

VIEWPOINT

Black America has power in the ballot

The Black vote in America is like the young athlete who fails to give his all, and in turn never recognizes his full potential.

The trend has in recent years been for a heavy segment of the Black population to shy away from the registration and voting precincts, yet sit back and endure the constant struggle to survive with limited resources that is so unique to the Blacks in this country.

The Afro-American is in the obvious minority in the U.S. compared to whites, but being the largest of minorities in this country, Blacks have potential to have the largest single influence on American politics and lifestyle.

Until the Blacks stand up and make a realistic move to be counted as a group with human concerns and desires as anyone else, there will always be the Black man at the bottom of the totem pole.

In recent years, the major political campaigns in this nation have centered a sizable portion of their strategy around obtaining "the Black vote."

It has been proven that Blacks as a whole, through the influence of

concerned Black leaders and interest groups can band together and put all their efforts in one positive direction.

However, the problem has not been organization, but little motivation.

In retrospect, this all goes back to the theory of "cancelling out." If only a small percentage of the Black population makes an attempt to move forward in the struggle to have a true voice in this country's affairs, then that particular group's actions are undoubtedly in vain.

Through increased community education in the schools and churches and a common sense realization that action and concern brings about change, the Black voice in America will be stronger.

Too many times, Blacks tend to sit back and voice complaints rather than stamp out annoying problems with positive action.

Motivation (which later becomes action) is what the Black community needs, from both its leaders and its successful middle class set.

If we are to move forward with any intentions of bettering our present situation, then the Black Americans "in-the-know" are going to have to get our front and chart the course.

It cannot be emphasized enough, the importance of the vote to

Blacks, and especially in this era where politicians are more apt to bend with the needs and demands of their heaviest supporters.

As an already large group with potential to be even much greater, the Black vote should be collected nationally into a powerful force by the time the next presidential cam-

paign gets off the ground.

If this task is accomplished, and Black leaders can take out the necessary time to sit down in an organized fashion with the most-likely-to-win candidates and trade favors for precious voting power, then we may begin to see a changing Black America.

NEWS FOCUS: Kennedy '80

By JAMES ALEXANDER
Co-Editor

While incumbent president Jimmy Carter attempts to hold back a strong movement endorsing U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy for the democratic presidential bid, Black leaders in America are turning over in their minds whether or not they will support Kennedy, the popular young Massachusetts politician or incumbent Carter.

In the past presidential election, President Carter received the largest bloc of Black votes in American political history but has since received a very disappointing job rating by a cross-section of Americans.

If Carter is to turn his ground-level popularity around for the better and improve his chances of re-election, political analysts say his handling of the country's economic woes and the winter energy crisis between now and the primary season will be a determinant factor in his fate.

Kennedy's political popularity, especially among Blacks, probably goes all the way back to the success of his brothers, John (assassinated vice-president) and Robert (assassinated presidential candidate) with the struggle of Black in America.

The only skeleton in his closet, which should not seem to be a major factor should he decide to run, is the Chappaquiddick incident in which he was responsible for the death of his then-secretary Mary Jo Kopechne.

Carter, on the other hand, had obtained a tremendous amount of popularity among Blacks during the last election because of his innovative view of the American political system, and his sympathetic feeling for Blacks and his desire to see more Blacks in top-level government positions.

However, Carter's downfall was his lack of overall leadership and many Black leaders felt that his election-year sympathy had dwindled to near zero since he had been office.

In recent conferences of Black organizations, Black leaders have shown their support for Kennedy if he should decide to run in 1980.

This movement of many Blacks over to the Kennedy camp, which hasn't officially opened up yet, is proving to be a detrimental factor in Jimmy Carter serving a second term in the White House.

Whoever we as Blacks decide to elect Democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States in 1980 will reflect that Blacks in America are experiencing an awakening to the happenings in the political arena, and it will make future candidates fully aware of the increasing collective power and needs of American Blacks.

New twists added to the Viewpoint page

As of October 1, Black Ink's Viewpoint page has added a new dimension for better expression of opinion on international, domestic, statewide, and campus affairs concerning our readers.

The News Focus column is a new feature that will attempt to spotlight key Black-oriented issues based on factual information. It is expected to zero in on thoughts that may have failed to be considered previously and it is not intended to take the place of an editorial.

Another new addition to Black Ink's Viewpoint section will be space reserved for letters-to-the editors written from our reader. Any letter submitted to Black Ink should be opinionated expressions of any concerns that you might like to share with other readers.

However, we ask that letters be typed double-spaced and turned in

to either of the Black Ink editors no later than Wednesday evenings for a following issue.

The staff of Black Ink does not mind you submitting letters about what may bug you, but all letters will be censored for any damaging, obscene or libellous content to protect you and the newspaper.

As a general rule, all letters to the editors must be signed by the writer and topics do not have to deal with issues printed on the Viewpoint page.

If you have any drawbacks concerning your writing ability do not worry, they still not be held against you. We have an excellent staff to proofread and double-check incoming copy to meet our standards.

For information or if you wish to "sound-off" to our readers, contact James Alexander at 933-4428 or come by 349 James.

Interested in working with us?
then just
come to our weekly meetings
Monday at 6:30 p.m., in Upendo

BLACK INK

The essence of freedom . . .
Volume 12, Number 5

Theresa Williams and James Alexander
Co-Editors

Donna Whitaker
Associate Editor

Linda Brown
Associate Editor

Debra Harris
Managing Editor

Sharoyne Marshall
News Editor

Kim Turner
Features Editor

Karen Smith
Arts Editor

Frances Silva
Sports Editor

Raymond Perry
Sports Editor

Beverly Shepherd
Special Projects

Andrea Fulton
Advertising Manager

Ricky Bryson
Business Manager

Deweese Gilyard
Photography Editor

Myra Blue
Community Editor