

# EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily  
Reflect Or Represent The Views Of  
The Portland Observer

**A** major step on the ladder to becoming a Republican powerhouse and eventually speaker of the House was Newt Gingrich's kicking the ladder out from under then Democratic Speaker Jim Weight of Texas. He accused Speaker Wright of exploiting his office for financial gain over a book deal.

The House Ethics Committee announced that it had unanimously, meaning both Republicans and Democrats on the committee, found Speaker Newt Gingrich guilty of ethical violations on three counts. The committee said it would seek an outside counsel to investigate the questionable financing of a college course that Speaker Gingrich taught on television. It also said the teaching of the college course had ties to other ille-

## NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

### Newt's Chicken's Coming Home To Roost?

gal GOPAC activities. GOPAC is the financial vehicle which Speaker Gingrich has used to rise to power.

House Minority Whip David Bonior (D-MI) responded immediately and said: "We have always said

that Newt Gingrich's path to power was paved with a corrupt mix of secret contributions, hidden campaign spending and political payoffs to multimillion-dollar donors who had a direct interest in federal legis-

lation. The Ethics Committee decision confirms the fact that the Speaker is in deep ethical trouble...In this investigation, all roads lead to GOPAC. No outside counsel worth his or her salt would take this case without the ability to follow the trail wherever it leads."

While Speaker Gingrich slipped through a loophole in his \$4.5 million book deal with Rupert Murdoch, the Ethics Committee was clear in what they thought of it: "At a minimum, this creates the impression of exploiting one's office for personal gain. Such a perception is especially troubling when it pertains to the office of the Speaker of the House, a Constitutional office requiring the highest standards of ethical behavior."

Back to Jim Wright. Could it be that Newt's chickens are coming home to roost?

## Vantage Point

### The Million Man March: The Challenges Ahead

BY RON DANIELS

**A** about 5:00 PM Sunday October 15, on the eve of the Million Man March (MMM), Dr. Conrad Worrill and I decided to go by the Capital Mall to look at the site of the MMM.

To our amazement, when we arrived at the Mall, thousands of brothers were already on the scene engaging in a kind of spontaneous pre-march fellowship. The camaraderie was reminiscent of the kind of feeling of connectedness that Black people had at the height of the '60's. As we observed the technicians putting the final touches on the preparations for the MMM and watched the big microwaves and production trucks of local, national and international media roll onto the Mall, we knew that we were on the verge of making history.

When I returned to the Mall at 5:45 AM Monday October 16, at least 250,000 brothers were already on the Mall patiently and jubilantly waiting for the days events to commence. I could see the shadows of thousands of more brothers near and far pouring into the Mall to join the growing multitude of the Million Man March. As the sun began to rise in the East, the shrill but melodious voice of Sheikh Ahmed Tigani Ben Omar of Accra Ghana pieced the cold morning's air with the Adan, the magnificent Muslim call to prayer. Rev. Tyrone Crider of Chicago followed

with the reading of the scripture. Rev. C.V. Smith of St. Louis delivered an inspiring Christian prayer laced with liberation theology. Then, Melvin Deal and the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers of Washington D.C. conducted the libation ceremony to invite the ancestors to join us on this glorious day. Thus Muslim, Christian and traditional African religious and spiritual leaders stood together in a splendid ecumenical commencement of the Holy Day, the Million Man March, a Day of Atonement, Reconciliation and Responsibility.

At 10:00 AM, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Director of the MMM strode to the podium to proudly proclaim to the world that one million Black men were now on the Capital Mall. It was an awe inspiring spectacle to stand on the steps of the Capital and see a solid phalanx of African men stretching beyond the Washington Monument, filling the adjacent streets and surrounding the Capital itself. The troubled and aspiring masses of the African community in the U.S. had heard the call of God through Minister Louis Farrakhan and responded with the miracle of the Million Man March. By the time Minister Farrakhan mounted the stage to the thunderous ovation of the assembled multitude at 4:30 PM, it was clear that the Million Man March was the largest demonstration in the history of this nation.

