

**USA Today**, “An AIDS questions without an answer,” by Bonnie Marshall, founder and CEO of the Global Initiative on AIDS, Oct. 8.

She wrote, “Ifill articulated in a few moments of what many us have been screaming for the past four years. More than 40 million American heard her question.” Marshall then listed several facts she felt would “enlighten the presidential candidates:”

- Of the AIDS cases in 2002 among women and girls older than 13 in the USA, 67% were black women.
- Women made up 26% of all AIDS cases in 2002, compared with 7% in 1985. It is estimated that 7,300 black women test positive each year for HIV in the US.
- 68% of the infections among black women are through heterosexual contact – as some black men engage in homosexual acts “on the down low,” then infect their unwitting partners. The other major factor in the spread of the disease is drug use.
- AIDS is leaving a trail of orphans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has even cited “outbreaks” of AIDS on several black college campuses.

**The Advocate**, “Vice presidential candidates skirt AIDS question,” no byline listed, Oct.7.

“Vice presidential candidates Republican Dick Cheney and Democrat John Edwards missed a key opportunity to talk about U.S. domestic AIDS policies during the vice presidential debate Tuesday night, responding to a question about the impact of AIDS on African-American women by instead talking about the global AIDS crisis. “

“AIDS groups and activists tell Advocate.com they are disappointed the candidates avoided talking about domestic AIDS issues.”

“Since President Bush and Vice President Cheney took office, the number of people living with AIDS in the United States has increased by almost 10,000 cases, and 40,000 people have continued to become infected with HIV every year.” [From a statement released by CLEAR].

**The Southern Voice**, [www.sovo.com](http://www.sovo.com), “Vice presidential candidates debate gay marriage,” by Chris Crain, Oct. 8.

In the section of the article entitled, “Candidates dodge AIDS questions,” Cairns wrote, “The candidates were also asked about the rising rates of HIV among black women in the U.S. Though cautioned not to discuss global AIDS in response, the vice president did just that, acknowledging that he was unaware of the statistic, cited by Ifill, that black women were 13 times more likely than other Americans to die of AIDS.”

**Factcheck.org**, “Cheney & Edwards Mangle Facts Getting it wrong about combat pay, Halliburton, and FactCheck.org,” <http://www.factcheck.org/article272.html>, Oct. 6.

“Cheney used a misleading figure to support the idea that the administration was ‘deeply concerned’ about the toll that AIDS has taken on poor countries, stating that the administration has ‘proposed and gotten through the Congress authorization for \$15 billion to help in the international effort.’ That's true, but the \$15-billion figure was to be spread over five years -- and when it came to asking for money to be actually appropriated and spent Bush sought only \$2 billion for the fiscal year that just ended. Congress increased that to \$2.4 billion.”

**The Boston Globe**, “The Understudies Onstage,” editorial, Oct. 6.

“Cheney said at one point that he was unaware of the rate of AIDS infection among African-Americans women in the United States, but for the most part he continued the pattern he and Bush have set of never admitting error.”

**The Boston Globe**, “Both Candidates Missed the Boat,” a letter written by Sarah Gibb, from Medford, letters to the editor, Oct. 8.

“Both candidates missed the boat in their responses. John Edwards in particular missed an opportunity to say what damage the Bush administration has done in the fight against AIDS.”

“In Massachusetts, 50 percent of women newly diagnosed with HIV are of African descent. Twenty-six percent are Latina. Most live in poverty. Most acquire the virus through heterosexual acts and/or injection drug use but lack of access to healthcare or drug treatment.”

**U.S. Newswire**, “AIDS Community Leader Calls for Federal Action in Reaction to Cheney Comments in Debate” by Patricia Bass, chair of the Communities Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief (CLEAR), wire feed, Oct. 6.

“Sadly, Vice President Dick Cheney honestly reflected the ignorance that exists at the federal level of government regarding the true impact of HIV/AIDS in America today. There many folks who feel his statement reflects the administration’s and the Congress’s failure to pay enough attention, to recognize and to act upon the dire need to provide basic health care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS here at home. It is impossible to effectively respond to a crisis when you don’t know it exists.”

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch**, “AIDS funds needed,” by Thomas G. Adams, executive director, The AIDS Foundation St. Louis, editorial, Oct. 9.

“In the vice presidential debate, both candidates responded to a question on AIDS, by touching on the worldwide pandemic, skimming over the issue of uninsured Americans and entirely missing two important points: HIV continues to be spread in the United States, and infected Americans struggle with access to medications that could keep them healthy and radically improve their quality of life.

“In Missouri, 2,000 more people have HIV/AIDS now than in 1998 – with a total infected population of more than 9,500. Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical companies have developed beneficial medications that improve and extend life for many. Unfortunately, for the 1,900 Missourians who rely on federal assistance to receive those medicines, the government has let them down.”

**Knight Ridder Tribune News Service**, “Black Democrats criticize Cheney for AIDS remark,” by Lesley Clark and Andrea Robinson, Oct. 7.

“Vice President Dick Cheney’s admission that he was ‘not aware’ of an AIDS epidemic among black women in the United States drew a sharp rebuke Thursday from a group of black Democrats who used Cheney’s trip to Miami to denounce his remarks.”

**The Washington Post**, “The Overlooked Victims of AIDS,” by Judith D. Auerbach, vice president for public policy of the American Foundation for AIDS research, editorial, Oct. 14.

“Both candidates displayed an alarming ignorance of the reality of the crisis in the United States, choosing instead to focus their comments on AIDS in Africa, which Ifill had explicitly asked them not to do.”

“What is inexcusable among the nation’s top policymakers is a persistent problem in the general public as well: a failure to recognize that AIDS now disproportionately affects women.”

“...the proportion of all AIDS cases reporting among adolescent and adult women in the United States has more than tripled since 1986. AIDS is the fourth-leading cause of death among women in this country between the ages of 24 and 44, and is the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25-34.”

**PR Newswire**, “AIDSVote.org says Democrat and Republicans Still Need AIDS 101 Education,” a statement released by AIDSVote.org, by Richard B. Cheney, wire feed, Oct. 6.

“Both candidates’ responses lacked specific plans for addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV on women of color in the U.S., indicated the urgent and ongoing need for increased awareness and education of both campaigns on this vital domestic issue.”

**Daily News**, “Pols Ignore Crisis Among Black Women,” by Lenore Skenazy, editorial, Sports, Oct. 13.

“But when we talk about AIDS in America, we are talking about national security. This year alone, 40,000 Americans will become infected with HIV. Of these, 50% will be black.”

Men, in relationships with women, having sex with men with on the side “is not the real problem, according to most AIDS organizations. Men coming home from prison is a much bigger deal. Fully 95% of American prisons do not provide condoms. Nonetheless, an estimated 65% of male inmates – even the straight ones – have sex...When they get out, they spread the diseases they picked up to women as well as men.”

**Los Angeles Times**, “Question on AIDS Goes Unanswered,” by Maria L. La Ganga, section A, page 12, correction, Oct. 6.

“A new issue crept into the campaign Tuesday night – what to do about AIDS in American – and neither of the well-prepped candidates in the vice presidential debate had much to say.”