

**The
BLACK
C o M M e n t a t o r**
Commentary, analysis and investigations
on issues affecting African Americans
www.blackcommentator.com

June 5, 2008 - Issue 279

[Contents of Issue Menu](#)

Click Here

Click Here To

CONTRIBUTE TO  NOW

[Home](#)

**Psychological Warfare on The Notion of a Black President;
Playing on Black Fear and White Lunacy
Between the Lines
By Dr. Anthony Asadullah Samad, PhD
BlackCommentator.com Columnist**

Click on the back button of your browser to return to non printer friendly page of this article

[Click here](#) to get helpful hints for viewing and printing this printer friendly plain text page

The notion of the first black President in the history of the United States has become very real over the past couple weeks. So much so that we are now beginning to see both Barack Obama's opposition (in both parties) and the media engage in a very vicious and mean-spirited word-smithing that seeks subtly to unearth some of the worse memories in American history, for the purposes of invoking fear and lunacy on the eve of an historical occasion.

Psychological warfare is a big part of politics. Who has the most money, the most endorsements, the most votes, the most delegates, the most "momentum" plays large in positioning, or re-positioning candidates. Those who hold psychological advantages have a different type of swagger than those who don't. When the obvious advantages are not apparent, candidates seek to create some not so obvious ones to justify their existence.

The obvious advantage we've witnessed in the last six years of the Bush administration is fear. The politics of fear, fear of "what might happen in a post-911 environment" got a highly unpopular President re-elected. This time around, "fear" is a two-edged sword. White people's fear is what might happen if Obama is elected the first African American President of the United States. Black people's fear is what might happen to Barack if he's elected the first Black President of the United States. For the most part, white fear is largely unfounded, based on historical xenophobia rooted in perpetual stereotypes of black inferiority of which some whites cannot seem to rid

themselves. For the most part, black fear is solidly founded, based on historical tragedy rooted in America's lunacy of lynching, mobbing and targeted assassinations that have deferred African American equality dreams and full investiture in American society.

Much has been made of Hillary Clinton's recent assassination comments stated while comparing her decision to stay in the race with historical races that ran through June. As haphazard and nonchalant as she (and the media) tried to make them appear, it was the type of word-smithing that is rooted in a racial codification that signals endangerment and the threat of supremacist pathology of times past. Hillary's inference that the only way she can win is if "something happens" to Obama, and to wave the lunacy flag, "Remember RFK" as if to say "Remember The Alamo" is psychological warfare at its most blatant. Clinton's verbiage is not proper, just cogent in promoting fear.

John McCain's codification, while not as damning as Clinton's, is not much better. To suggest that Obama's "inexperience" doesn't make him suited for the Presidency, infers that Obama is not "smart enough" to be President. It's on record that McCain has a real distain for what he touts as Obama's lack of experience, but experience is just one criterion for a leader. Both Clinton and McCain have very heavy "negatives" that most acknowledge are problematic across the electorate, yet they run even with Obama. Largely because some white people can't get over their "inferiority complex" as it relates to black people - any black person - and their fears play against supporting an obviously superior candidacy in Barack Obama. McCain dismissive statements combined with Clinton and Huckabee's impolitic statements (both know threats against Barack life are real) send subliminal messages to some lunatic that thinks they are being patriotic or standing up in some other symbolic way to save "the American way" of life. Assassination has played an all too real role in American history and to even infer that one is possible sends the wrong "signal," if we say times have changed. Or sends a "right" signal to some lunatic waiting for a cue.

The mind games some people are prepared to play with America's political future are limitless (as we saw in the aftermath of the 2000 election). Psychological warfare and racial cueing are not mutually exclusive. Both seek to find weaknesses to exploit. One in human frailty, the other in human fears. Both can produce lunacy.

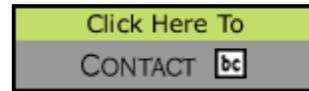
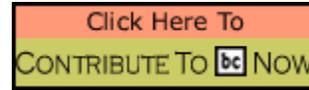
Some words we can't let people play with and some assertions for staying the race are unacceptable. Not if you're waiting for someone to be killed just so you can win.

BlackCommentator.com Columnist, Dr. Anthony Asadullah Samad, is a national columnist, managing director of the [Urban Issues Forum](#) and author of [Saving The Race: Empowerment Through Wisdom](#). His Website is [AnthonySamad.com](#). Click [here](#) to contact Dr. Samad.

[Contents of Issue Menu](#)

Click Here

[Home](#)



Your comments are always welcome.

e-Mail re-print notice

If you send us an e-Mail message we may publish all or part of it, unless you tell us it is not for publication. You may also request that we withhold your name.

Thank you very much for your readership.

Website Design and Hosting provided by



Copyright © 2002 - 2008
www.BlackCommentator.com
All Rights Reserved