The Million Man March engen-

dered a spirit and feeling of exuberance and exhilaration for those who attended the March and the millions of Black men, women and children who watched the March on television. The MMM had an enormous psycho-cultural-spiritual impact whose effects may well be felt by Africans in America and the world far into the future. To ensure that the MMM has an enduring impact, however, the good feeling of the moment must be translated into good and powerful deeds which can permanently transform the oppressed condition of the race. Person to person, family to family, neighborhood to neighborhood, the challenge is to press forward with a transformative agenda of moral, spiritual, cultural, economic and political renewal.

In concrete terms this means that we must heed the call of Minister Farrakhan and numerous other speakers of the day who laid out a series of proposals which collectively considered comprise an impressive action agenda. It is imperative that Black men honor the pledge to cease the violence, drug trafficking and fratricide in our communities. The verbal, physical and psychological abuse of Black women and children must also stop. And, Black men and women must act on the urgent need to give time, energy, talent and resources to organize our communities. We must join an organization of our choice and become a part of a spiritual or religious institution which is espous-

ing the liberation of African people.

The National African American Leadership Summit must assume responsibility for advancing the social, economic and political agenda which was outlined at the MMM: adopting the 25,000 Black children who are now orphans to provide wholesome families for them within our community; the registering of millions of Black voters to create and independent third force in American politics; the development of a Black Agenda which reflects the interests and aspirations of Black people; the creation of an African American Development Fund to mobilize millions of dollars for business and economic development; utilizing economic sanctions (boycotts) to compel corporations to reinvest in the Black community; and, pressing the demand for reparations.

Beyond the jubilation of the moment, the real lasting legacy of the Million Man March rests on our willingness and capacity to change our attitudes about ourselves, change our behavior towards each other and take responsibility for the rescue and restoration of the race; to confront ourselves as well as the U.S. government and corporate America; to be absolutely determined, in the name and memory of our ancestors, to enter the 21st century a people, nation and race decisively on the rise again. Long live the spirit of the Million Man March. God is great!

## perspectives

### A Renaissance For Northeast V: Is It Possible Without Jobs?

**U**ndoubtedly, some readers will say that I have it backwards; that this week's comments on Jeremy Rifkin's book, "End of Work" (G.P. Putnam, 1995), should have been the thrust of last week's commentary on "Pensions In Crisis" by Ferguson and Blackwell (Arcade Publishing, 1995).

Be that as it may, it is nevertheless quite difficult to assess the relative effect of the



By  
Professor  
McKinley  
Burt

two traumatic situations facing the American worker. Your job (if you have one) maybe in imminent jeopardy--and, worse yet, your retirement plan could be in trouble. To say the least, these would seem to be rather turbulent times to be talking about a "Renaissance". But in mankind's experience, it has always been either forward or backwards.

Hugh B. Price, president, National Urban League says, "Rifkin's thesis that traditional jobs will be a thing of the past for millions of Americans should jolt society into addressing, seriously for a change, the issue of how the swelling ranks of economically marginalized people and communities are to survive, much less thrive, in the new economic world order."

Sounds as though our super-articulate, golden throated leaders are gearing up for another round of inspired polemics and rhetoric. "Summits at the top" and soul-searching introspection, all subtended by retreats and seminars spiced with chicken wing galas (make mine scotch and who knows a good sexual harassment lawyer).

It is not comical at all, of course, when the times (survival) call for the attention of 'grown' men, trained, skilled and experienced in the development and administration of commerce and technology. The system demand is for those who

can create jobs; social engineers and politicians must learn to work with them, for there cannot be a fundamental difference. Rifkin puts it this way.

"We are entering a new phase in history--one characterized by the steady and inevitable decline of jobs. Worldwide unemployment is now at the highest level since the great depression of the 1930s. The number of underemployed or without work is rising sharply as millions of new entrants into the workforce find themselves victims of an extraordinary high-technology revolution."

"Sophisticated computers, robotics, telecommunications and other cutting-edge technologies are fast replacing human beings in virtually every sector and industry--from manufacturing, retail and financial services to transportation, agriculture, and government." The last category of course is that "Public Sector" where, as we and the other media have detailed, lies the greatest vulnerability of the minority wage earner.

