

OUR VIEW Numbers Pain

Times are tough, tougher than they've been in quite some time. In May, for the fifth straight month, the United States lost jobs, according to federal economic data. Meantime, the unemployment rate rose to its highest level in nearly 20 years and the jump in teenage joblessness recorded its biggest jump in nearly 60 years. According to the federal Labor Department, as detailed in published reports, payrolls dropped by 49 percent in May, while the jobless rate jumped a half point to 5.5 percent. Through May, payrolls plummeted by 324,000 workers, and consumer confidence fell to a 15-year low, that outlook a result of an economy battered by soaring foreclosure rates, tight lending markets, high gas and food prices and the outsourcing and/or elimination of jobs.

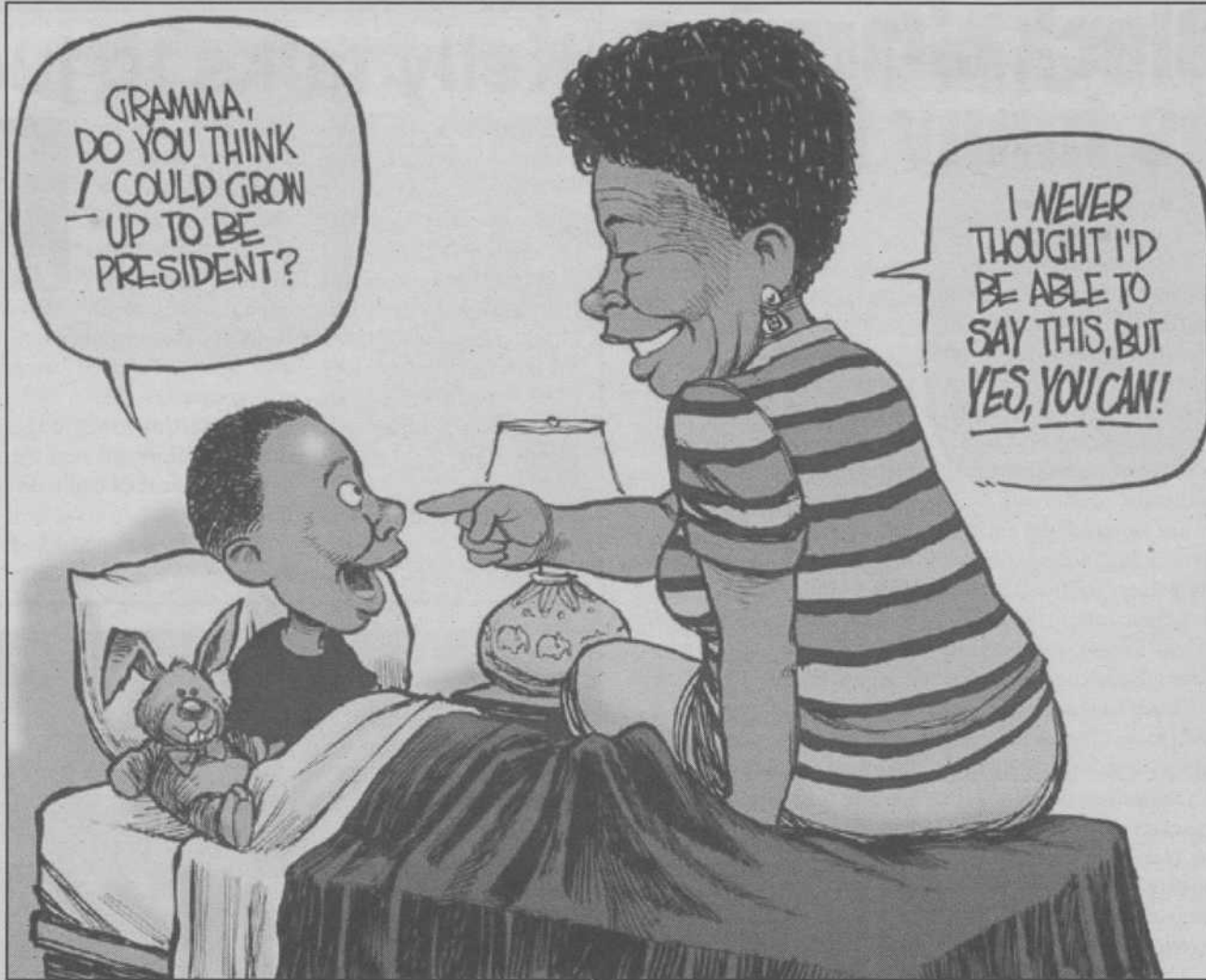
Times are tougher for those Americans who were already struggling economically, a paycheck or two away from homelessness, forced to decide whether to buy food or pay bills, unable to recover from major catastrophes, such as accidents or illness and minor-but-no-less-burdensome problems like a car in disrepair or a tooth in need of removing. When America's well-to-do get cold, its less-well-to-do end up catching the flu. And many African-Americans are now suffering from a severe case of the economic post-nasal drip.

One simply needs to look at the latest information from the federal Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics to see that the sagging economy is hurting Blacks more than other ethnic groups. The unemployment rates for adult men (4.9 percent), adult women (4.8 percent), teenagers (18.7 percent), Whites (4.9 percent), and Blacks (9.7 percent) rose in May. The jobless rate for Hispanics (6.9 percent) was unchanged, while the unemployment rate for Asians was 3.8 percent, not seasonally adjusted. Black unemployment is nearly 3 percentage points higher than the rate of the next-closest ethnic group, Hispanics. Worse still is this: Of all the ethnic groups, Blacks are the only ones without the infrastructure to combat job loss.

