

## OUR VIEW

## Brownout

In case you missed it, there was a big debate Tuesday night. It was hosted by the Nevada Democratic Party, the African-American Democratic Leadership Council, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and IMPACTO (affiliated with the Latin Chamber of Commerce), 100 Black Men of America, and the College of Southern Nevada and held at Cashman Center. In the days leading up to the debate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid reminded us that we got it because of "Nevada's diverse electorate."

Democratic Party Chair Jill Derby said the Latin Chamber and the African-American Democratic Leadership Council also played significant roles in securing it. IMPACTO chair Tony F. Sanchez III credited the early-caucus selection to the "growing Hispanic population." Said Sanchez: "We are proud to partner on this debate with these national and local organizations, and we look forward to the focus on issues important to the Hispanic and African-American Communities such as healthcare, education and immigration."

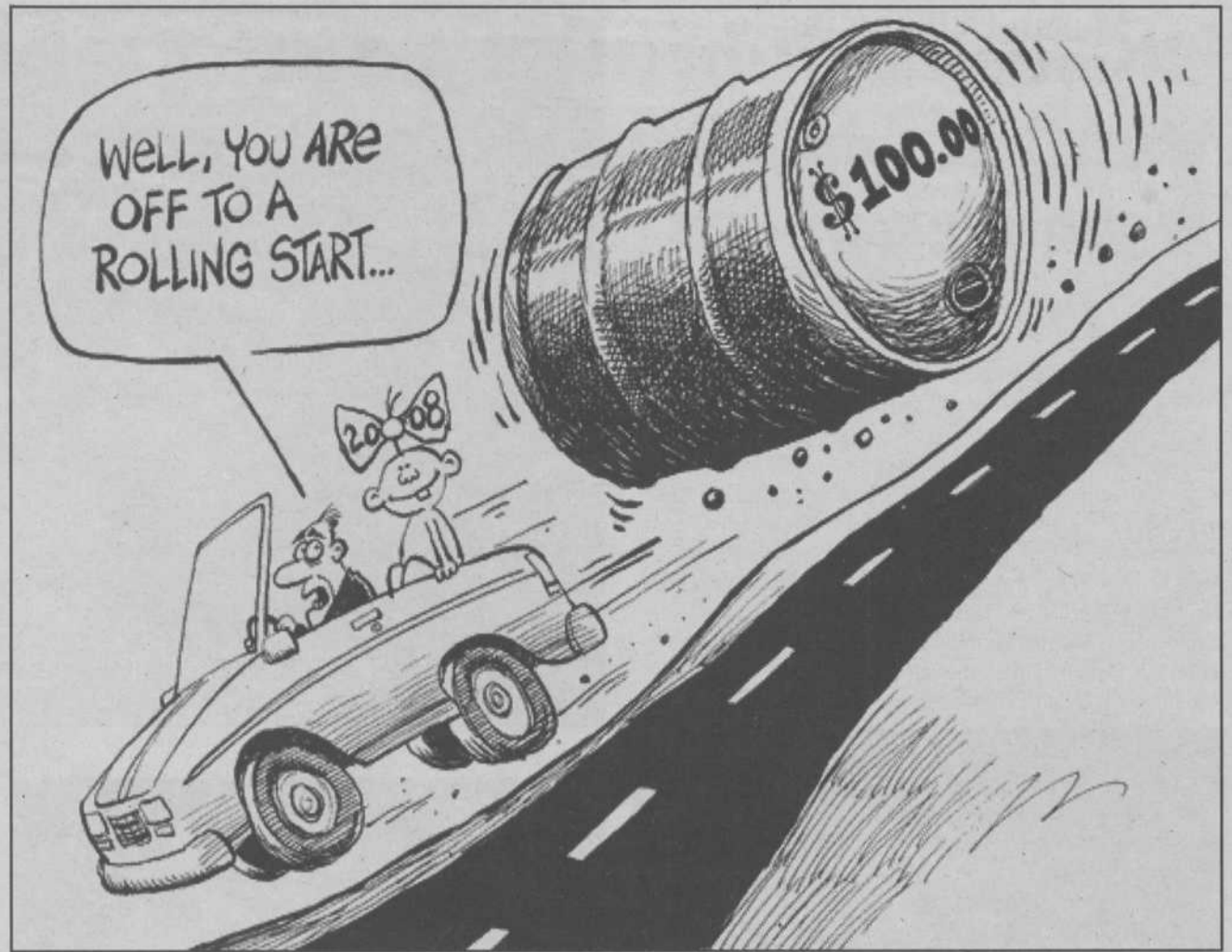
David C. Lizárraga, chairman of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board, echoed Sanchez: "The Hispanic business community is going to play a critical role in the 2008 elections, and as a non-partisan trade association, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce wants to support all debates that promote our issues... We look forward to leading the charge for the Hispanic business community and being a host for this important debate."

