Black doctors stand in gap for better health

By Glenn Ellis SPECIAL TO THE POST

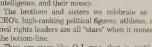
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Everybody is a Star when kicked to curb

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person. They are stars like Michael Jackson was until he accused a White record exec of being a racist, and stood beside Al Sharpton while making his accusation.

while making his accusation.
 They are stars like Oprah was when she did her show from Forsyth County, Ga., and that backwoods, overall-wearing racist called her a "good" n-Word, unlike those "bad" n-Words who lived in Atlanta.
 The list goes on and on; so everybody is a star, just like Sly Stone said. black folks, sometimes voluntarily, get used by whites, in corporate settings, social programs, athletics, music, retailing, entertainment, and even in personal relationships, only to be thrown out at the whim of "friends" they thought cared about them.

to be thrown out at the whim of "friends" they thought cared about them. Star Jones is just another in a long line of black men and women who believed the hype. Consider the words of Ely Stone: "Everybody is a star. Who can rain, chase the dust away? Everybody wants to shine. Ooh, come out on a cloudy day. Til the untable of the star to any every hand to shine tonight. To don't need darkness to do what you think is right." Again, those words were meant for positive reflection back during a time of great strife and a period that saw black people trying to identi-go unselves. Those words can also be used today to point out how we are regarded in this country, no matter how high we get. So, take heart, Star Jones, you are in some very good company. Everybody is a Star, and gets treated like Star Jones, in some respect, at some time or another. But, Sly Stone said a few other things too. He told us to Stard! He said, "Don't call me n ----, Whitey." He said, "Thank you, falettin' me be myself." He told us this is a "Family Affair." He gave us messages that meboldened us, messages that indeed took us "higher." Tet, here we are today, still trying to assimilate into a society whose only regard for us is what we can do for it, and keeping us in our place." I am not upset about the Star Jones incident. I am sure she will do just fine. I only wanted to use her example to remind us, once again, that we are headed down the wrong road in this country. Black folks had better do some of the things point-ed ut in those old songs if we really want to be a force with which to be reckoned. Quite frankly, I am tired of the rich and famous crying to the pro-

due in those old songs if we really want to be a force with which to be reckoned.
Quite frankly, I ant tired of the rich and famous crying to the product of the rankly, I ant tired of the rich and famous crying to the product set bits kind of treatment everyday; where are the set of you? Stars' when we need you? Considering the fact that every Black property of one another? Don't you think we should be working elose together, in support of one another? Don't you think we should be taking a collective 'Stand'? I do.
With we resolve to follow some of the simple instructions left by Slow do thers, Black people will be relegated to being "Stars" but you do thers, Black people will be relegated to being "Stars" to being self-determined, and never to being self-aufficient, never to being self-aufficient, never to being self-aufficient, and never to being self-aufficient, and the stars, you on solation at all.
JMES E. CLINGMAN, an adjunct professor at the University of functionatis African American Studies department, is former editor of the Grinchmati African American Studies department, is former editor of the Grinchmati Braid newspaper and founder of the Greater Christian African American Studies department, is former editor of the Grinchmati Braid newspaper and founder of the Greater Christian African American Chamber of Commerce. On the Web: www.blackonomics.com or all (513) 489-4132.

Small step away from a wrong pathway

Will North Carolina's new lobbying and ethics law eliminate political fundraising scandals? The new law makes important changes, including prohibiting lobbyists from making campaign contri-butions to legislative candidates. It forbids lobbyists from gathering campaign checks from others and "bundling" them to give to candidates. The new law also bans most lobbyists gifts to legis-lators and other state government offi-cials.

cials. So, will these **new rules eliminate** scandals?



D.G. MARTIN D.G. M

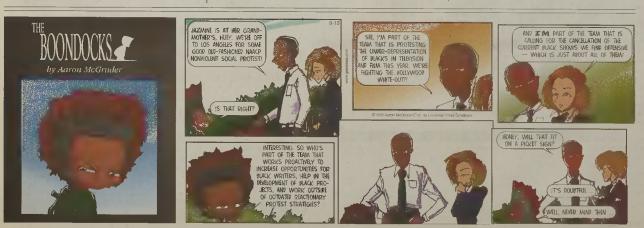
Benocrats point out that the rundraising mess in Washington is a Republican responsibility. Republicans say that the Raleigh mess belongs to the Democrats.
Each party wants to use the other party's scandalstop of the U.S. Congress. The Pendocrats want to use the Washington mess to help take back control of the U.S. Congress. The Republicans hope they can use public oncern about political fundraising in Raleigh to gain control of the North Carolina legislature.
Most voters, even if they are concerned about lobying and fundraising, are confused about which political party to blame for scandals. Many just blame the politicans of both major parties.
There is a problem for these of us who would like to blame only the Republicans for the Washington political fundraising tool.
When the Democrats were in charge of the Congress, they learned to use their ability to give access and favorable government treatment as a political fundraising tool.
When Republicans took control of Congress, they fook the Democrats' fundraising programs and improved' their effectiveness, using them, as the Democrats' fundraising programs and improved' their effectiveness, using them, as the forsize big money even from Republicans who wanted access and favors.
Without question, Ahramoff, DeLay, and hundreds of their allies refined and expanded a system in which political contributions buy access to political ecision-waters. It is the kind of access that leads to favorable ax reatment, government licenses and permissions, and government theorem are political ecision-waters.

makers. It is the kind of access that leads to tavorate tax treatment, government licenses and permissions, and government contracts. It is a mutually beneficial arrangement for the play-ers. First, it is great for those who are rich enough to give substantial political money to support those in power in return for the kind of government action that makes them even richer. Second, it is great for the elected officials desperate and growing need for political cash to keep themselves in power. It is not necessarily great for the rest of us. When our elected representatives are looking out for the people who provide their campaign funds, they can-not pay full attention to the best interests and needs of the country as a whole. The new North Carolina legislation might not cure the political fundraising problem. But we can hope it will help us take a step away from a pathway towards an Arramoff-Delay political culture. D.G. MARTIN is host of UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch, which airs Fridays at 9:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m.

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