



MACT Information Bulletin

Men of All Colors Together/New York, Inc.

P.O. Box 237107, Ansonia Station, New York NY 10023-7107

(212)330-7678

http://www.mactny.org

secretary@mactny.org

November, 2008

November 7 Event

Hard Candy Lounge!!

If you haven't been to an MACT/NY Friday night meeting for a while, *now's the time* to rejuvenate your spirit, re-establish contact with old friends, and meet new ones! In keeping with that part of our mission that calls for "providing a supportive environment for non-oppressive multiracial relating among gay men," we're presenting our third "Hard Candy Lounge." Last year's Hard Candy Lounges were enthusiastically praised by all.

The lighting will be soft, but not so soft that you can't see. The music will be cool, so you can hear what others are saying. Ample finger food will grace the table, as will non-alcoholic beverages and wine. Eye candy will decorate the walls.

By initiating the Hard Candy Lounge, MACT/NY has expanded the choices gay men have for socializing. A relaxed, casual atmosphere will provide opportunities to mingle and converse freely. Unpretentious furnishings, cool music, snacks and beverages create an enticing environment for mixing and mingling. Open to those 21 and older. \$5.00 admission at the door.

Friday Night Meetings

During our 20 years, MACT/NY has met at least once a week to work, to play and learn together. Our Friday night meetings at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center at 208 West 13th Street are the core of this schedule. Sessions begin at 8:00 P.M. During the evening we take up a collection (\$5.00 recommended) for the room rent and organizational expenses. Refreshments are served. Our schedule for November follows.

Friday, November 7 @ 8:00 P.M. Hard Candy Lounge! See the accompanying Page 1 article and flyer. The \$5 admission is mandatory unless you volunteer to help set up before and clean up after. Call Ted Freed at (212) 569-3632.

Friday, November 14 @ 8:00 P.M. MACT/NY Board Meeting at the home of Arthur McLean, 159-34 Riverside Drive West, #7C/90. Telephone (212) 923-7729. This meet-

(Continued on Page 4)

This is Your Nation on White Privilege

By Tim Wise

This article is reprinted from the Nationsl Association of Black and White Men Together Quarterly

For those who still can't grasp the concept of white privilege, or who are looking for some easy-to-understand examples of it, perhaps this list will help.

White privilege is when you can get pregnant at seventeen like Bristol Palin and everyone is quick to insist that your life and that of your family is a personal matter, and that no one has a right to judge you or your parents, because "every family has challenges," even as black and Latino families with similar "challenges" are regularly typified as irresponsible, pathological and arbiters of social decay.

White privilege is when you can call yourself a "fuckin' redneck," like Bristol Palin's boyfriend does, and talk about how if anyone messes with you, you'll "kick their fuckin' ass," and talk about how you like to "shoot shit" for fun, and still be viewed as a responsible, all-American boy (and a great son-in-law to be) rather than a thug.

White privilege is when you can attend four different colleges in six years like Sarah Palin did (one of which you basically failed out of, then returned to after making up some coursework at a community college), and no one questions your intelligence or commitment to achievement, whereas a person of color who did this would be viewed as unfit for college, and probably someone who only got in in the first place because of affirmative action.

White privilege is when you can claim that being mayor of a town smaller than most medium-sized colleges, and then Governor of a state with about

the same number of people as the lower fifth of the island of Manhattan, makes you ready to potentially be president, and people don't all piss on themselves with laughter, while being a black U.S. Senator, two-term state Senator, and constitutional law scholar, means you're "untested."

White privilege is being able to be a gun enthusiast and not make people immediately scared of you.

White privilege is being able to have a husband who was a member of an extremist political party that wants your state to secede from the Union, and whose motto is "Alaska first," and no one questions your patriotism or that of your family, while if you're black and your spouse merely fails to come to a 9/11 memorial so she can be home w with her kids on the first day of school, people immediately think she's being disrespectful.

White privilege is being able to make fun of community organizers and the work they do—like, among other things, fight for the right of women to vote, or for civil rights, or the 8-hour workday, or an end to child labor—and people think you're being pithy and tough, but if you merely question the experience of a small town mayor and 18-month governor with no foreign policy expertise beyond a class she took in college and the fact that she lives close to Russia—you're somehow being mean, or even sexist.

White privilege is being able to fire people who didn't support your political campaigns and not be accused of abusing your power or being a typical

politician who engages in favoritism, while being black and merely knowing some folks from the oldline political machines in Chicago means you must be corrupt.

White privilege is when you can take nearly twenty-four hours to get to a hospital after beginning to leak amniotic fluid, and still be viewed as a great mom whose commitment to her children is unquestionable, and whose “next door neighbor” qualities make her ready to be VP, while if you’re a black candidate for president and you let your children be interviewed for a few seconds on TV, you’re irresponsibly exploiting them.

