

Film Review: ‘Fear of a Black Republican’

Have you ever noticed how few African-American Republicans there are? At any Grand Old Party gathering you see on TV, there are generally so few Blacks in attendance that they tend to stand out like a sore thumb. That sorry state of affairs inspired Tavis Smiley to remark that, “You can fit all the Black Republicans with any clout into a phone booth.” And they’re probably also about as hard to find as a phone booth is nowadays.

This phenomenon was not lost on Kevin Williams, a white Republican from Trenton, New Jersey, who felt frustrated by the fact that the Democrats had a stranglehold on all the political positions in his predominantly African-American hometown. So, as a filmmaker, he decided to shoot a documentary getting to the bottom of why Blacks aren’t represented in the Republican Party.

Is it that the GOP would prefer to remain lily-white or are African-Americans simply short-changing themselves by remaining so loyal to the Democratic Party? That fundamental question rests at the heart of Fear of a Black Republican, an eye-opening expose’ supplying a variety of intriguing answers.

In order to unravel the mystery, Williams approached some of the Black Republicans crammed into the aforementioned phone booth, from recently-deposed RNC Chairman Michael Steele to former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts Ed Brooke who warns of “corrup-



MOVIE REVIEWS
by Kam Williams

tion where there’s no two-party system.” Yes, there’s that danger in districts where a Democratic nomination assures a candidate of victory. Still, there’s probably truth to Tavis’ suggestion that once the Republican Party figured out that it could win national and statewide elections without Blacks “then the needs of that constituency never rose to the top of its agenda.”

Among the other pundits weighing-in here are Princeton Professor Dr. Cornel West, right-wing journalists Michelle Malkin and Ann Coulter, and possible Presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee.

Does the GOP Even Want the Black Vote?

Yet, the most meaningful interviews are with rank and file Black Republicans, average folks who make heartfelt pitches for their fellow African-Americans to abandon the Democrat Party which they indict for taking the Black vote for granted.

Whether it’s up to white Republicans or jaded Black Democrats looking for an alternative to make the first overture, Fear of a Black Republican might serve as a great conversation breaker to encourage both camps to bury the hatchet and to give each other serious con-



sideration as a viable political partner. However, I wouldn’t hold my breath waiting for the GOP to reflect the all-inclusive rainbow the Party envisioned during more enlightened times when Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves and a plethora of Black Republican candidates ran successful campaign for political office.

Excellent ☆☆☆☆
Unrated
Running time: 111 Minutes
Studio: Shamrock Stine Production

C O M M U N I T Y C A L E N D A R

SEATTLE NOVEMBER 2011

BULLETIN BOARD



If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Friday November 4

SEATTLE NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR: This is an opportunity for students and parents to get college information at no cost. Must pre-register by calling 703-836-2222. 9 a.m. – Noon Washington State Convention Center, Hall 4 E, 800 Convention Place.

Saturday November 5

HMONG NEW YEAR CELEBRATION: Gain insights into the customary courtship ritual of ball tossing and participate in flower cloth sewing session and much more. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fisher Pavilion at Seattle Center.

SHOREWOOD HOLIDAY BAZAAR! 50 vendors selling just arts and crafts! Raffles, bake sale and food. Free to enter, free to park. Unique gift items for the whole family. 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Shorewood Elementary School, 2725 SW 116th St.

Friday November 11

ST.STEPHENS 4TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR! Fourth annual Bazaar to raise funds to host Thanksgiving Day dinner for homeless and those in need! Arts & Crafts, photos with Santa and much more. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 13055 SE 192nd St in Renton.

Saturday November 12

CELEBRATE NATIONAL GAMING DAY! Kids & teens are invited for an afternoon of fun games, costumes and a scavenger hunt in celebration of National Gaming Day. 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Seattle Public Library, Northeast Branch, 6801 35th Ave. NE

Sunday November 13

JULIANA & PAVA PERFORM ANCIENT RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS: Juliana & Pava is a Seattle based vocal ensemble that performs traditional polyphonic Russian folk songs. 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Seattle Public Library, Central Location, 1000 Fourth Ave. Free for everyone to enjoy.

New Greenspace



SUSAN FRIED PHOTO

Seattle Deputy Mayor Daryl Smith, left, walks with community member Bob Messina after the official opening of the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail on Beacon Hill on Oct. 29. The beautiful day showed off the spectacular views of the city from the new trail.