

OPINION

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Florida's Flawed List of Felons

By DONNA BRAZILE

Three and a half years after the State of Florida issued an error-riddled list of felons that kept thousands of eligible citizens from voting, the eligibility of thousands of those voters still hasn't been restored.

It's unconscionable that nearly four years after the debacle in Florida and thousands of deserving voters were prohibited from casting a ballot that the state still hasn't corrected the wrongs of 2000.

I call on Governor Jeb Bush to direct his Division of Elections to immediately begin a process to verify every single name contained on its 2000 and 2004 felons lists or to prohibit counties from using the lists.

We know that in 2000 former Secretary of State Katharine Harris and the Division of Elections provided

Florida's 67 counties with a seriously flawed list. There is no excuse for Jeb Bush to remain silent while even one Florida voter runs the risk of losing his or her vote because of benign neglect.



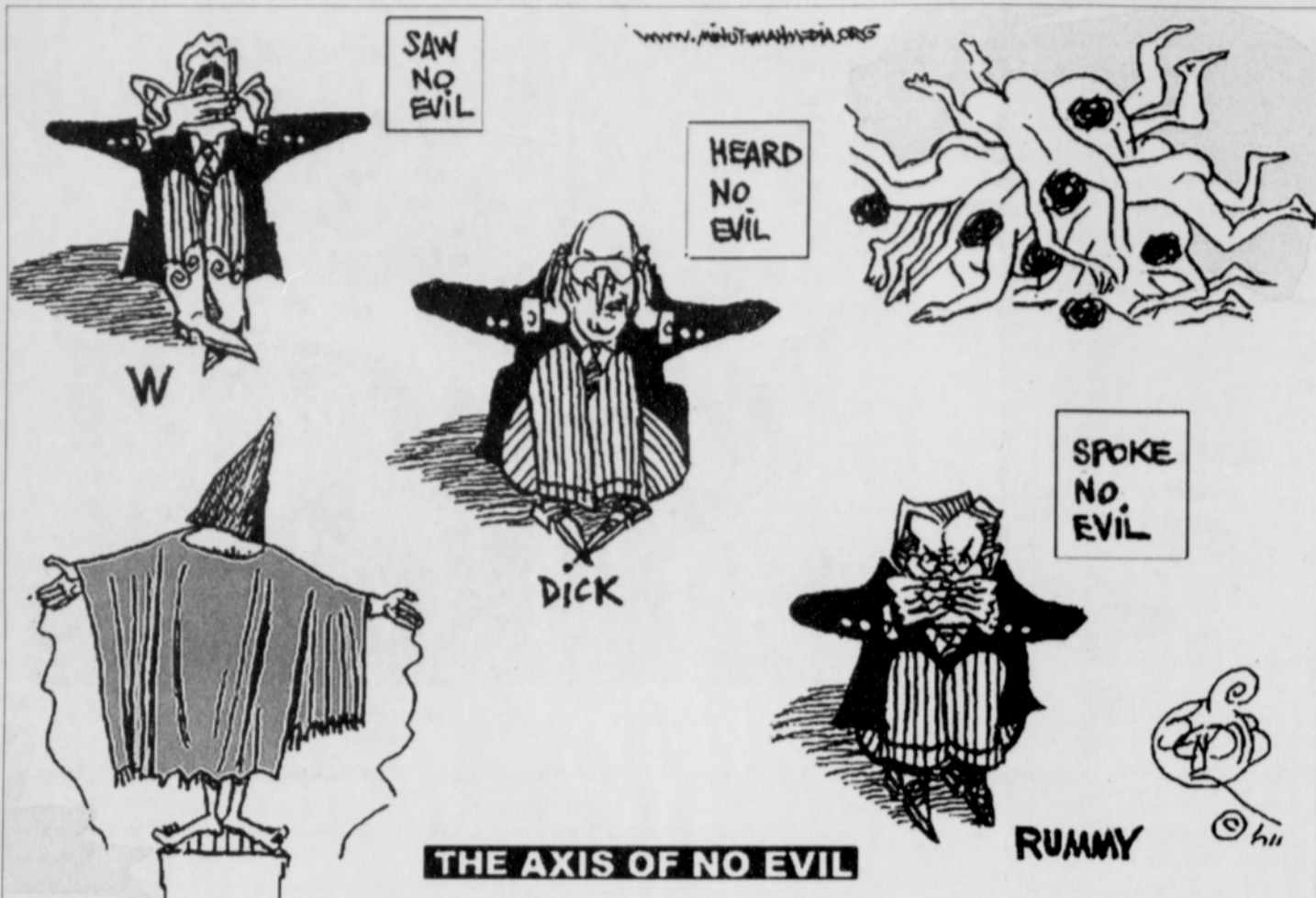
Donna Brazile

Because reform measures simply do not match the recommendations set forth by such bi-partisan groups as the NAACP and the United States Commission on Civil

Rights, an untold number of U.S. citizens will lose their voices in the upcoming election. How many more innocent American citizens will be denied their right to vote before Florida, and the entire United States electoral process, is truly reformed?

Donna Brazile is chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute. She was campaign manager for Al Gore in the 2000 Presidential Election.

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Tearing Down the Prison Is Not Enough

Administration must tear down its assumptions, too

By REV. JESSE L. JACKSON

The President spoke on Iraq again and once again failed to connect his policy with the reality on the ground. He announced that the Abu Ghraib prison will eventually be torn down, but neglected to tear down the incorrect assumptions that have misguided his intervention there from the beginning.

This was a war based on falsehoods and misdirection; until that is confessed, there will be no salvation. And the President continued to mislead, referring to "terrorism" in almost every paragraph, trying to cover the shame of Abu Ghraib with the cloak of 9/11.

I have often said that a text without a context is a pretext; but

