

# Republicans play race, gender cards

By George E. Curry  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Leading up to the last-minute compromise that averted a showdown Tuesday over whether Senate Republicans can circumvent long-standing Senate rules and prevent Democrats from using filibusters against controversial judicial nominees, Republican strategists devised a clever and ultimately successful plan. They decided to advance the judicial nominations of Janice Rogers Brown, an African-American from California, and Priscilla Owen, a White

woman from Texas, and then accuse anyone who opposed them as being racist or sexist.

In the end, Democrats and Republicans came up with a compromise that allows a Senate vote on three nominees extremely hostile to civil rights — Janice Rogers Brown, William Pryor and Priscilla R. Owen. No commitment was made to two other pending nominees, William Myers and Henry Saad.

People for the American Way praised the compromise, saying it "rejects the nuclear option, preserves the

filibuster and ensures that both political parties will have a say in who is appointed to our highest courts." However, the group, like other progressive organizations that oppose the three nominees that will get a Senate vote, expressed disappointment with the caliber of nominees that will now be voted on.

People for the American Way noted, "We are deeply concerned that it could lead to confirmation of appeals court judges who would undermine Americans' rights and freedom." Republicans were able to keep the nomi-

nations viable, even after they had died in the Judiciary Committee during the last session, by playing the race and gender card.

The conservative Independent Women's Forum charges that "radical feminists" are seeking to "prevent qualified female nominees from taking their seats on the federal bench."

Joseph Farah, a columnist and editor of the ultra-conservative *WorldNetDaily*, is perhaps the most vitriolic critic of Democrats on the filibuster issue. In one column, he wrote, "...many of the leading (See *Republicans*, Page 6)

## Buckaroo

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Gerdes ("Hidalgo" and "Single White Female").

"Buckaroo" is being filmed in Nevada at the Spring Mountain Ranch on Blue Diamond Road, past Highway 160, which is approximately 18 miles west of Las Vegas.

"We kind of finagled everything by shooting at the Spring Mountain Ranch. It looks a lot like Denver (where the story is set)," said Brooks.

Brooks, who graduated from Valley High School, has

been making films for the past 16 years. Most notably, he wrote, produced and directed a short film called "Dr. Ice" when he was 22-years-old.

The film was made using only \$5,000 and has grossed nearly \$100,000 to date.

In his career Brooks has also produced over 60 television commercials. Additionally, he produced many short films, independent films and music videos.

Brooks, a life-long Las Vegas resident, was the cinematographer and second

unit director of photography for the Lily Mariye film "The Shangri La Café," which won best short film at the Moondance International Film Festival. "The Shangri-La Café" is a true depiction of racial attitudes in 1950s Las Vegas.

"It depicts the story of how Blacks were treated by society in general but, most notably, by this particular Asian restaurant (The Shangri-la Café). Despite all the problems they had, the restaurant owners would serve them anyway. [The

film depicts how] they [the restaurant owners] got ridiculed by Whites to not serve them (Blacks) anymore," explained Brooks.

After the filming of "Buckaroo," Brooks plans to make another film.

"Later this year, I will be making a bigger feature. It will have a budget over \$1.5 million. If it creates the buzz that I want, I will be okay after this," he said.

For more information, [www.brooksvision.com](http://www.brooksvision.com) is Brook's informational website.

## Jackson

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and cunning for a 12-year-old after meeting the boy at a benefit while the child was battling cancer in 2001.

Tucker said his suspicions about the family set in when they came to the set of a movie he was filming in Las Vegas and refused to leave. He said he paid for their hotel and expenses but after several weeks they were still there.

"I was getting nervous," he said. "I thought, 'I need to watch myself,' because I'm high-profile and sometimes when people see what you've got they try to take advantage of you. I had to pull back."

Prosecutors had cast Jackson, 46, as a serial pedophile with a history of fondling boys, including the then-13-year-old cancer survivor in February or March 2003 at Neverland. Jackson also is charged with giving the boy alcohol and con-

spiring to hold his family captive to get them to rebut a documentary in which the boy appeared with Jackson as the entertainer says he let children into his bed for innocent sleepovers.

The defense called 50 witness in all, including Culkin and two other young men who testified that Jackson never behaved inappropriately when they stayed at his Neverland ranch home as kids.

And Leno testified Tuesday that he became suspicious of Jackson's accuser after he received several voice mail messages in which the boy gushingly expressed his admiration for "The Tonight Show" host.

"I'm not Batman," Leno said, suggesting he found it odd a teenager would be such a fan of a middle-aged comedian. Leno said he told a friend the boy's calls sounded "scripted."

## Malcolm X items on display in New York

NEW YORK (AP) - Documents, photos and memorabilia from the life of Malcolm X — his eighth-grade memo book, his application for a Nation of Islam name, the shells from the shotgun that killed him — went on display last week in observance of his 80th birthday.

Many of the exhibits are being seen in public for the first time, having nearly been lost to an online auction when the rent wasn't paid on a storage locker in Florida, said Joseph Fleming, who represented Malcolm X's six daughters in the effort to win back the archive.

The daughters have given the documents to the New York Public Library for 75 years, and a tiny percentage has been organized into an exhibit, called "Malcolm X: A Search for Truth," at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, which is on Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem. The exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

Three of the daughters — Malaak, Ilyasah and Gamilah Shabazz — were at the opening. Another, Attallah Shabazz, joined a news conference at the Schomburg by telephone.

Ilyasah Shabazz noted that all six daughters are now older than their father was when he was assassinated in 1965.

"We were very young. We did not know Malcolm X the icon. We knew Daddy the humanitarian," she said.

But their mother, Betty Shabazz, who died in a fire in 1997, educated them about their father's life and principles, she said.

Many of the photos in the exhibit are family photos, showing Malcolm X praying, traveling in Egypt or playing with his children, rather than the more familiar news photos documenting his public life as one of the best-known and most controversial Black leaders of the 20th century.

But those pictures are there, too: Malcolm X with Adam Clayton Powell Jr., with Dick Gregory, with Fidel Castro, with Muhammad Ali, with Redd Foxx. Huge rallies in Harlem. His body being wheeled out of the Audubon Ballroom. His wife, behind a black veil, at his funeral.

The papers, many of them handwritten, include letters to and from Malcolm X, some from his teenage years.

In the eighth-grade memo book, classmates apparently told young Malcolm Little, as he was then known, what they thought of him.

"Tall, Dark, Handsome," one says.

"Tall dark and screwy" says another.

In a striking coincidence, his 1961 datebook shows that on May 19 — his birthday and the day this year that the exhibit opened to the public — he had an appointment at the Schomburg center.

"It's eerie," said Howard Dodson, director of the Schomburg. "He was going to meet my predecessor."

Dodson said the exhibit "will serve in some ways to be a catalyst for renewed interest in the life and times" of Malcolm X.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Isaac Sawyer

### FULFILLING DREAMS

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority members Dorothy Muhammad, Ida Gaines (far left, left) and Ann Dodson (right) give a \$1,000 check to Diane Pollard (second from right) for the Rainbow Dreams Academy, a proposed West Las Vegas charter school. The money came from the 47th Ebony Fashion Fair, whose local stop is hosted by the sorority.

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