

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Gov. Sarah Palin at a stop in Greenville, N.C. on Tuesday.

SHUT UP, SARAH!

Are we the only ones who are getting a little ticked off by the cut-throat tactics that Sen. John McCain and his airhead running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin, are beginning to employ?

We didn't think so. As this long, long race for the White House enters the final stretch, the race car with the name "Obama" on it has pulled away, according to all national and statewide polls. So no one was surprised when the McCain camp started to throw harder jabs. It's normal for the underdog to go into October fighting, but not to hit so far below the belt.

Palin is being directed (she surely is not smart enough to conceive strategies of her own) to try to convince voters that Obama is a covert radical who "pals around" with terrorists, anti-American black pastors and God knows who else.

She has delivered this nonsense at rallies before audiences of thousands of white, conservative Republicans - folks who don't need much motivation anyway to distrust and dislike blacks. At one such rally, one member of the crowd yelled out that Obama should be killed. Palin didn't take a minute to tell the overzealous supporter that his suggestion was inappropriate; she just continued to read the script the campaign provides her with.

Palin's charges are as baseless as the claim that she is qualified to be vice-president. But they show that the next few weeks will get uglier as the Republicans try to derail the Obama train. Sadly, they know that they can gain some ground by feeding some white Americans this type of garbage. The Republicans know that on the issues, they can't get voters on their side. But racist innuendo has always served the GOP well. Remember Willie Horton?

The Democrats are vowing to swing back against these attacks while also staying focused on the issues that are most important to voters, such as jobs and health care. Obama is not perfect, no doubt, but compared to McCain and Palin, he is a class act. He would never stoop to their level, although his surrogates might.

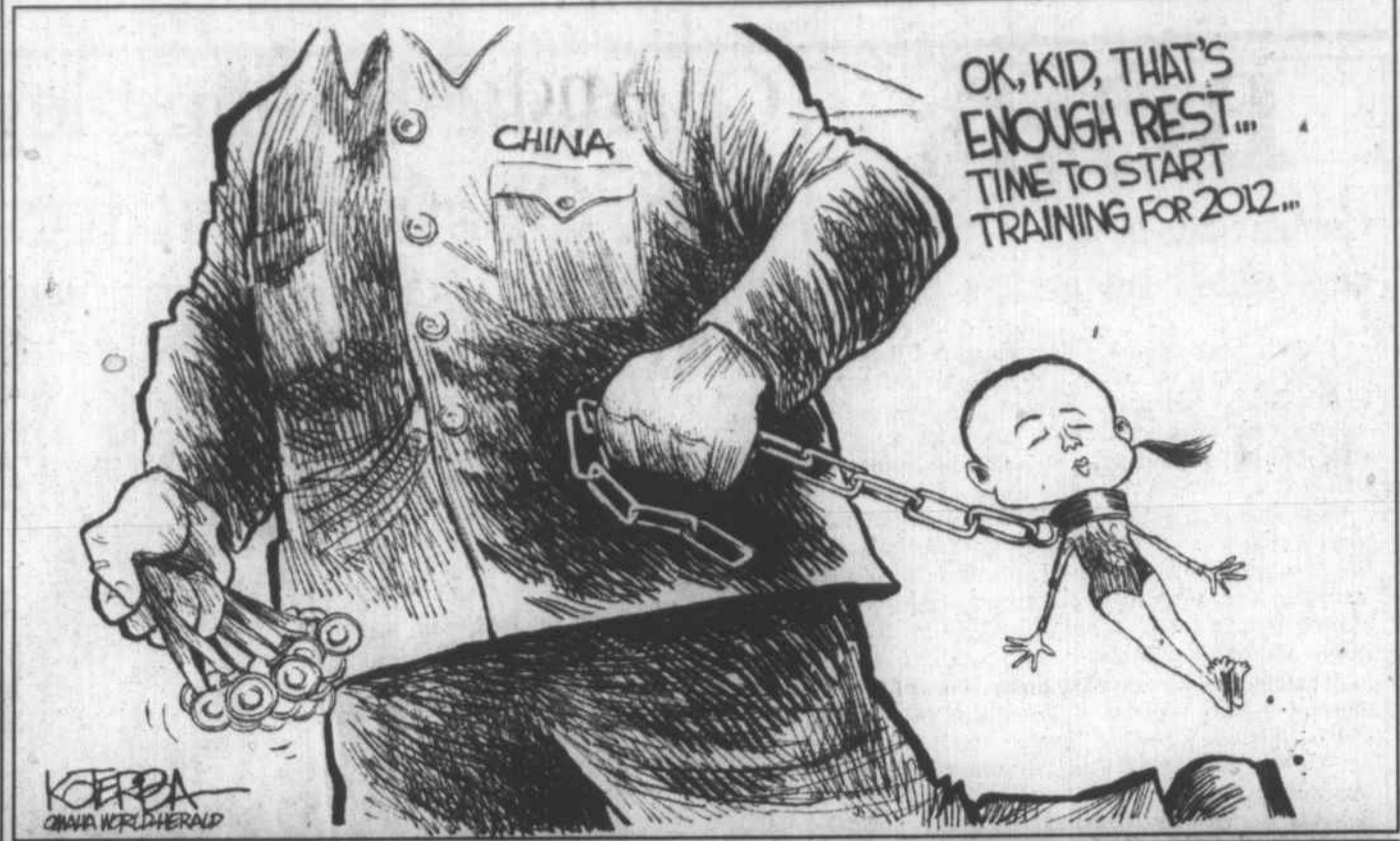
Obama would never bring up the contradictory nature of such charges coming from Palin, whose own morals are far from solid gold. After all, it was her church in Alaska that invited a man famous for condemning Judaism. Her church also believes in praying away homosexuality.