White privilege is being able to give a 36 minute speech in which you talk about lipstick and make fun of your opponent, while laying out no substantive policy positions on any issue at all, and still manage to be considered a legitimate candidate, while a black person who gives an hour speech the week before, in which he lays out specific policy proposals on several issues, is still criticized for being too vague about what he would do if elected.

White privilege is being able to attend churches over the years whose pastors say that people who voted for John Kerry or merely criticize George W. Bush are going to hell, and that the U.S. is an explicitly Christian nation and the job of Christians is to bring Christian theological principles into government, and who bring in speakers who say the conflict in the Middle East is God’s punishment on Jews for rejecting Jesus, and everyone can still think you’re just a good church-going Christian, but if you’re black and friends with a black pastor who has noted (as have Colin Powell and the U.S. Department of Defense) that terrorist attacks are often the result of U.S. foreign policy and who talks about the history of racism and its effect on black people, you’re an extremist who probably hates America.

White privilege is not knowing what the Bush Doctrine is when asked by a reporter, and then people get angry at the reporter for asking you such a “trick question,” while being black and merely refusing to give one-word answers to the queries of

Bill O’Reilly means you’re dodging the question, or trying to seem overly intellectual and nuanced.

White privilege is being able to go to a prestigious prep school, then to Yale and then Harvard Business school, and yet, still be seen as just an average guy (George W. Bush) while being black, going to a prestigious prep school, then Occidental College, then Columbia, and then to Harvard Law, makes you “uppity,” and a snob who probably looks down on regular folks.

White privilege is being able to graduate near the bottom of your college class (McCain), or graduate with a C average from Yale (W.) and that’s OK, and you’re cut out to be president, but if you’re black and you graduate near the top of your class from Harvard Law, you can’t be trusted to make good decisions in office.

White privilege is being able to dump your first wife after she’s disfigured in a car crash so you can take up with a multi-millionaire beauty queen (who you go on to call the c-word in public) and still be thought of as a man of strong family values, while if you’re black and married for nearly twenty years to the same woman, your family is viewed as un-American and your gestures of affection for each other are called “terrorist fist bumps.”

White privilege is when you can develop a pain-killer addiction, having obtained your drug of choice illegally like Cindy McCain, go on to beat that addiction, and everyone praises you for being so strong, while being a black guy who smoked pot a few times in college and never became an addict means people will wonder if perhaps you still get high, and even ask whether or not you ever sold drugs.

White privilege is being able to sing a song about bombing Iran and still be viewed as a sober and rational statesman, with the maturity to be president, while being black and suggesting that the U.S. should speak with other nations, even when we have disagreements with them, makes you “danger-

(Continued on Page 4)

White Privilege

(Continued from Page 1)

ously naive and immature.”

White privilege is being able to claim your experience as a POW has anything at all to do with your fitness for president, while being black and experiencing racism and an absent father is apparently among the “lesser adversities” faced by other politicians, as Sarah Palin explained in her convention speech.

And finally, *white privilege is* the only thing that could possibly allow someone to become president when he has voted with George W. Bush 90 percent of the time, even as unemployment is skyrocketing, people are losing their homes, inflation is rising, and the U.S. is increasingly isolated from world opinion, just because a lot of white voters aren’t sure about that whole “change” thing. Ya know, it’s just too vague and ill-defined, unlike, say, four more years of the same, which is very concrete and certain.

White privilege is, in short, the problem.

Editor & Desktop Publisher: Tom Wirth. Contributor: Stanley Reed

Contributions to the December *Bulletin* are due Tuesday, November 25. Call Tom Wirth at (908) 289-3714 or send material to him at 241 Hillside Road, Elizabeth, NJ 07208. Email final copy to: tw@firepress.com

Friday Night Meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

ing is open to all members. Call for directions. The BOD will elect 2008-2009 officers.

Friday, November 21 @ 8:00 P.M. My Experiences with Racism This will be a Consciousness-Raising discussion of our own personal experiences with with racism Come share! Moderated by Gregory Terry.

Friday, November 28 at 8:00 P.M. Newsletter Mailing. An evening of folding, envelope stuffing, stamping and socializing.

MACT/NY Board of Directors Elected

At the annual MACT/NY membership meeting on October 17th, the 2008-2009 Board of Directors was elected.

The 2008-2009 board members are: **Ted Freed, Patrick Harding, Arthur McLean, Stanley Reed, Gregory Terry, and Tom Wirth.**

The reconstituted Board of Directors will meet on November 14th to elect MACT/NY’s officers for 2008-2009.

The BOD is empowered to designate additional board members. Anyone who has an interest in joining the Board should contact Stanley Reed at (718) 672-9366 or Tom Wirth at (908) 289-3714.