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CBC-Fox partnership a bad idea

What were they thinking? What possible justification could the Congressional Black Caucus Political Leadership Education Institute have for picking Fox News to partner with on an upcoming presidential debate?

Did the CBC Institute see this as an opportunity to reach across the aisle to their conservative brothers in the spirit of non-partisanship? And did Fox News, like many other business corporations, think that partnering with a Black organization once a year would somehow give them "cool" points with the Black community and satisfy their diversity outreach quota? From either side, this does not work.

This issue began to surface when Black online activists—led by ColorOfChange.org—partnered with Robert Greenwald's Fox Attacks to call on the CBC Institute to reject Fox as a partner for their presidential debates.

"Fox News is not a 'fair and balanced' source of information or political debate, and it has



repeatedly proven itself hostile to the interests of Black Americans... Fox on-air personalities and regular guests consistently marginalize Black leaders, culture, and institutions," said ColorOfChange in a letter to activists.

And they are right. Fox News

allows its hosts and commentators to freely lambaste and ridicule anyone that is left of far right and Black leaders are often fodder for their vitriolic attacks. Case in point: Fox's recent sustained stain campaign against presidential candidate Barack Obama—they place undue

emphasis on his middle name "Hussein," say he went to a fundamentalist Islamic school and question his religious affiliation, suggestively characterizing his church as having "unusual doctrines."

And the network's framing and interpretation of Black (and Brown) issues and culture are often bigoted and lacking in any attempt to truly understand and present a fair picture.

So why is the Institute, an organization that is supposed to support the concerns of the Black community, getting in bed with this media carnivore-to-be fair, because it is also partnering with CNN? Who knows? But, the end result is that the Institute legitimizes a "faux" news purveyor and a proven enemy of the African American community.

And setting Fox up as a credible news source, with its involvement in this major part of the election process, cannot be good for us. After all, no good ever came of letting the fox into the henhouse.

*The Afro American Newspapers
March 21, 2007*

It's election time – whatcha gonna do?

Those of you who know me, or who have ever read my articles, know how I feel about the electoral process. You have heard me speak ad nauseam about the criticality of elections in this country, in this state, and above all in this city. I write and speak constantly about the necessity of having an educated voting population. Voter registration, voter education, and voter participation are the triple keys to success in the political world. Well, the time is now for the first key to be exercised. The Dallas City Council and Mayoral election is scheduled for May 12, 2007. That means that you must be registered to vote by April 12, 2007. That also means that you have about two weeks from the time you are reading this to register to vote.

Most of you who read these pages are already registered voters, and for that your ancestors and your descendants thank you. You have already recognized the fact that the only way to be taken



**VIEW FROM
THE BENCH**

By C. Victor Lander

seriously in the political world (and by the way, it is all a political world) is to register and vote. Of course, voter registration is only the first step. We also must have voter education, for an uneducated voter is a dangerous voter. And of course, after being educated, we must participate. If you don't vote, in truth you don't count. But just because we now can run for office does not mean that we all have to.

A question has loomed large in my mind for quite a while, and I might as well bring it out now. Why is it that when we black people finally get the opportunity to be elected to office, everybody and their grandmother thinks that they are qualified for every office that is available? Are our collective egos so fragile as to not be able to join forces with each other to ensure that one of us is elected to each seat? Or must we all be the superstars, be the ones who get the limelight, be the candidate, even when we have neither a message nor a means to get one across.

Specifically – and pardon me if I step on some toes – why are there 8 candidates for City Council in District 5 and 6 candidates in District 8, both supposedly "safe" majority black districts? Haven't we yet realized that when 5 or 6 black people run against each other, the 1 white person (or Hispanic) in the race will end up winning because we split our votes? Have we learned nothing from history? Rick Perry is

Governor today because a bunch of idiots in Texas voted for Kinky Friedman.

You can not convince me that all of the people running for all of these offices are equally qualified to serve as members of the Dallas City Council. I know better, and so do they. Come on, people! Wake up and smell the coffee! To the candidates I say get it together and join forces to support the one who is most qualified among you, so we as a people don't lose the seats altogether. To the voters I say KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES, and vote for the most QUALIFIED candidate, the one who will best serve your interests downtown. Stop squandering what your parents and mine suffered to obtain, the right to full representation in City Hall. "There are none so blind as those who will not see".

C. Victor Lander has served as Presiding Judge of City of Dallas Municipal Court Number 7 for 10 years. Judge Lander can be reached by email at CVLander@AOL.com.