

OPINION

McCain is Panicking

Repeating a lie doesn't make it true

BY MAUDE HURD,

We appreciate that Senator McCain's effort to stir up the Republican base by attacking a community organization working to increase public participation in our democratic process. However, these attacks reflect an increasingly panicked candidate.

The Sen. McCain we saw in last week's debate is very different than the Sen. McCain who stood shoulder to shoulder with ACORN at a Feb. 20, 2006 immigration reform event.

It is clear for us to see that John McCain was for ACORN before he was against ACORN; he was for reform before he was against reform; and he was a maverick before he became erratic.

What is really going here is that Sen. McCain and his allies are part of a coordi-



nated effort to engage in what appears to be an unprecedented effort to suppress voter turnout. Repeating a lie doesn't make it true, and the McCain campaign has resorted to the worst type of deceptions in

It is ACORN that has reported almost all of the issues regarding voter registration cards.

Invalid voter registration cards do not constitute voter fraud. Even Republican National Committee General Counsel Sean Cairncross has recently acknowledged he is not aware of a single improper vote cast as a result of bad cards submitted in the course of an organized voter registration effort.

ACORN hired 13,000 field workers to register people to vote. In any endeavor of this size, some people will engage in inappropriate conduct. ACORN has a zero tolerance policy and terminated any field workers caught engaging in questionable activity.

At the end of the day, as ACORN is paying these people to register voters, it is ACORN that is defrauded.

Maude Hurd is ACORN's national president.

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regards to ACORN.

The Facts: ACORN has helped 1.3 million citizens from all parties and all walks of life apply for voter registration.

In most states, ACORN is required by law to turn in every voter registration card - even in cases where the cards are not valid.

Don't Blame Minorities

Ugly scapegoating shifts blame

BY MARC MORIAL

In the last few weeks, I have undertaken an aggressive campaign directed at the nation's financial leaders to dispel the dangerous and growing myth that minority borrowers are primarily responsible for our country's current economic crisis.



Cavuto to ABC News analyst George Will to Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer say that government efforts to increase homeownership "put people in homes they could not afford" and are "at the root of our current calamity."

Rep. Michele Bachman, R-Minn., added weight to this myth

Seeds of division are being sown all across the U. S. in a volatile political environment where Americans are terrified by the economic situation.

In letters to Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman, Benjamin Bernanke, I have asked that they both publicly refute claims by some conservative pundits and politicians that most of the defaulted subprime loans at the root of the crisis were made to African Americans, Hispanics and other so-called "unproductive borrowers."

As the New York Times recently pointed out, while subprime loans deeply penetrated low-income and minority groups, a new study suggests that more upper-income borrowers and more whites took out such loans than any other groups.

It is becoming clearer everyday that a large number of people who ended up with subprime loans could have qualified for a prime loan. That's where the abuse lies.

In the face of these facts, we have heard conservatives -- from Fox News commentator, Neil

when she quoted an Investor's Business Daily article from the floor of the House that said banks made loans "on the basis of race and little else."

In my view, this blatant scapegoating is an ugly attempt by the rich and powerful to shift the blame for this crisis from Wall Street and Washington, where it belongs, onto middle class families on Main Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard who are most victimized by their excesses.

I have taken up this issue for several reasons. First, now more than ever, America needs unity and real solutions to fix the economic mess that has engulfed our

country. Instead of having a healthy debate on what must be done to curb too much Wall Street greed and too little Washington oversight, too many are willing to waste precious time and energy blaming the victims.

Second, history provides too many lessons about the consequences of singling out only certain segments of the population as culprits for a country's woes. On the basis of hearsay, rumors and misinformation, seeds of division are being sown all across the

U. S. in a volatile political environment where Americans are terrified by the economic situation.

That is why I have called on both Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke to quell this false and unnecessary tempest.

The National Urban League is also once again calling on the major broadcast and cable TV networks to increase racial diversity in their newsrooms as a way to prevent the dissemination of this and other dangerous myths by certain commentators and politicians.

Marc Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

Entrenched Racial Divisions

Obama's quest doesn't mean racial parity exists

BY WILLIAM REED

Whether he wins or loses, Barack Obama's quest for the U.S. Presidency hurt African-American causes and enabled entrenched racial divisions to continue and White Americans to claim that racial parity exists. The gains that Malcolm and Martin made in their movements are being reversed on our watch under the guise that such was MLK's "dream". The presidential campaign of Barack Obama has set race relations back 20 years and cost blacks billions of dollars.



Obama's candidacy didn't represent as much change for black Americans as much as it represented Americans an opportunity for atonement of our racial past. The "change" Barack Obama represents is costing black descendants of slaves as much as \$8 trillion. Obama opposes reparations, arguing that government can combat the legacy of slavery by improving schools, health care and the economy for all. "I have said in the past - and I'll repeat again - that the best reparations we can provide are good schools in the inner city and jobs for people who

are unemployed," said Obama.

At the root of the nation's racial disparity is economics. For all our existence in America, blacks have been last and least on the misery index. American capitalism starts each child where its parents left off. For descendants of slaves, that capitalistic paradigm has been blatantly unfair.

Judging from what we have seen and heard, even if there is a President Obama in the White House in 2009 Black Americans' struggle for equity will hardly have been met.

William Reed is a national commentator.

The "dream" of a black being president of the US has caused black Americans to throw good sense to the wind. When Obama became the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, many African-Americans cried saying they never thought they would live to see such a day. Obamamaina among African Americans evolved into a taunt that - "If you are black you must vote for Obama, it's your duty." Black media and political commentators that warned Obama's candidacy suppressed the push for racial equality were met with outrage.

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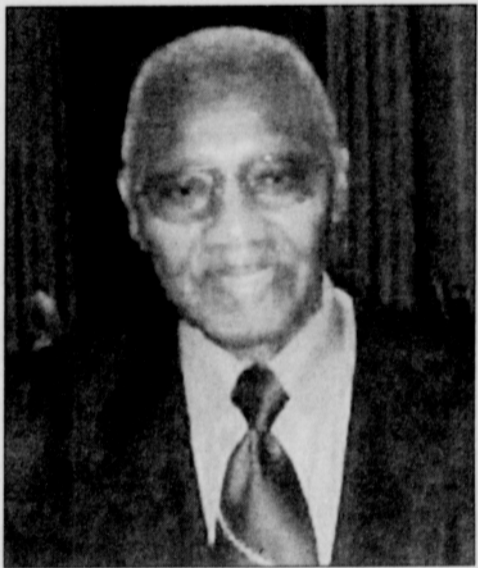


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