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THE GREAT BLACK HOPE

GREAT BLACK HOPE?

Is FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, the son of Secretary of State

Gen. Colin Powell, being groomed by the GOP to become America's first Black president?

With the Republican Party plan to design its ideal up-and-comer in a Gattaca-style genetics lab, the result would look and sound a lot like Michael K. Powell. A scion of Beltway royalty, Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell's only son is that rarest of political gems--a Black Republican diehard free of the kooky far-right vibes that dog Alan Keyes and JC Watts. John McCain loves him, as do a number of starstruck Democrats bewitched by his lineage and smarts. For many, the junior Powell seems a younger and brighter version of George W. Bush.

Unlike Bush, however, Powell has not squandered his youthful ambition on failed oil derricks and Texas keggars. At the tender age of 38, he is the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the five-person panel that lords over Big Media and the Baby Bells. Rep. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat, made light of his wonkish might in March, at Powell's first Capitol Hill appearance as head of the FCC.

"People are always asking me to compare you to your father," Markey said. "What I always tell them is you're just as smart as your father, but you have a lot

more power to affect the world."

If insiders are right, the FCC gig may be only a stepping stone. Some are touting Powell as a Virginia congressman or governor, maybe even as Bush cabinet member. And if he bides his time and plays his cards right, he could well become

tions industry.

Last week, aghast at the FCC's recent handiwork, South Carolina Democratic senator Ernest Hollings accused Powell of fostering "an erosion of diversity in our local markets." Hollings has introduced legislation to stop the slash-and-burn juggernaut, but few expect his

The decision could pave the way for the sale of BNC to AOL Time Warner, or---if the rule is relaxed still further---to Viacom. In June, Viacom president Mel Karmazin announced he "would absolutely love" to purchase his broadcast rival, a deal that would make the world's third largest media

is neither warranted nor just." Among the big winners was San Antonio-based Clear Channel

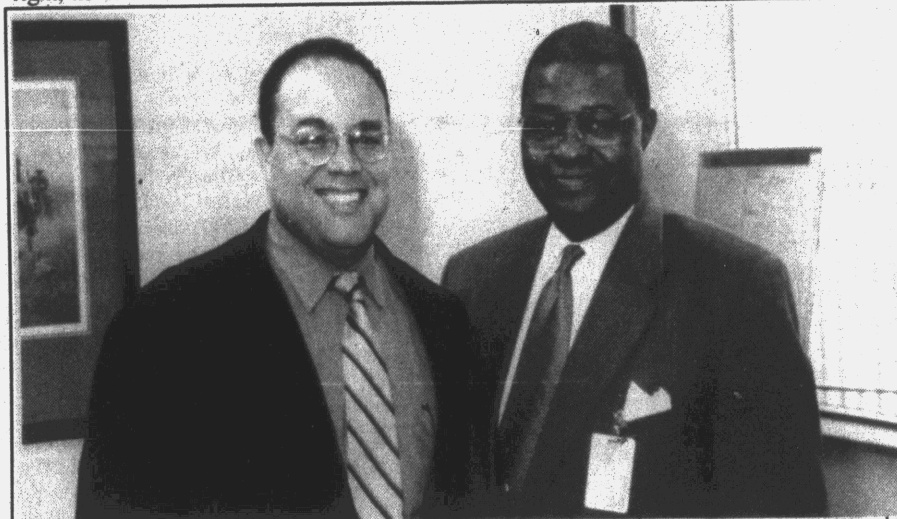
Communications, the nation's largest radio group, which added seven more properties to its 1200-station empire. As Salon's Eric Boehlert reported in April, Clear Channel already controls 60% of the country's rock-format stations.

Outgoing FCC

At the same time, Powell has been an outspoken critic of providing low-power radio licenses to community or religious groups, citing the "cost....to existing stations that provide equally valuable service to their communities." He did not elaborate on how one of Clear Channel's vanilla Top 40 outlets can provide service on a par with that of an independent, or how a station relegated to the FM dial's nether regions could possibly harm the bottom line of a Dave Matthews-playing titan.

Powell's laissez-faire machinations could be more easily forgiven if not for his flip dismissals of the FCC's role in helping customers---as the agency's handbook notes, its mission is to protect the public's "best interests". At a recent American Bar Association panel, however, Powell curtly pooh-poohed the notion of a public-interest standard, calling it "about as empty a vessel as you can accord a regulatory agency."

The statement was in line with an earlier quip, in



FCC CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY OF STATE'S SON.....Striking a pose for The 'M' Voice Newspaper cameras, the head of the FCC and the only son of the Secretary of State General Colin Powell....Chairman Michael K. Powell. Publisher and CEO of WOOW, WTOW, & The M' Voice Newspaper Jim Rouse met with the FCC Chairman earlier this year at a NCAB meeting in Washington, DC. (Staff Photo)

the first African American president.

Powell's actions as FCC Chairman have made his pro-business, consumer-battered politics more than evident. In an administration bent on rolling back regulations, Powell is the consummate good soldier, zealously blasting decades-old rules to the delight of the \$950 billion communica-

bill---designed to protect caps on market dominance---to ever become law.

Communications conglomerates, by contrast, are rapturous over Powell's quick success in defanging the FCC. They re-joined when he coaxed the commission into relaxing its long works, clearing the way for Viacom to retain UPN even after it bought CBS.

conglomerate (200 revenues: \$ 20 billion) an even more pervasive presence. In the name of free-market efficiency, Powell has also expedited dozens of merger reviews, including the \$29 billion marriage of VoiceStream and Germany's Deutsche Telekom.

