

## OUR VIEW

# Fighting AIDS

We don't have nearly enough holidays in the Black community. Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King Jr.'s commemorative holiday, and that's about it. MLK's holiday is, for many, just another day off, whereas scores of African-Americans still don't practice Kwanzaa's Seven Principles, much less know about them. If we were to add another holiday or to set aside time for solemn reflection, then perhaps it should be for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which will be celebrated on Feb. 7. According to BlackAidsDay.org, NBHAAD's mission is to "build the capacity and increase awareness, participation and support for HIV prevention, care and treatment among African-Americans." This year marks the eighth year of this annual event. And its primary goal is to "motivate African Americans to *get tested* and know their HIV status; *get educated* about the transmission modes of HIV/AIDS; *get involved* in their local community; and *get treated* if they are currently living with HIV or are newly diagnosed."

Back in 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention funded five national nonprofits, collectively the Community Capacity Building Coalition, which organized the first annual *National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Feb. 23, 2001*. The date was changed to Feb. 7 the following year and is now recognized that day each year. Today, there are seven organizations that partner with the CDC on *National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*: Alliances for Quality Education; Healthy Black Communities, Inc.; Jackson State University — Mississippi Urban Research Center; My Brother's Keeper Inc.; National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors; National Black Alcoholism & Addictions Council; and National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS.

Now more than ever, Black America must begin to take HIV/AIDS deadly serious. As the number of cases of HIV/AIDS decline around the world, they continue to climb among Blacks. The CDC reports that Black women account for 49 percent of all new cases. Nearly half of all Americans infected with HIV are Black, despite Blacks comprising 13 percent of the population. Three years ago Black men accounted for 41 percent infected men; Black women, 61 percent of infected women.

"The rate of HIV diagnosis for Black males is nearly seven times that of White males and more than twice the rate of Hispanic males. The HIV-diagnosis rate for Black females is more than 20 times that of White females and almost four times that for Hispanic females," said CDC spokeswoman Jennifer Ruth told *Diversity Inc.* magazine.

"In the U.S., we see that AIDS is a Black disease no matter how you look at it," Phill Wilson, executive director of the Los Angeles-based Black AIDS Institute, added in the same article.

Five years ago, the Clark County Health District reported that Blacks, who comprise nine percent of the Las Vegas Valley's population, accounted for 23 percent of HIV/AIDS patients. According to the Nevada Office of Minority Health, Blacks comprise 7.5 percent of the state population but accounted for 25.6 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases in 2004. Community resources once available to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS, such as Fighting AIDS in our Community Today, or F.A.C.T., are no longer around, which strains limited resources and limits the number of activists who talk and look like us.

We've got to do something or else AIDS will do what slavery, lynchings and police brutality didn't: cripple us beyond repair. "AIDS in Black America: Complacency Is Killing People," shouts a headline from *Diversity Inc.* magazine. A Black Agenda Report story posits this: "Like any other issue that affects Black people more than any other group, it suddenly becomes a non-issue, unworthy of news print or broadcast time. To make matters worse, because the spread of HIV is associated with sexual contact and intravenous drug use, too many Black Americans prefer denial instead of serious discussion." Clergy have called for the American government to declare HIV/AIDS among Blacks a "public health emergency."

The time is now. Our marching orders are clear. Our people are dying. We can — and must — save them.

## BARACK OBAMA VS. THE CLINTON TAG-TEAM MACHINE

IS THIS ANY WAY  
TO TREAT A  
BROTHER?



# Bill Clinton: Pimp daddy prez

By George E Curry  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Bill Clinton's disgraceful behavior on the presidential campaign has prompted a long overdue re-examination of his record, a record that better qualifies him to be called, in the words of one critic, "the Pimp Daddy Prez," not the first Black president.

Toni Morrison started this nonsense. She wrote an article 10 years ago in *The New Yorker* saying, "White skin notwithstanding, this is our first Black president. Blacker than any actual Black person who could ever be elected in our children's lifetime. After all, Clinton displays almost every trope of Blackness: single-parent household, born poor, working-class, saxophone-playing, McDonald's-and-junk-food-loving boy from Arkansas."

The Congressional Black Caucus compounded the problem in 2001 while honoring Clinton at a dinner. Then-CBC Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas said, at the time, that Clinton "took so many initiatives [that] he made us think for a while we had elected the first Black president."

As governor of Arkansas, Clinton did not remove the Rebel flag from the state house, nor did he sign Martin Luther King legislation into law. To prove that he could be tough while campaigning for president, he



GEORGE E. CURRY

went to a Jesse Jackson forum to criticize rapper Sister Souljah for an outlandish comment she had made about killing Whites. Just before the New Hampshire election, he supported the execution of Ricky Ray Rector, a brain-damaged African-American.

As president, Clinton signed a regressive welfare reform program into law. He dropped the ball on Rwanda. His "mend it but don't end it" approach to affirmative action was not ideal, but may have been the strongest he could have managed with Republicans in control of Congress.

He abandoned Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier after picking her to head the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

Still, Black people loved him and with such unquestioned loyalty, the Clintons were confident that Hillary would stroll to an easy primary victory in South Carolina, where Blacks made up half of the Democratic electorate.

Insulted by the Clintons' tag-team attacks on Obama, nearly 80 percent of African-Americans in South Carolina sent Hillary and Bill packing. The Clinton camp had hoped to gain points by arguing that Hillary is more "electable" than Obama. But a CNN poll put that myth to rest. The poll, released shortly after observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, shows that America is more ready to elect a Black president than a female one.

In the survey, 72 percent of Whites and 61 percent of Blacks believe the country is ready for an African-American president. However, only 63 percent of both Whites and Blacks say the country is ready for a female president.

Another myth being floated by the Clinton camp is that Latinos won't support a Black candidate. While Hispanics were more supportive of Clinton than

Obama in Nevada, the Black-Brown divide is not as wide as political handlers would want you to believe.

University of Washington political scientist Matt Barreto has compiled research showing that Harold Washington received 80 percent of the Latino vote when he was elected mayor of Chicago in 1983. Similarly, David Dinkins won 73 percent in New York in 1989, Denver's Wellington Webb received 70 percent in 1991, and Ron Kirk also got 70 percent of the Latino vote in Dallas in 1995, 1997 and 1999.

The question is no longer whether Obama could be elected, but whether Hillary Clinton is the Democrats' strongest candidate.

The *Nation* magazine compiled figures showing that in Iowa, 71 percent of caucus-goers voted for some-

(See Curry, Page 9)

NEVADA'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
**LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice**  
GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.  
THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

Nevada's only African-American community newspaper.  
Published every Thursday by Griot Communications Group, Inc.  
900 East Charleston Boulevard • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104  
Telephone (702) 380-8100  
Email: lvsentinelvoice@yahoo.com

Contributing Writers:  
Shirley Savage  
Lés Pierres Streater  
Kanika Vann

Ramon Savoy, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief  
Parker Philpot, Copy Editor  
Don Snook, Graphics  
Ed & Betty Brown, Founders

Member: National Newspaper Publishers Association  
and West Coast Black Publishers Association