

Perot may be out, but independent politics is still in

The Perot phenomenon was and is all about the substantial number of Americans - white and Black - who are disgusted and dissatisfied with two-party politics in America. The response to Ross Perot's presidential candidacy was a measure of that disgust, not of his personal popularity. That remains as true today with Mr. Perot out of the race as it was yesterday with Mr. Perot in the race, even as the Democratic and Republican parties move like the vultures that they are to woo Perot's supporters.

Perot said he pulled out of the race because he couldn't win. But his decision was obviously prompted by the fact that in order to win the presidency in November he would have had to reach out to African Americans, to Latinos, to lesbians and gays, to working people, and to the left liberal wing of the Democratic Party which has been totally deserted by the Clinton-Gore ticket. Mr. Perot decided that he would not reach out to that base not because he wouldn't do well to do so, but because he has no sensitivity to those communities.

However, Mr. Perot's insensitivity does not, in my opinion, carry over to his base. As a Black woman running for the presidency I have traveled around the country, and I have found over and

over again that the white Americans who make up the base of the Perot movement are willing to work with the Black community, the Latino community, and the gay community. Those bases must be brought together - and I am the presidential candidate who will do that.

My appeal is directly to the Perot voter: join with us to continue to make your statement about the total corruption of the two-party system in American politics.

The Republican Party is a party of the right. The Democratic Party, under the stewardship of the Democratic Leadership Council and Bill Clinton, has become a party of the center right. African Americans, gays, labor, and liberal whites are left without representation. But if that disenfranchised base joins with the Perot base, we can change American politics.

The timing on Mr. Perot's decision cannot be separated from the fact that over the last several weeks he has significantly alienated the Black community at the same time as he has seen the Democratic Party convention render Blacks and other traditional constituents of the party powerless. At a time when it made the most sense for him to

embrace that base, he pulled out of the race. This decision shows his glaring weakness and his unwillingness to build a real independent coalition in America. Far more revealing than the fact that Mr. Perot did not want gays in his cabinet is the fact that Mr. Perot did not want gays, blacks or other disenfranchised people in his movement.

There must be an honest and serious debate now over where the Perot voter can go. I am calling upon the media to shape that debate in an inclusive and honest manner by including me and the independent option I represent in their coverage of the presidential race so that the Perot voter can know all the options that are available. And I call on Mr. Perot to put up the hundred million dollars he had pledged to spend on his presidential run to fund open and inclusive debates among Democrats, Republicans and independents all around the country so that the American voter can participate in the real grassroots democratic process which he claimed to support.

To speak to Dr. Fulani, call 1-800-288-3201, for further information on media bookings, call Madelyn Chapman at Castillo Communications: 212-580-7400.

Health Check-Ups For Women Offered

A health check-up for women will be given from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, August 1, at Western States Chiropractic College Clinic in Portland.

The \$20 examination fee will cover the cost of a pelvic exam with pap smear, breast exam with instructions on self examination and a spinal evaluation. The health screen also includes a urinary lab test and a blood pressure check. The check-ups are administered by fourth-year interns under the supervision of chiropractic physicians.

Women are encouraged to call early for appointments at 255-6671 as openings are limited. The clinic is located in the Parkrose area of Portland at 2900 NE 132nd Avenue.

Western States Chiropractic College Clinic is a nonprofit organization.

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Tonight at 8 p.m., the on-ramp from southbound McLoughlin Boulevard (99E) to the Milwaukie Expressway (Oregon 224) eastbound will be closed for construction, it will reopen at 5 a.m.

The work is part of a \$10-million

Advisory

project to widen McLoughlin Boulevard between Clatsop and Harrison streets and rebuild the Highway 224 ramp to McLoughlin.

For more information: Dave Jones, project manager: 257-4211, Janis Collins, public affairs: 653-3217

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