

# Demonization

(Continued from Page 4)

"gender card," and the "race card," to her advantage in her effort to soil Obama and to paint him in the eyes of the Democratic Party's "superdelegates" as being unelectable.

"I think it's a combination of not only the 'Bradley effect,' but what I'm calling the 'Willie Horton-ization of Barack Obama,'" Dr. Wilmer J. Leon III, professor of political science at Howard University told *The Final Call*. "With the intentional misinterpretations of Michele Obama's comments earlier about: For the first time in her life, she's really proud to be an American, how that has been compromised and turned into, 'she's not American'; to Rev. Dr. (Jeremiah) Wright and all of that intentional misinterpretation of his comments."

The "Bradley effect" is a term coined to describe five-term Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's unsuccessful campaigns to become governor of California in 1982 and 1986. Then, White voters told pollsters that they favored Bradley, a Black man, but refused to vote for him in the secrecy of voting booths.

Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, who wrote dozens of books, scholarly articles and book chapters, reportedly said the motive for public lynchings of Blacks in the South after the Civil War and before they were guaranteed the right to vote was: "The closer the Negro gets to the ballot box, the more he looks like a rapist."

Today, Obama's supporters insist, the closer he appears to get to the presidency, the more his opponents are trying to make him look like a Black man.

"I think it's the 'Bradley effect' in terms of White folks now realizing that they may actually have to deal with this Black man and not want to vote for him," said Leon, "as well as what the media is doing to kind of fan the flames and heighten peoples' sensitivities to race in this case."

Says Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center, "Race is intertwined with a broader notion that he is not one of us."

Pew has done an extensive examination of voter attitudes, particularly among Democrats who have an unfavorable view of Obama, according to Young@Heart.

"The big question about Barack Obama from the very

beginning has been, is he safe?" said Peter D. Hart, a Democratic pollster not affiliated with any campaign. "Safe in terms of both the cultural values that he has, and about whether he is strong enough to be commander in chief."

The affect of race on the Obama campaign is twofold: Voters opposing him simply because he is Black, and Democratic Party officials who will not support him because they do not think a Black man can win a general election.

So, instead of concentrating the campaign on the serious issues affecting the country, and the overwhelming opposition to the Bush administration's war in Iraq and economic policies, the Clinton campaign has increasingly targeted the perception that Sen. Obama is "elite," "out of touch," and "too liberal" for American voters.

Sen. Clinton cannot escape responsibility for the attacks, from her husband and former President Bill Clinton's assertion that Sen. Obama's campaign is a "fairy tale," to senior campaign advisor and former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro's insistence that Sen. Obama would not be as successful as he is politically, if he was a White male or a White female.

"Absolutely," Sen. Clinton is to blame, said Dr. Leon, "primarily not because she's in the race, but because of the tactics that she's using. I have absolutely no problem with her fighting till the last dog dies, so long as her fight is based on the issues."

"But she has been—along with her husband—has been the primary instigators of the personal attack. Particularly in the Democratic race, where she has gone away from the issues and made it personal. And that is doing nothing more than giving the Republican opposition ammunition for their guns. I hold her responsible for the personalization of this thing."

"That is what I think is what has gotten to the core of the racial matter. Because they really can't attack him on the issues, because on the issues they are really very, very close in a lot of ways, and so really all she has left is to attack him personally."

The Democrats embrace of Sen. Clinton on these grounds, is potentially dangerous for them. Should Sen. Clinton win the Democratic nomination after what ap-

pears to be race-baiting of Sen. Obama, there is a risk that she face severe Black backlash, and would be unable to mobilize the Black support she would need to win in November.

"In the short term, if Sen. Obama gets the nomination, he could very well lose to Sen. McCain because of the inherent racism in America. If the Democratic Party fails to give Sen. Obama the nomination for that reason, they are doing themselves long-term—I mean generational—damage. Because the African-American base, I think will run from them," said Dr. Leon.

"If they go on this electability angle, they're going to cut off their nose, to spite their face. As much as I've been telling my students: 'History tells me that Sen. Obama will not be president, because history in America tells me that White people in America are not going to vote for a brother for nothing.' I've got to go with history, until history proves me wrong."

*Askia Muhammad writes the Final Call.*

# Frisk

(Continued from Page 3)

Nadler cited another incident involving White officers and an off-duty Black police chief as evidence of possible racial problems at the nation's largest police department.

Chief Douglas Zeigler, the head of the NYPD's Community Affairs Bureau and the highest uniformed Black officer on the force, was sitting in his department-issued SUV on a Queens street on May 2 when the two officers approached the vehicle to question him.

When Zeigler got out of the vehicle, the confrontation grew testy. One of the officers was later stripped of his gun for being discourteous to a superior, officials said.