Albert E. Dotson Jr., chairman of the 100 Black Men of America, added his own two cents in a pre-event statement: "It is critical that those who seek to lead our country focus on how to provide equal access to quality educational opportunities, address well documented health disparities between African-Americans and other groups, promote economic empowerment among the truly disadvantaged, and create a positive environment that supports meaningful mentoring relationships for our youth."

So the hype about Tuesday's debate was palpable, all-encompassing. Which is why the end result was so deflating. It simply didn't live up to the propaganda. If Nevada-specific questions were few and far between, Nevada-specific questions dealing with issues important to minorities in the state were nearly nonexistent. Save for the obligatory Yucca Mountain query, to-be-expected mantras about America needing sensible immigration reform, and Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama making nice after some testy back-and-forth catcalling over race, there was little Nevada-specific or minority-specific talk in Tuesday's exchange. The way the candidates (Sen. John Edwards was also there) interacted, you could be forgiven for thinking you went to a PTA meeting. Not that the candidates should've been at each others' throats, but there are Scrabble games that have been more intense. Speaking of turning up the heat, the campaigns' feet should be held to the fire for talking big about making this a debate about black-brown issues but doing little for the Black and Hispanic communities here. Where were the huge ad buys on minority radio and in minority publications? Where were the large food orders from ethnic restaurants? The candidates preach economic uplift for minority communities but don't practice it. The same thing happens time and again in Las Vegas. When big events come to town, particularly those geared toward minorities, local minorities are always the least of the beneficiaries.

## Big cop out

The North Las Vegas Police Department thinks it is cracking down on misbehaving teenage drivers. It wants to get drunken teenage motorists off the streets. It seems that the department would do better to station police outside bars in the municipality. With all the bars, sports lounges, casinos and nightclubs in the Valley, it's a safe bet that there are drunk drivers on the road 'round the clock. Wouldn't it make sense to saturate those areas with cops? Last year, Metro made nearly 1,000 more driving under the influence (DUI) arrests than it did in 2006. The majority of offenders weren't teenagers.



## A Black political dilemma

By James Clingman  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

There are two interesting scenarios being played out in the political arena regarding the candidates Black people will support for President in November 2008. One, of course, is the Obama versus Hillary issue, and the other is the question of Black Republican support for one of their party's candidates. The former issue is far more palatable than the latter, but both are germane to Black folks in general.

Blacks Dems are faced with choosing from a pool of candidates, each of whom would be miles ahead of what we have now. Black Repubs have a bunch of Reagan wannabe's from which to choose. That sounds like a Hobson's Choice — a choice between what is offered and nothing at all. I don't know about you, but I sure don't want a reincarnated Ronald Reagan, so I will not be voting for one of the elephants this year.

I am, however, eager to see who the Black Repubs will endorse. That's really going to be funny.

—Guiliani: The "leader." I am still trying to figure out how he could be elected. (But, Bush was, so I had better shut up.)

—Huckabee: The guitar-playin' preacher.

—Romney: The financial wizard and Reagan sycophant.



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—McCain: The Elder, bordering on senility. Nuff said.

—Thompson: Acting like an actor.

—Ron Paul: You fill in the blank.

C'mon, Black Republicans; take your pick, and let us know who he is. We need a good laugh.

On to the Dems. What a show they are giving us! Looks like Edwards, Hillary and Barack, with Edwards fading fast. Whatcha gonna do on this one, Black folks? Feeling torn? The traditional Black political icons chose sides some time ago. They want Hillary.

But what do they do now that Obama looks viable? Uh Oh. We'd better have a caucus, y'all. No worries though. Any one of those three would be all right; but as they said on a BET interview of Barack, "What's in it for us?" That is a question that should have been asked years ago, especially when it comes to political candidates. This election is going to be a good one, folks.

Looks like it's going to come down to Obama and Clinton. As far as I am concerned, the Repubs don't even count. So let's look at the two contenders by looking back at a quote from Susan B. Anthony, as written by Dr. Anyim Palmer:

"The old antislavery school says that women must stay back, that we must wait until male Negroes are voters. But we say, if you will not give the whole loaf of justice to an entire people, give it to the most intelligent first. If justice, intelligence and morality are to be placed in the government, then let the question of White women be brought up first and that of the Negro last."

Palmer went on to make the following assessment of Anthony's words: "Although over a hundred years have passed since this memorable statement..., little has changed. One may be certain

that no meaningful change is likely to occur in this century that will be of any material benefit to Black people in America. Those charged by the establishment with setting forth, prescribing and defining the goals of Black people are carefully screened.

"It must be confirmed and reconfirmed that, for the most part, they are utterly harmless. It must be clearly understood that the goals of Black people are primarily crafted by the oppressors of Black people and their useless lackeys. It should then be clear that the goals subsequently crafted were of little, if any, value to people of color."

I refer you to the Obama-Clinton debate between Glen Ford and Michael Eric Dyson on the "Amy Goodman Show"; you will be able to draw your own conclusions (See Clingman, Page 11)

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