in this case, a text based on a pretext leaves America with a false context.

The Bush Administration's plan to transfer symbolic power on June 30th has more to do with this fall's election than it does with the state of readiness to govern in Iraq. Just as the timetable to hype the need for a war with Iraq was based more on the fall 2002 election schedule than it was on the supposed imminent danger we were facing from weapons of mass destruction, now we are supposed to



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson

believe that Iraq will be prepared to govern itself July 1—with the help of our 138,000 troops, of course. This strains logic.

President Bush now belatedly asks for international help to get us out of the hole he has dug us into, the same help his minions so loudly spurned going in. Our historic allies are demanding seats at the reconstruction table and partnerships in redevelopment; we need their help, and we should not now spurn their offers and conditions for that help.

The truth is, to get full interna-

tional cooperation, America will need to change leadership and direction. This Administration has turned worldwide sympathy into worldwide mistrust, uniting the world against U.S. intervention.

George W. Bush is still trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. Even Secretary Powell has now admitted that we went into Iraq on flawed information. Until our leaders alter the false assumptions under which they went to war, this tragedy will continue.

One more point: the President attempted to lay the blame for Abu Ghraib on "a few American troops who dishonored our country and disregarded our values." That's a sham and a scam. The

attempt to evade the Geneva Conventions was crafted in his own office by his own lawyer; the "tough guy" approach was pressed hard from the highest levels of his Administration; and the

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cover-up of the prisoner abuse was known to his office, the Pentagon, and top members of his staff for weeks and months before it finally leaked out to the public. But no one has taken responsibility; no one has been fired; no one has even been reprimanded. Instead, the President is trying to dump this scandal off onto our low-ranking troops. And he ignores the crucial fact—it is "pre-

emptive war" which dishonored our country and disregarded our values.

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson is a long time civil rights leader and founder of the Rainbow Coalition.

