

## OUR VIEW

## Women's Lib

March is National Women's History Month, so perhaps it's fitting that a woman has the best chance yet to become president of the United States. Whether or not you like New York Sen. Hillary Clinton and think she's a better candidate than Democratic nominee competitor Illinois Sen. Barack Obama isn't the point, at least, not of this editorial. We must call it a victory for America, for women in general, that Clinton is a serious contender for the most powerful single office in the world.

The story of Black History Month's origin is well known, but many people still don't know that March is National Women's History Month, much less what National Women's History Month is. A quick primer from the organizers of the National Women's History Project: "With an emphasis on positive role models and the importance of women from all backgrounds, the NWHP has developed a nationwide constituency of teachers, students, parents, public employees, businesses, organizations and individuals who understand the critical link between knowing about historical women and making a positive difference in today's world. The NWHP is the catalyst, the content provider, the behind-the-scenes director of a myriad of activities promoting women as leaders and influential forces in our society. Over the past 25 years, the NWHP, founded in Santa Rosa, California, has established a nationwide presence as the number one resource for information and material about the unfolding roles of women in American history. The NWHP leads both local and national efforts, consults, publishes, distributes, inspires, advises and networks with a wide variety of institutions and activists in the field."

How we treat them says a lot about our society and our values. Women in America have the ability to create and shape their own destinies. They can be heads of households, as well as heads of state, captains of industry and leaders in their communities, pastors in houses of worship and shapers of critical thought.

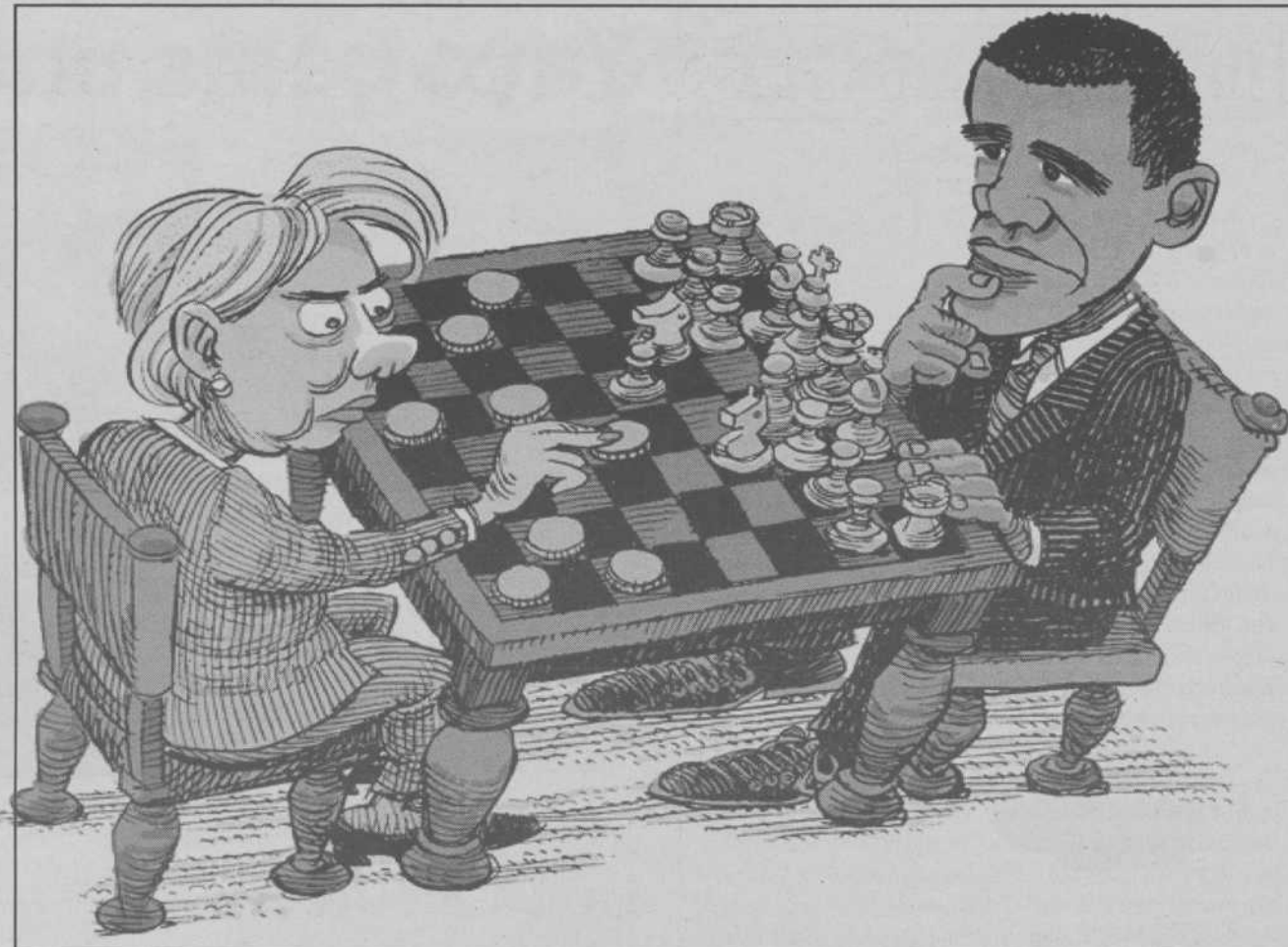
Much as Black history is American history, so is women's history. Women deserve to be celebrated for their historic contributions, as well as the unrecognized things they do every day as grandmothers and mothers, sisters and aunts, nieces and cousins, friends and confidants. In commemoration of National Women's History Month, the 6th Annual Celebration for Women will take place Saturday at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center. Organizers encourage women, men and children to attend the free event. Workshops will begin at 9 a.m. Dr. Jacqueline Sawyer, a professor based in New York, will deliver a keynote touching a wide range of issues: the importance of loving self; appreciating history and embrace opportunities; personal development strategies. For more information contact TuWanda J. Locke at (702) 275-0127 or email Dr. Rochelle Hooks at Rochelle.hooks@csn.edu or visit [www.artslasvegas.org](http://www.artslasvegas.org) or [www.lasvegasparcsandrec.com](http://www.lasvegasparcsandrec.com) for more information. So during this the month of March—and, in fact, all year—let the women in your life know you love and respect them.