On Monday, police officials suggested the Zeigler incident had been overblown. In the past, they also have defended the stop-and-frisk program as a proven crime-fighting tactic driven by descriptions of suspects and by police officers' suspicions and observations — not by racial profil-

ing. Also in attendance with Sharpton on Monday were Bell's parents, his fiancée and one of two men who survived the hail of 50 police bullets fired at the groom-to-be's car on Nov. 25, 2006 outside a Queens strip club. Three undercover detectives who said they believed there was a weapon in the car were cleared by a judge of manslaughter and other charges on April 25 following a bench trial in Queens.

Supporters of the Bell family have called on federal prosecutors to bring civil rights charges against the shooters,

The lawmakers on Monday said the case will get a thorough review. But panelist Rachel Harmon, a former prosecutor with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, cautioned that making a federal case can be "labor intensive and difficult to win" because prosecutors must prove police set out to violate Bell's civil rights.

"Recklessness is not enough," said Harmon, now a University of Virginia law professor.

# Emails

(Continued from Page 3)

according to data obtained by The Associated Press. Ten percent were of other races. In the agency's senior leadership, Whites made up about 75 percent and Blacks 13 percent. Black people make up about 12 percent of the United States' population.

The Secret Service investigates counter-

feiting cases and protect presidents, vice presidents, their family members and other dignitaries. The agency became part of the Homeland Security Department in 2002. It was previously part of the Treasury Department.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. Court of the District of Columbia.

# Your Horoscope Says... May 15-21

## ARIES

You and your honey have so much to talk about, listen! He or she is trying to come out of a whole new bag. Accept! Change is a good thing this week. Expect to travel soon. Savor the thought.

Soul Affirmation: What I've been waiting for has been here all along.  
Lucky Numbers: 6, 45, 47

## TAURUS

If nothing much is happening on the job, remember that chilling is good sometimes. Use this week to return phone calls and answer letters. Be low key. Wonderful things flow from what you don't do.

Soul Affirmation: All things work together for good.  
Lucky Numbers: 4, 51, 52

## GEMINI

You can turn that obstacle into an opportunity at work. Check out the players carefully. Watch your back and hold your tongue around workplace rivals. Aggressively seek agreement.

Soul Affirmation: The slowness of my week gives me time to refresh my energy.  
Lucky Numbers: 8, 40, 42

## CANCER

Don't let your outer space infringe on your inner peace. Control situations that might affect your ability to get that important job done. Remember people are only human. As often before, confidence is the key to accomplishment this week.

Soul Affirmation: I find many things about myself that I really love.  
Lucky Numbers: 8, 16, 23

## LEO

Mail, email, or telephone brings news of a matter that demands more attention than you might think. Opportunity knocks at work this week. This week spend some quality time with your family.

Soul Affirmation: I keep in mind the practical side of life this week.  
Lucky Numbers: 1, 30, 34

## VIRGO

Listen well for the indications that money can be found in an unusual place. Social and romantic interest should be your focus this evening. Love comes from what you do not say.

Soul Affirmation: I let my mind go slack and tighten up my body  
Lucky Numbers: 2, 45, 47

## LIBRA

Some people may not "get" where you're coming from, but ask your family and significant other to give you time to explain your way of looking at life this week. Do it calmly and confidentially.

Soul Affirmation: I let go and let my spirit take control.  
Lucky Numbers: 17, 30, 47

## SCORPIO

Now's a better than usual time for self-reflection and meditation. Share your ideas. They're more valuable than you think. Appreciation comes from someone far away. You make the call.

Soul Affirmation: I admit what I really want out of life this week.  
Lucky Numbers: 23, 29, 38

## SAGITTARIUS

Creativity comes from a deep source. Take the chance to pursue creative goals. Others will understand later. You

and a child can come to an unmatched understanding. Speak truth and let the chips fall where they may.

Soul Affirmation: I do not allow demands to be placed on me this week.  
Lucky Numbers: 45, 47, 49

## CAPRICORN

Listen carefully and follow good advice that will come from someone you've often regarded as foolish. You run into difficulties with one of your projects; don't worry, it's only temporary. How you manage your mind will affect the eventual outcome.

Soul Affirmation: The deed is done. I must wait for the results to unfold.  
Lucky Numbers: 10, 18, 39

## AQUARIUS

If there is someone or something that you're avoiding, don't panic if you find you must confront what you've been hiding from. Wait for things to work themselves out. Don't force the issue. Time solves more problems than you ever can.

Soul Affirmation: I seek connection with the best that is in me.  
Lucky Numbers: 18, 23, 29

## PISCES

Be flexible. Yes, you. There are many ways to be right and your lover or friend will have come up with one that is different from yours. You'll be asked to compromise this week or you just have to give in. Remember you sometimes have to give a little to get a little.

Soul Affirmation: I see myself as a finisher rather than a starter this week.  
Lucky Numbers: 11, 24, 29