

Ludacris

(Continued from Page 2) on those between the ages of 18 and 29 who are not on college campuses.

In March, hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons endorsed Obama. The group estimates that the hip-hop generation will be nearly 50 million strong this year — representing nearly a third of the electorate.

(Simmons has temporarily stepped aside as chair of the New York-based Hip-Hop Summit Action Net-

work, which is nonpartisan, until after the election.)

McWhorter, who is an Obama supporter, said the song — and Obama's reaction to it — should come as no surprise. Rappers are supposed to be clever and confrontational, which is why the song is not likely to be on voters' minds this fall.

"I'm not aware of hip-hop music affecting any election so far, and I don't think that this is going to be one, either," McWhorter said.

Obama has spoken out against some of hip-hop's stars before, but praised Ludacris and hip-hop icon Jay-Z as "great talents and great businessmen" in a recent *Rolling Stone* interview.

"There's no doubt that hip-hop culture moves our young people powerfully. And some of it is not just a reflection of reality," he told *Vibe* magazine last August. "It also creates reality. I think that if all our kids see is a glorification of materialism and

bling and casual sex and kids are never seeing themselves reflected as hitting the books and being responsible and delaying gratification, then they are getting an unrealistic picture of what the world is like."

Some may remember what has happened when a politician has stepped into such critical territory before.

In 1992, then-Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton accused the hip-hop artist Sister Souljah of inciting violence against Whites. Some Black leaders criticized Clinton, but by staying above the fray, he galvanized his image as a politician who refused to pander.

Then again, Obama also has appeared to have embraced some of hip-hop's cultural touchstones.

During the primaries, hip-hopsters cheered Obama's brush of the shoulder at one campaign appearance — a subtle reference Jay-Z — and again when he and wife, Michelle, shared a fist bump

on the night in June when he became the apparent Democratic nominee for president. Both were silent nods to the Black community, and especially the hip-hop generation.

Bakari Kitwana, who co-edited the upcoming "Let's Get Free: Strategies for Organizing the Hip-Hop Voting Bloc" with Johnson, said the hip-hop community's celebration over Obama's candidacy highlights a "disturbing reality" for some as artists like Ludacris become emboldened.

"Before, a lot of the songs about Barack were supporting his campaign," Kitwana

said. "This song is different in that it almost claims the victory. That's scary for some people who don't want to see that happen."

For young voters, the controversy could pull them deeper into the mire of mainstream electoral politics, Kitwana said, causing them to look more critically at the process. But many aren't even engaged in such conversations, said Johnson.

"There is a community of people who aren't watching CNN or reading *The Huffington Post*," Johnson said. "The question is, 'Does this hurt him with who?'"

Urban

(Continued from Page 2)

Council and the chairman of the National Youth & Gang Violence Task Force, left the speech with a broad smile, saying he too has a new level of hope.

"Young Black children can be what they see. He has raised the level of our expectations of what we can be. So, I am touched. He felt the pulse of the people, very down to earth, very clear," he said.

It was Obama's ability to deliver a clear message that was first on the attack list for McCain.

"If there's one thing he always delivers, it's a great speech. But, I hope you'll listen

carefully, because his ideas are not always as impressive as his rhetoric," said McCain.

The quips about each other will no doubt escalate as both candidates get closer to the Nov. 4 election that could make Obama the first Black president in America's history.

But, there's one thing on which they both agreed. When Morial asked each whether they will host a White House celebration for the NUL's 100th birthday celebration in 2010, they both gave emphatic answers.

"How could I say no?" laughed McCain.

Obama said he would because in his administration, the White House would be "the people's house."

Your Horoscope Says... August 7-13

ARIES

You may want to make this week a schmooze-fest! Whether you go out to a party or stay in with a friend, you'll have a good time if you remember that charm is the only weapon that'll work for you this week.

Soul Affirmation: I work hard to combat envy this week.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 29, 33

TAURUS

Your vibrations could cause you to pause. That's good, because a pause is just what you need to remember to think of the positive. Reject the negative and you'll have a wonderful week.

Soul Affirmation: I give my mind a holiday again this week.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 17, 32

GEMINI

Rev up your engines. This is a fine week for making progress with projects that you've got in the works. Your energy is high and your mind is clear. Use every advantage this week to finish up your work.

Soul Affirmation: What life has given me is sufficient to any task.

Lucky Numbers: 45, 47, 54

CANCER

Life is better than ever for you right now. But not because everything is going perfectly, it's that you now realize that everything will be okay if you allow the Universe to unfold in its perfect timing. Your patience is rewarded with a smooth ride through difficult times.

Soul Affirmation: Life is joyous for me, and I trust in the love around me.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 8, 55

LEO

Confusion exists over some question, and every time you think you've got the answer, circumstances will change and new information will come to your attention. Don't worry, things are going to clear up and work out. Take it easy.

Soul Affirmation: My smile is a radiant light to those I encounter.

Lucky Numbers: 30, 31, 52

VIRGO

A spirit of competition may be troubling you. Let it go. Celebrate differences and get on with the work of creating new hope in the world! Your tendency to speak without considering the full impact on others should be checked this week.

Soul Affirmation: I graciously anticipate joy and this gives me the ability to give.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 19, 31

LIBRA

Communications flow smoothly this week and your word is golden. A wild idea for money making could come to you, but you should let the strictly material walk on by. Stick to your current plan and use your imagination for ways to streamline your work.

Soul Affirmation: Confusion gives me an opportunity to show my love.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 46, 48

SCORPIO

Creative mental energy makes this a banner week. An ambition that you thought you had left behind years ago suddenly resurfaces, and you'll see similarities between what you are doing now and what you dreamed of back then.

Soul Affirmation: I give my brain full power this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 30, 47

SAGITTARIUS

Guard your words this week, and let peace and harmony rule where they may. It's not the time to point out the character flaws of a higher-up. You can make this a very productive week if you apply your industrious spirit to your work.

Soul Affirmation: Facing down challenges makes me feel good about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 23, 37

CAPRICORN

Make a move towards that someone that you've had your eye on! The timing couldn't be more perfect! Go slow and be subtly sweet. Your ability to charm and attract always works in your favor. Don't abuse it! Show off a new attitude.

Soul Affirmation: I let myself be the cheerful me.

Lucky Numbers: 34, 39, 46

AQUARIUS

Good deeds are in order this week. Perform all the random acts of kindness that you can. Everything you do this week is going to come back to you in triplicate, so enjoy storing up some future blessings!

Soul Affirmation: Another week in which to rejoice is upon me.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 32, 45

PISCES

You can help out a friend this week if you plan your schedule so that you've got time for kindness built in! Embrace your generous side while getting your own work finished. You are excellent at multi-tasking!

Soul Affirmation: Old love? New love? The most important thing is true love!

Lucky Numbers: 26, 38, 41

Reporter

(Continued from Page 3)

tion from the McCain campaign and hasn't received one.

"I'm upset because my reporter was singled out for whatever reason. That bothers me. We're just trying to figure out what that reason was," Gabordi said.

But he added that he keeps going over the facts and he hasn't found a reason except that Price is Black. Gabordi also said he doesn't think McCain would condone what happened.

"I think it was about security and security acting overzealous and security singling out a Black reporter to be removed," Gabordi said. "That's not giving him (McCain) a pass on it. I think his campaign does have an obligation to figure out what happened and to make sure it doesn't happen again."

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Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — August 7, 2008