Obama is too focused on the issues of the land to mention that while Palin was busy misusing her authority as governor to fire a top law enforcement official, her daughter was out getting knocked up. Of course, teen pregnancy is a major issue across the nation. But Palin's daughter's pregnancy stands out because the governor has been outspoken about abstinence and has supported measures barring the teaching of sex-ed to students. Sex-Ed was surely a course her daughter failed, if she took it at all.

Obama has too much tact to mention that Palin attended five different colleges in order to earn just one bachelor's degree. This should come as no surprise to those of us who have seen the interviews where the governor has shown that she is completely clueless. And we all thought that President Bush was the dumbest person on the planet.

These criticisms of Palin are harsh, we admit. But she is a big girl who knows how to throw a punch so she should be receiving some as well. Palin, like her adulterous, gambling-addict running mate, has no room to talk about anyone, especially Ivy-League educated Obama.

Like the old folks say - Palin needs to sweep around her own front porch first.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is an open letter written to Schools Superintendent Dr. Don Martin by Ike Howard, the head of the Carver Alumni Association.

Dear Dr. Martin:

The Carver High School Alumni and the Carver High School Community are aware that you will be selecting a new Principal for Carver High School in the next couple of weeks.

We feel that not only will this selection be critical to the future academic success of Carver High but will be critical to maintaining the high quality of life for the Carver Community.

Thus Carver High School Alumni Association, Inc. and



Howard

Carver High School Community are asking that the following characteristics be considered as a guide for your Selection Committee.

- A strong male role

model for the majority student population.

- An experienced High School Administrator (can administer Teacher Accountability).

- A Person to Person Administrator (to communicate with Parents and Community).

- Academically qualified
- A Teacher Advocate (Teacher sensitive, with classroom experience)

- A strong, but fair disciplinarian.
- Has current or past administrative experience in the Winston Salem/Forsyth County School System

- Experience and sensitivity working with challenging students and parents.
- An Administrator who is familiar with the present

Mission at Carver High School and has a general plan/strategy of how to accomplish it.

- Someone who will be devoted to the School, its Students, Parents and the Carver High Community.

Please take our concerns in consideration. We hope that this will be of value to you and your Selection Committee. We also ask that School Board Representatives Geneva Brown and Victor Johnson be included in the Selection Committee to represent our views and sentiments.

Sincerely,
 Isaac L. Howard
 President, Carver High School Alumni Association, Inc.

The Big Payback



Jasmyne Cannick
 Guest Columnist

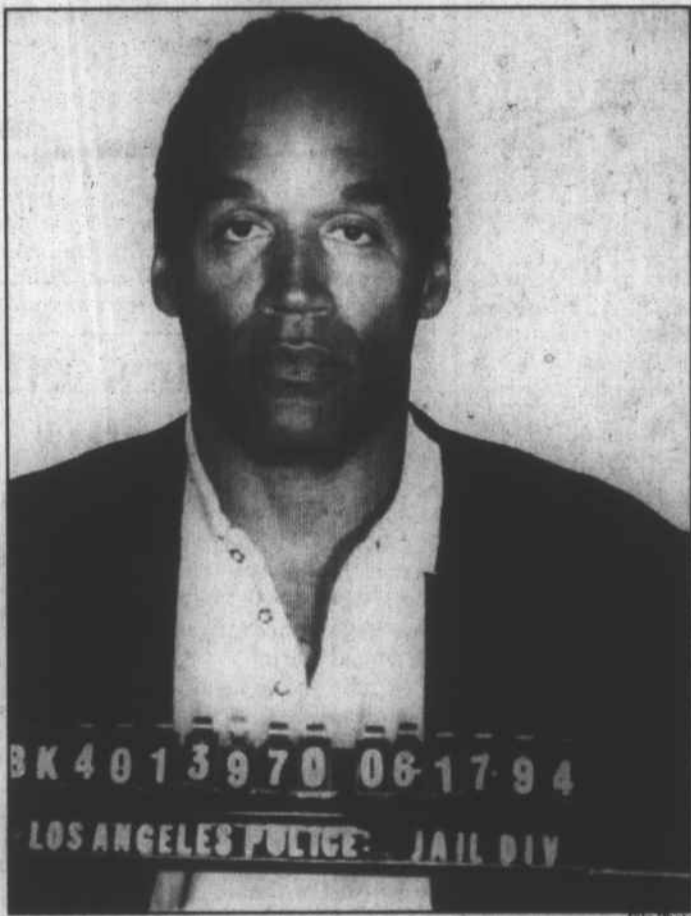
When boxer Mike Tyson was convicted of raping Miss Black Rhode Island, Desiree Washington, in an Indianapolis hotel room, for which he served three years in prison, we threw him a parade upon his release.

