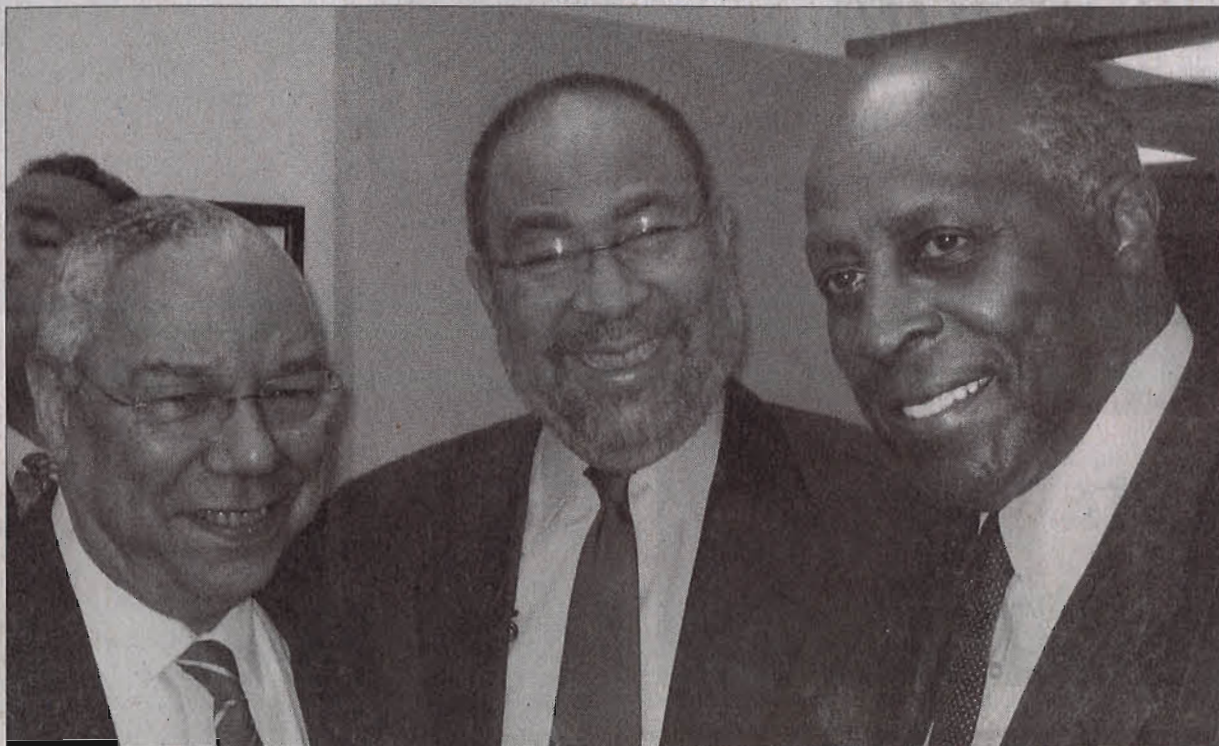


Amy Argetsinger and Roxanne Roberts



COURTESY OF PRISCILLA CLARKE

Time Warner's Parsons: No Designs on D.C.

It's good to be a pal of Barack Obama these days — except, of course, for all those new BFFs who think you've got the White House on speed-dial.

"I only have one BFF — my wife," said Richard Parsons, chairman of Time Warner and a member of Obama's economic advisory team. "I have a number of friends who have hit me up for inaugural tickets, that's for sure."

The lifelong Republican believed since the Iowa caucuses that Obama would win, but said the election left many of his colleagues — especially African

Colin Powell and Vernon Jordan greet Time Warner Chairman Richard Parsons, center, before his interview at George Washington University for the HistoryMakers project.

Americans — in shock: "They really, honestly didn't think it could happen. That's when I realized something seismic had happened."

Parsons came to D.C. on Saturday to make a little history of his own: an interview for the HistoryMakers project, which has compiled the largest collection of African American biographies in the world. The look at his life and career, conducted by Soledad O'Brien, was taped

for broadcast on PBS. In the standing-room-only audience at George Washington University: Colin Powell, Vernon Jordan, BET's Debra Lee — all quite pleased about the election results.

At a reception before the taping, the word "excited" popped up a lot: Powell noted that there are a lot of delighted people in this country right now. Not just this country, countered Jordan: "I was just in London, and Brits were

saying, 'We won. We won.' Washington is going to be an interesting town again, offered Lee: "It's been a little dead for the last eight years."

"There is this unbridled optimism," said emcee Juan Williams. "It's as if there's been a coup and everyone is dancing, like at the end of 'The Wizard of Oz.'" He's calling it "national political irrational exuberance."

Parsons is keeping his exuberance in check. He said he'll "most likely" come down for the inauguration, but not move to work for the administration. "Highly unlikely," he said with a grin. "I'm a New Yorker."

For Malia and Sasha, Some Cousinly Advice

Barack Obama has his team of advisers, so why shouldn't Malia and Sasha? Their cousin Leslie Robinson, 11, is helping the future first daughters prepare for the big move to Washington.

Unlike the Obama girls, who've lived in Chicago's cozy Hyde Park neighborhood since they were born, Leslie has pulled up stakes twice in the last three years — from Chicago to Rhode Island, and then Rhode Island to Oregon where her dad (Michelle Obama's brother) coaches men's basketball at Oregon State University.

"It was initially very hard for my kids, specifically for my daughter, to move from Chicago to Rhode Island," Craig Robinson told our colleague Kevin Merida. "Now she's helping

her cousins go through the same thing. And my sister has enlisted my daughter to talk to them and use the examples of them to help their daughters through it, specifically Malia," who's 10; Sasha is 7.



BY SCOTT OLSON — GETTY IMAGES
Malia and Daddy.

Robinson said most of the advice centers on changing schools, or missing their old bedrooms and friends — and he's hoping his nieces will say, "Well, Leslie did it, so I can do it." Guess we know who's getting the first invite for a White House sleepover.

"Now, I gotta get in their face. I'm proud to be a woman. I'm proud to be a black woman, and I'm proud to be gay."

— Comedian Wanda Sykes at a Las Vegas rally Saturday protesting California's same-sex marriage ban. The outspoken comedian said the vote prompted her to go public about her sexual orientation.



Wanda Sykes.

HEY, ISN'T THAT ... ?

■ Laura Bush at Oyamel restaurant Saturday night. The first lady and five girlfriends (all in dressy casual) sat in a back room, shared a variety of traditional Mexican antojitos — little dishes, like tapas.



First nibbler Laura Bush.



Fashion designer Kai Milla with her husband, Stevie Wonder.

BY RUSSELL HIRSHON

DOONESBURY By GARRY TRUDEAU

WHAT I WANT TO GET INTO, GRAMMY, IS THE NOTION OF LACEY DAY-ENPORT AS ONE OF THE

SINCE YOU WERE A TRUSTED ADVISER, YOU HAVE TO BE IN MY FILM— EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT

I MEAN, WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE SO GORGEOUS WAS A MAJOR PLAYER ON

I KNEW THAT'D BE A PROBLEM. STOP IT, YOU TWO. GO ON.

Will a Compliment Turn Into the Inaugural Gown?

Kai Milla, like everyone in the fashion business, has her eyes on

And did we mention Oprah's a big fan, too?