He quickly pushed through 32 radio deals in March, claiming that "further delay

BLACK LEADERS UNDER ATTACK

Attacks resume on Black leaders

by: Cash Michaels
Tri - state Defender

For several weeks after Rep. President George W. Bush assumed office in January, Black leadership fell under blistering attack from the conservative right, who hoped not only to diminish the stature of figures like the Rev. Al

Sharpton and Kwesi Mfume, president/CEO, NAACP, but even put "troublemakers" like the Rev. Jesse Jackson completely out of business.

While the FOX News Channel and other conservative media took dead aim at Jackson's out-of-wedlock extramarital affair, conservative activist David Horowitz sparked a national firestorm on college campuses declaring that it's Blacks, not

Whites, who should pay reparations for slavery.

The "Bush Black Plan," as it was coined back in March got the president to bond with what little conservative Black leadership there was, giving them stature and access, and then, link arms with as many of the Black clergy as possible, using the promise of federal dollars to help their programs as the lure.

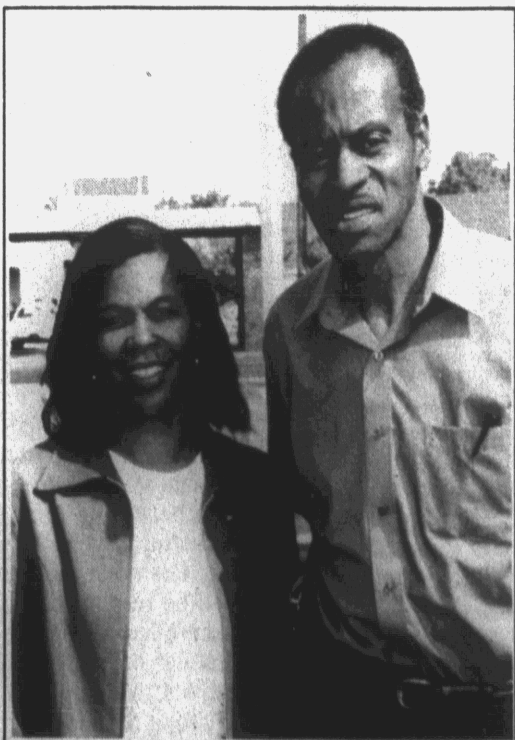
Coupled with his quick successes out the gate on education and tax reform, and high-level appointments of Gen. Colin Powell and Dr. Condoleezza Rice to his

administration, Bush seemed to be untouchable for a while. "If one thing is certain as the victorious GOP contemplates world domination," Debra Dickerson, a senior fellow at the new American Foundation wrote in the Washington Post in March, "it's that the concept of racism must be gnawed to jabberwockian meaninglessness when uttered by a minority."

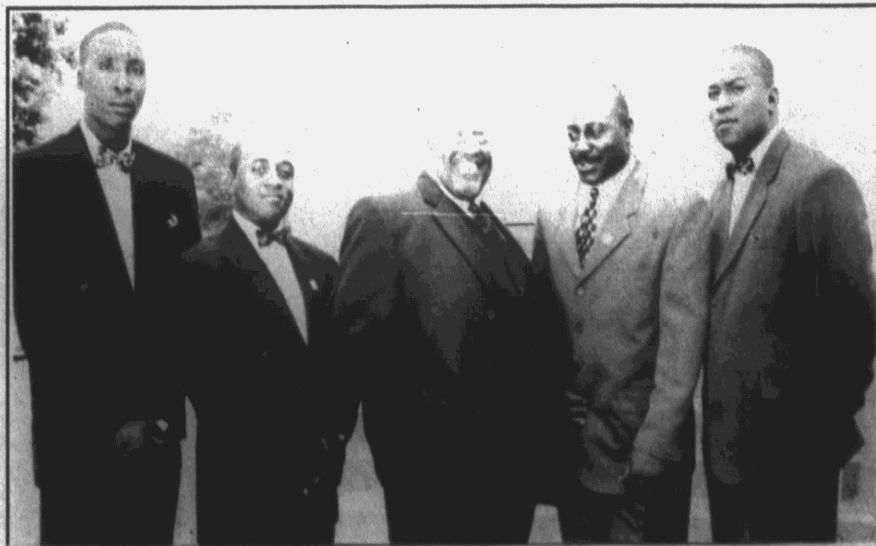
Regarding Bush efforts to "replace" established Black leadership with his designated group, Dickerson continued, "By patting them on the head, and affixing spitzky gold stars to their

foreheads, the GOP is gambling that those so rewarded won't notice they've been promoted to mere credits to their race."

But then the mistakes began---the biggest being the powershift of the US Senate to the Democrats, thanks to Bush's disregard for then Republican Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords, who switched to independent and now, six months after he's taken office, the president is fighting several negative perceptions that promise to cripple his first year, and maybe his presi-



Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Tarboro, NC.....Shown outside WCPS studios is Rev. George Terry, discussing the issues concerning the Town of Princeville with NAACP former Pres. Crystal Moyer. They want to encourage all kids to seek GOD and not DRUGS. (Photo by Jim Rouse).



Tarboro, NC.....Shown above are Brothers that care concerned about the recent violence that erupted in the town of Princeville. Posing is Brother Na'im K. Akbar, Brother Robert Mohammad, Sheriff Knight at St. Paul's Church in Tarboro attending the burial of Maurice Clark. Na'im Akbar grew up in Princeville, and runs a program in the Tarboro community. "Black folks need to learn to work together and not against each other to end this senseless violence." (Photo by Jim Rouse)