When singer R. Kelly finally went to trial for 12 counts of child pornography, after a video of what really looked like him urinating on an underage girl surfaced online and in every hood across America, we stood in front of the courthouse with signs that read "free R. Kelly" and continued to flock to his concerts and buy his albums.

And even when football legend and actor O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson; a white woman, and her friend Ronald Goldman in 1995, much to the ire of whites across America, there was a sense of vindication not only for Simpson but for Black America. I remember hearing the shouts of praise, hallelujah, and glory to God coming from houses up and down the street as Black people came out of their homes and celebrated.

However, when the verdict came down this weekend, in record time I might add, that Simpson had been found guilty by an all white jury in Las Vegas of robbery with a deadly weapon, burglary with a firearm, assault with a deadly weapon, first-degree kidnapping with use of a deadly weapon, coercion with use of a deadly weapon, conspiracy to commit robbery, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, and conspiracy to commit a crime - not a word from Black America.

Whether it's admitted publicly or not, Black America is not found of Black men, especially sports athletes and



The infamous O.J. Simpson mugshot from his first arrest.

celebrities, who choose to marry white women. To be fair, neither is white America, who has had a hatred for O.J. since his murder acquittal 13 years ago.

All that not withstanding, Black America still stood by Simpson's side throughout his murder trial, assuming he'd learned his lesson.

The lesson that dictates is if your Black ass gets off for murdering a white woman once, you do not take your ass back out there and find yourself another white woman while turning your back on the people who had your back when no one else did.

Unfortunately, for O.J., his biggest mistake was choosing to abandon the community that stood by him in spite of his indiscretions.

As my Aunt so plainly put it, "he's never been one of us. He's always thought he was one of them."

I think it's clear that Black America is no longer in O.J.'s

corner and once your ghetto pass is revoked, it's almost impossible to get it back. Just ask country singer Cowboy Troy, who sung at this year's Republican National Convention, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, commentator Armstrong Williams, and Bill and Hillary Clinton.

That's why you can have grown women including Angieniki, Jerhonda, and friends, standing in front of a Chicago courthouse holding signs in support of a Black man who has a history of pedophilia like behavior with underage Black females, and yet nothing from those same women for a brothel who is on trial in a conservative mostly white county with a jury of all white people for crimes that are in my opinion far less egregious than pedophilia.

See R. Kelly, for what it's worth and that isn't much, never turned his back on Black

America and in return, Black America reciprocated by overlooking the video showing someone that looks an awful lot like him urinating on an underage girl.

Now had O.J. come out of his trial in 1995 with the attitude that he was in fact a Black man living in America and acted accordingly, I can't say he wouldn't have been found guilty, but chances are, "some Black leader" would have called for a march on Las Vegas by now and for a re-trial due to the fact that a Black man was convicted by an all white jury.

Instead, white America is celebrating from coast to coast because Simpson will quite possibly be going away to prison for life, something they've wanted to happen for the past 13 years. But worst of all, Simpson is left without the support of Black America, who can be a force to be reckoned with when angered - just ask shock jock Don Imus and Black Congressional Members who choose to support Sen. Hillary Clinton over Sen. Barack Obama during the Presidential primary season.

It's a known fact that troubled Black celebrities cannot afford to lose the support of Black America. And while that support isn't always defensible, as in the cases of R. Kelly and Mike Tyson, it can make all the difference in times like these.

And if O.J. thinks he's lonely now, wait until he meets his cellmates in a Nevada state prison, where some would argue the majority of that state's Blacks are housed and where perhaps for the first time in his life, he will realize that he is a Black man living in America - albeit a bit too late.

At 30, Jasmyne Cannick is a critic and commentator based in Los Angeles who writes about the worlds of pop culture, race, class, sexuality, and politics as it relates to the African-American community. She can be reached at jasmynecannick.com or myspace.com/jasmynecannick.