AAHC African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Presents for your health,
Wellness Within REACH Activity Calendar

Aerobics
Mallory Ave. Christian Church
Mon, Wed, Fri, 6-7am, Pierce • 5:30-6:20pm, Granville • 6:30-7:30pm, Nickerson

Low Impact Aerobics
Daniel's Memorial Church
Tue, 7:15-8:15pm, Granville

Water Aerobics (Contact AAHC)
Columbia Pool, Matt Dishman, Salvation Army

African Dance
Matt Dishman
Sat, 10-11am, Addo

Body Conditioning
Wild Oats Market
Sat, 9:30-10:30am, Nickerson

Chicago Step
Matt Dishman
Fri, 6:30pm, Kendrick

Kickboxing
Humboldt Elementary
Tue, Thu, 6-7pm, Keller

Pilates (Contact AAHC)
Matt Dishman
Tue, 8-9pm

Stretching/Body Sculpting
(Class courtesy of Matt Dishman)
Matt Dishman
Tue, Thu, 7-8am, Lois

Tai Chi (Contact AAHC)
St. John's Community Center
Tue, 6:30-7:30pm

Walking Group
Peninsula Park
Sat, 12:30pm • Tue, Thu, 6:30pm Woods

Weight Mgmt./Conditioning
U. of Portland Indoor Track
Tue, Thu, 9-10am, Hasan

Yoga
Wild Oats Market - Tue, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, O'Rourke

Columbia Pool, 7701 N Chautauqua
Daniel's Memorial Church, 1234 NE Killingsworth
Humboldt Elementary, 4915 N Gantenbein
Mallory Ave Christian Church (Gym), 126 NE Alberta
Matt Dishman, 77 NE Knott

Peninsula Park, 700 N Portland
Salvation Army, 5325 N Williams
St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central
U. of Portland Indoor Track, 500 N Willamette
Wild Oats Market, 3535 NE 15th

REACH Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A Program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Contact AAHC at 503-413-1850 or visit our web site at www.aahc-portland.org

A Civil Rights Movement of Our Time

By JASMYNE CANNICK

A newly formed coalition of African American pastors against same-sex marriage, recently held a rally in Arlington, Texas calling for



Jasmyne Cannick

a constitutional amendment banning same-sex unions. The Not on My Watch Coalition issued statements contrasting the civil rights movement with the gay rights movement and citing that "homosexuals" were not slaves like blacks were.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and

transgender African American were slaves just like heterosexual African Americans were.

Slavery was not based on one's sexual orientation; it was based on the color of one's skin and that also included black gays and lesbians.

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These types of groups seem to always fail to acknowledge that there are African-American gay and lesbian couples advocating for the right to marry.

African Americans do not own the civil rights movement. For many people my age (26), the same-sex marriage movement is the civil rights movement of our time because we were not around in the 60s. Nobody is trying to steal the civil rights move-

ment. But I also think it's important to remember that Bayard Rustin, an African-American gay man, was an instrumental part of the very civil rights movement that these black pastors are trying to say gays and lesbians have had no part of. How

is that for irony?

I think the time is now for black gay, lesbian bisexual and transgendered persons to stand up in the churches that preach anti-gay messages. Unless we do, groups like this are going to continue to believe that we don't exist, especially in church.

Jasmyne Cannick represents the National Black Justice Coalition and is from Los Angeles.

Letter to the Editor

Do the Math

Okay, another police shooting, another killing.

Chief Foxworth points out yes, but hey—we separated them before they could go to Applebee's and compare notes. We really are trying. We had detectives interview the officers in a shorter time frame (less than 24 hours). We're getting some of those (89 is it?) rules activated that came down on us last year from the Police Assessment Resource Center. Hey—we're patient, let the process work—we're trying. We even had an inquest this time.

The logic seems to be that with

every unprovoked killing of a person of color, the police bureau will right a few wrongs that should have never taken place at all. In the past few weeks, the cover of "just a routine traffic stop" has been revealed to be an excuse. It now even has a name: it's a "pretext stop."

Listen up white folks who actually believe that if you just follow the rules the cops won't kill you. See, they admitted that they didn't really care if you didn't come to a complete stop (Kendra James' life) or failed to signal properly (James Perez's life). What they cared about was: you might be somehow connected to

drugs. It was, "let's go give a look-see, and hey if we kill you in the process—well, too bad." It's the "livability" of the neighborhood that's at stake, remember.

In light of the PARC recommendations, if two wrongs were righted after the Kendra James killing and two wrongs were righted after the James Jahar Perez killing, there are just 85 recommendations to go. And you wonder why the undercurrent in the city now is one of "burn baby burn?"

—Linda Kanzinger
Northeast Portland