So what's it going to be? Are we going to demand leadership of the rare type furnished by people like the famed Rev. Leon Sullivan who developed the "Opportunities Industrialization Centers" which created tens of thousands of jobs, and like the pioneer African American who developed so much housing and commercial enterprise right here in Portland Oregon?

Next we will talk about business and job development, as we often have done here before. But Rifkin says the times are urgent: "Many jobs are never coming back. Blue Collar workers, secretaries, receptionists, clerical workers, sales clerks, bank tellers, telephone operators, librarians, wholesalers and middle managers are just a few of the many occupations destined to shrink and shrink."

## THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT Why The White Independent Needs The Black Voter

BY DR. LENORA FULANI

**M**uch is being written these days about the new constituency in American politics--the white independent.

Some call this constituency the "moderate middle." Others call it the "radical center." Still others identify a split in which wealthier whites are the moderate middle and more blue collar whites are the radical center. But, whichever it is, the white independent voter--now numbered at 25% and 35% of the electorate--is the most sought after voter in America. The Republicans tried to coopt them in 1994 with a pro-term limits, pro-political and fiscal reform program, much of which has been abandoned by the Contract with America in favor of traditional GOP budget cuts. The Democrats thought their control of Congress was so strong, that they never bothered to figure out how to appeal to the independent, and so the Republicans pulled the rug right out from under them. That is why a national panic has now seized the Democratic Party, and 11 Democratic members of the House and 8 Democratic members of the Senate have announced their retirement this year, more than twice as many retirements as the Republicans.

Independent white voters are the

big wild card. Everyone wants them. But what do they want? How does that new independent bloc most influence American politics? How do the white independents, the moderate middle, the radical center, go beyond being merely the swing vote between the corrupt and discredited Republican and Democratic Parties to having the numbers to become a bona fide majoritarian force for grassroots democracy, for taking control of a government that is supposed to belong to the American people, but doesn't? How can white independent voters create a coalition to empower themselves? By hooking up with us.

Whatever you may have thought about General Colin Powell and his now-defunct presidential candidacy, he made a most perceptive observation when he said of Black America's relationship to the Democrats, "I think it is in the interest of the country, and in the interest of African-Americans, to have that hold shaken loose, so that African-Americans have a greater choice and can pick from more than one option to satisfy their political needs, and to make sure their needs are taken care of." General Powell was undoubtedly thinking that the Republican Party would be that option. Of course, without him as the candidate, the pros-

pects for pulling the Black vote to the GOP are scant, even with a Powell endorsement of the eventual Republican nominee. But Powell is quite correct in identifying that it would be in the interests of Black people and of the country for us to have more options.

Black sentiment in favor of a third party has been visible for over a decade. After Jesse Jackson's first run for the presidency in 1984, a poll conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan showed that 57% of Blacks who had voted for Rev. Jackson would have voted for him if he had run as an independent. Ten years later, those statistics matured into the 1994 polls which showed that 57% of African-Americans favored the creation of a third party.

Add to those statistics Minister Louis Farrakhan's enthusiastic call to the Million Man March and all Black Americans to create an independent "third force," and we have a situation where Black voters are ready to establish ourselves in a new political alliance.

But can Black voters and white independents become real partners? Many of those radical centrists who supported Ross Perot in 1992 did so as a way to attack the relentless growth of big government and big deficits

that were funding massive programs that did little to develop the nation. Among African-Americans, Latinos, gays, and other traditionally pro-big government constituencies, and approach which replaces the 30-year pattern of blatantly politicized spending (the Democratic Party used the War on Poverty to install a highly controlled patronage infrastructure, not to end poverty) with direct citizens' democracy has considerable appeal.

You may have seen the C-SPAN broadcast of the independent Patriot Party convention in Minneapolis last spring, at which I told the Black delegates gathered that I would not return to the African-American community with the traditional promises of government-funded jobs and teen-pregnancy programs, but with a plan to restructure the political process to empower them and all Americans. In return, I said, I needed a clear statement from the white delegates that the Black community would not only be welcome, but would be sought after by the Party. Both Blacks and whites were enormously supportive of what I had to say.

The bottom line is this: The independent white center needs Blacks in order to go somewhere. Blacks need the independent white center in order to have somewhere to go.



## Letter To The Editor

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