senate from functioning now, but if and when they regain control of the Senate, employing similar tactics to defrock or go around the crop of judges that was installed by virtue of robbing the minority of its power to resist. I believe that, whereas, the first Civil War was begun in 1861, and the second begun in 1954, the third could begin in 2005.

Ron Walters a professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Curry

(Continued from Page 13)

Susan Smith also knew the power of introducing the element of race into a case. She claimed that a Black man wearing a skullcap had carjacked her car in South Carolina, and drove off with her two infant sons. She tearfully pleaded for their return on national TV. She later tearfully admitted later that she had strapped her two sons into the car and plunged it into a nearby lake. There have been many lesser-known cases in which the race card was played to establish credibility.

Professor Karen K. Russell wrote a book a few years ago titled, "The Color of Crime: Racial Hoaxes, White Fear, Black Protectionism, Police Harassment and other Macroaggressions." In the book, she details nine cases between 1987 and 1997 of White women making up stories about being raped by Black men.

For example, a student at George Wash-

ington University in Washington, D.C., said she had been raped by two Black men. She later confessed that she had lied to highlight dangers faced by female students on campus.

Another time, a White woman contended that she had been kidnapped by three Black men at gunpoint, was drugged and forced to have sex with the three men. However, police said the woman had lied to cover up for having stayed out all night.

I believe Jennifer Wilbanks knew exactly what she was doing by asserting that a Hispanic man and a White woman abducted her. She knew that as long as many Whites continue to hold stereotypical views of people of color—that the men are criminals who can't contain their sexual urges, especially toward White women—there's a better chance of people believing her lies.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com

Has war vs. terror ended?

By Bill Fletcher Jr.
Special to Sentinel-Voice

I may have missed something over the last few weeks, but it appears that President Bush's 'war against terrorism' is over. That was my initial conclusion when I discovered that the U.S. may be shielding a convicted terrorist and is considering giving him asylum.

To the surprise of many people and governments, the Bush administration is failing to speak to, let alone account for, its willingness to consider political asylum for Luis Posada Carriles. Posada Carriles, a fanatical Right-wing opponent of the Cuban government, has been linked to the 1976 bombing of a Cuban civilian airliner in which all 73 passengers were killed. He was imprisoned in Venezuela. He was subsequently arrested in Panama in 2000 for a plot to murder Cuban President Fidel Castro, and was sentenced—along with his associates—to up to

eight years in prison (only to have it commuted by the outgoing president of Panama).

Interestingly, when Posada Carriles was released from Panama, he flew to Miami, where he subsequently disappeared only to recently surface and request asylum. I would have assumed that he would have been met at the airport by an armed guard and either sent immediately to the prison cages at Guantanamo Bay like other alleged terrorists, or would have been deported to either Cuba or Venezuela to face prosecution. This did not happen.

So, there are only two conclusions. One, that the 'war against terrorism' has ended. If that is the case, I am not sure who won.

My second conclusion is that the 'war against terrorism' is, as most of the world apparently believes (according to several opinion polls over the last 2-3 years), a charade to cover for actions

against those the Bush administration wishes to act against.

Admittedly, the Posada Carriles case presents some unsettling problems for the Bush administration. The terrorist Posada Carriles also worked with the CIA and was involved in the Reagan/Bush administration's 1980s terrorist war against the then Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Thus, one does not know what dirty little secrets Posada Carriles may be holding as some sort of bargaining chip.

So, perhaps the 'war against terrorism' is not over after all. Perhaps, from the standpoint of the Bush administration, it is more akin to the adage: do what I say, not what I do. That may work with kids, but something tells me that it runs roughshod over the relations among nations, not to mention morality.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is president of TransAfrica Forum.

Walk

(Continued from Page 1)

thon and the work of the organization.

"Today's event is about educating Black women with breast cancer to stop the silence, which means to stop them from dying, and start telling people that you are afflicted in order to get the help and support that you need," Beatty said.

"What we had today was a 'Gift of Life' block walk for women with breast cancer to raise funds for supporting these women along with providing them information to deal with their disease."

She said the event featured a walk throughout the community, music, giveaways, food, water, various organizations passing out literature, networking with other Sister groups, and support by the police and fire departments.

"We had a very nice time today," Beatty said.

Three other members of the organization spoke about their experiences and being breast cancer survivors:

Patricia Harris, a one-year cancer survivor stated, "The process that I went through in getting help for my disease was an ordeal because I was diagnosed with breast cancer in October of 2003. I had surgery in November of 2003, where I had a lumpectomy and they only removed the lump and they did not check the lymph nodes. I had to return in January of 2004 and had another surgery where they rechecked to make sure that the cancer was gone. I

moved here about two years ago, and didn't know anyone. So, until I found this group, the only support I had was from my church. This has been a blessing belonging to this group."

Cynthia Evans, a 14-year cancer survivor said, "Breast cancer runs in my family, I have three sisters who are breast cancer survivors. What made me want to be a part of this organization is that their goal is to try and reach African-American women and let them know that early detection is the key. We need to let people know that they don't need to have that fear factor of going to the doctor because they feel a lump in their breast. That doesn't mean that they are going to die or that they are going to lose their breast because things have advanced now in the treatment process, and you can go on as usual with your life.

"Another good thing about the early detection is that you don't have to have an aggressive therapy if you have an early detection, so you don't have to worry about things such as losing your hair," Evans added.

Jackie L. Harris, an eight year cancer survivor indicated, "I was a single mom of a young daughter when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I have had no recurrence since being treated for breast cancer. I am now on organic vitamins and watching my weight along with exercising and getting as much rest as I can. I got a

lot of love from my church members when I was going through this difficult period in my life along with my immediate family members who live here."

Some of the warning signs associated with detecting possible breast cancer:

- a lump, hard knot or thickening in the breast
- swelling, redness or increased warmth in the breast
- a change in the size or shape of the breast
- an itchy, sore or scaling area on the nipple/areola
- nipple discharge that starts suddenly
- pulling in of the nipple
- dimpling or puckering of the side of the breast
- unusual pain in an area of the breast.

It is recommended that women should begin monthly breast self-examination by the age of 20, have an examination by a trained professional every three years after the age of 20, and be examined annually after the age of 40.

Monthly breast self-examination allows a woman the opportunity to become more familiar with her breast, and knowledgeable of any subtle or unusual changes in the breast. With detection in the earliest stages of breast cancer, the survival rate is better than 95 percent, according to the American Cancer Society.

For more information on the organization or to help with providing donations, please contact Beatty at (702) 648-3410.