## Bad Health Care

Scary news from the health district: thousands of people who had procedures done at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada could have been exposed to Hepatitis C and other diseases. Upwards of 40,000 people have been encouraged to get tested for the virus. Bad as this is, the worse news is that the Southern Nevada Health District discovered this information in January. "Unsafe injection practices, related to the administration of anesthesia medication might have exposed patients to the blood of other patients," a health district investigation found.

"The decision to notify such a large number of people and to recommend testing is based on an identified public health risk, and out of concern for the long-term health of those that may have been infected," Dr. Lawrence Sands, chief health officer with the Southern Nevada Health District, said in a published report. Sitting on this information is an outright abdication of responsibility and a violation of public trust.

Let's hope the results don't match the threat.



## Lonely are Black Republicans

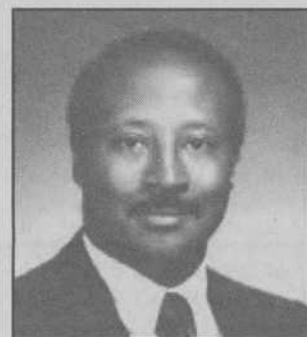
By Harry C. Alford  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

It's hard to believe, but the fact is that the Republican Party, Grand Old Party aka GOP, was co-founded by a Black abolitionist and revolutionary.

The great Frederick Douglass was perhaps one of the proudest Black Americans who ever walked this earth. His vintage phrases, such as, "Power concedes nothing without a demand"; "Your Independence Day is not my independence day"; "There must be a struggle. You may not get all that you pay for, but you will pay for all that you get."

He was probably the first prominent African-American to don an Afro. Such a contributor to American history and the great legacy of Black struggle. This man feared nothing but God almighty. I just love his story.

No less was his protégé, Booker T. Washington. He was more subtle but just as resilient and demonstrative in his vision for Black America. Born outside of Charleston, W. Va., he literally walked hundreds of miles to Hampton Institute, Virginia to get his formal education. His vision of capitalism and proper education were realized in his Tuskegee Institute project. He built this great college through the work and sacrifice of the very students who attended it. It was a perfect example of recycling Black dollars. The students physically built the school



HARRY C. ALFORD

and attended class in between with tuition being paid for from their labor. Today, there are many fine institutions but none is "better" than the dynamic Tuskegee Institute. Some of the best veterinarians and civil engineers in the world learned their skills here and recruiters line up constantly to hire them.

Booker T. Washington's vision for entrepreneurship resulted in his forming the National Negro Business League which was a network of Black chambers of commerce. This was done at about the same time U.S. President Taft appropriated federal funding to start the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Such was the way of many of our early leaders. They were Republican and capitalistic. Another who cannot go unnoticed is Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. who was quite active in the Republican Party and taught his two famous sons the values of self sufficiency and capitalism. In fact, the vast majority of Blacks from Emancipation to the Great Depression were Republicans.

The Democratic Party contained the Ku Klux Klan and Jim Crow activists from the Southern states. It was a natural for us to see the Republican Party as the way to liberation.

But, as Earth, Wind and Fire sings: "Something happened along the way and what used to be happy is sad."

Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and the Second Migration to the northern and western urban industrial areas transformed a new image of the political parties. Democratic President Harry Truman integrated our armed forces which was well appreciated by all of us. The Dixiecrats (Southern Democratic Jim Crow supporters) started getting uncomfortable in the Democratic Party and started walking to the Republican Party which welcomed them as they were desperate for a new base.

Republican President

Ronald Reagan sealed the deal when he kicked off his election campaign from rural Mississippi (the Reagan Southern Strategy).

The message was clear: The Dixiecrats and their offspring were officially welcomed into the GOP. Prior to that, Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson signed off on the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and acknowledged the victories of the Civil Rights Movement. The transformation was complete. The vast majority of Blacks were now Democrats.

In my travels I find some of the loneliest conferences and summits can be those of Black Republicans. There is little to smile about or tout. Some of the characters or spokespersons, usually seen on the Fox News Channel, appear to be frustrated comedians or proponents of self-hatred. Read some of their articles and you will run to

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