Think about it. The unemployment rate in predominantly Black West Las Vegas has been as much as four times higher than that of the state. Were the area rife with commerce, this would not be the case. Part of this reality is a function of our problems with collaboration for the greater good and conspicuous consumption: we've not yet come together on a large scale to pool our resources and take small entrepreneurial steps. We're being lapped by other ethnicities. Just look at portions of East Las Vegas. There are Hispanic restaurants, supermarkets and commercial centers, and in those Hispanic commercial centers are non-Hispanic business such as cell phone providers, chain restaurants and laundromats. Lack of access to capital and racism are certainly major hindrances to creating a vibrant business community on the Westside, but egos and a crabs-in-a-barrel mentality are also inhibitors.

If there was ever a time when having that business infrastructure in place was needed, it's now. Think about it. With a plentiful source of jobs on the Westside—jobs created by Black businesses — the area would attract the type of retail you see in Summerlin or Green Valley, in addition to other amenities (parks, galleries, community centers, mass transit service and the types of cultural programs that have been drastically cut during eight years of the Bush Administration). Instead of having to compete with adults for low-wage jobs as they do now, teenagers would be able to work and obtain a paycheck, along with a valuable work ethic. Those downsized and laid-off could find employment in their communities. You'd have an area of town that would not only be a geographic marker — much as Chinatown is — but also a cultural signpost and an unpaid ambassador, telling visitors about all that is great and good about Black culture in Las Vegas.

Or you can have what we have now. Scant commerce. Higher-than-average unemployment. People barely able to pay for life's necessities. Slow progress. Low expectations. Changing this reality won't be easy. We'll have to confront racism and economics. But we must also come together, pooling our money, talent and resources. If we do this, we'll be able to turn to each during an economic crunch to make own way. Then we'll have gained power.



Hillary likely won't be VP

By Harry C. Alford
Special to Sentinel-Voice

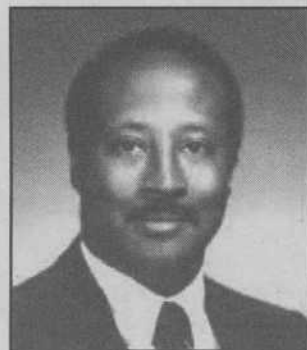
The Clintons will not play second team for anybody or anything — not even the nation. It is not their style or character to listen to orders or wait for direction.

Frankly, Hillary Clinton playing vice president, with Bill walking around the White House with nothing to do, would be a blueprint for total chaos and disaster.

Also, I would fear for Barack Obama's life. The Clintons have a remarkable history of losing political and business associates to untimely deaths. It hasn't been proven, but sometimes people wonder if it is just a coincidence. This nation does not need that.

Most importantly, the selection process for vice president will naturally require a strict vetting process, and here is where the Clintons would have much trouble. A presidential candidate doesn't have to go through that, which is why she gave it her best shot this time. The "bones" in their closet are quite immense. She comes with a bunch, and her husband is carrying an "18 wheeler" full of bones.

Let's start with the disgraceful exit from the White House in January, 2001. Ms. Wanna-be-President stole the White House china in front of the whole world. China that had been used by first



HARRY C. ALFORD

ladies for over 100 years, and she ripped it off. I guess that leads to the "entitlement theory" about her.

It is as if it belongs to her and not the taxpayers. While she was overseeing the movers hiding the china, her two brothers were auctioning presidential pardons for six figure amounts. Drug dealers, lifelong criminals — it didn't matter because they had juice through their sister's husband.

Bill's little brother also participated. It must have been discussed one evening around the family dinner table. In all, President Clinton gave pardons to some of the slimiest individuals who have walked on this land. It didn't seem to matter, as donations for Hillary's senate run and his presidential library were filling up the coffers. No president, governor or anyone else with pardon authority has ever abused the privilege the way the Clintons did.

They are so secretive about the presidential library

fundraising that it appears they will never divulge the sources of the money.

No, they aren't ashamed, as they have no shame. It would raise legal, ethical and conflicts of interest questions that would kill any chance of someone passing the vetting standards. How many drug dealers, dictators and mass murderers do we have on this list? Maybe we don't want to know.

Then there is the matter of what Hillary once referred to as "bimbo eruptions." Bill's legions of mistresses who go public from time to time will start showing up again during a vetting process. It never occurred to Hillary during her 30-plus years of marriage that you can control your husband. That is the sign of a strong marriage and spouse.

No one is perfect, and if they stray, make it clear that it is intolerable and whip

them back into shape. It appears that Bill hasn't changed much and will not be whipped back into shape.

How could a president of the United States, leader of the free world, find time to masturbate an intern with a cigar during the afternoon in the Oval Office of the White House? His body fluid is embedded in the floor of the Oval Office — yuck! In sum, the man has a serious problem, and his spouse is incapable of dealing with it.

How about that \$30 million in debt? She desired to run our national treasury but ran her primary campaign into the hole with a vengeance. Who is going to pay for this — her creditors, employees? She doesn't pass the managerial expertise phase of the vetting process. I guess, in the end, they will have to call on the people of

(See Alford, Page 9)

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