

FEATURED ARTICLE: CIVIL RIGHTS

how many Americans — ninja included — casually use the “N-word”, as if it didn’t represent a historical legacy of oppression. And recently there was a day to honor Jackie Robinson, but where is the day to honor the first ninja baseball player Tatsuya Sato, who played for the St. Louis Browns in 1952 and could run to first base without being seen?”

Kiyohara takes heart in a new generation of ninja activists who are carrying on the fight, usually in groups of fifteen to twenty. He also finds hope in the more positive portrayal ninja characters on recent television shows such as “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Desperate Housewives.”



Small bands of ninjas, like these, are rarely seen, except on shadowless days.

But most of all, he is inspired by the recent discovery that presidential hopeful Barak Obama has ninja ancestry. If Obama were to win, he would become the first ninja president in American history.

“He may not look or talk like a ninja, but you can see the ninja spirit in the way he carries himself,” Kiyohara points out. “If he gets nominated, Obama is definitely going to get the ninja vote in 2008. We’re not the biggest demographic, but after struggling so long with disenfranchisement, the ninja community knows how important it is to make every vote count.”



RACISM IN AMERICA

Clinton and Obama Court Black Vote with Reparations Packages

Little Rock, Arkansas - From the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas yesterday, Sen. Hillary Clinton, (D-New York), announced a bold new strategy to attract African-American voters: the nation’s first ever reparations package for the descendents of slaves.

“It is high time that we own up to the legacy of slavery,” said the Senator to a mostly-black crowd. “And the first step we must take in the long road to equality is to redistribute resources in a just and equitable manner.” She went on to describe a “comprehensive” reparations policy that would entitle African-Americans to a lifetime supply of Starbucks Café Estima Blend Fair Trade Certified coffee, a gift certificate to Sizzler, and 250 extra any-time minutes per month on the wireless plan of their choice.

Not to be outdone, Sen. Barak Obama, (D-Illinois), held his own press conference several hours later on the steps of the Washington Monument. Dismissing Clinton’s plan as “mere posturing”, the junior senator presented a competing reparations package that would allow each African-American to name their own star.

“There is no greater liberty than the chance to name a celestial body,” Obama said, to scattered applause, adding, “It really doesn’t get any better than that.”

Reaction to Obama’s proposal was mostly positive among the African-Americans in attendance.

“I mean, I really want freedom, effective enfranchisement, and a just end to decades of second class citizenship,” said Tina Woods, a librarian from Virginia, “but I guess having my own star would be just as good. I wonder if they’d do that and the Sizzler card?”



Obama and Clinton attempt to out-repair one another.

In a surprising turn of events, aides from the Clinton campaign reacted swiftly, releasing a detailed uber-reparations proposal that would allocate white indentured servants to every African-American family. The plan also suggested that the descendents of slave owners would each receive a lump of coal under their pillow for the next thirty years.

The Obama camp was not far behind in additionally proposing that black votes now be given an additional weighting factor of 5/3, to “make up for some fuzzy math back in the day.” Also, in the new system, African Americans would be exempt from using electronic voting machines, so “their votes might actually be recorded”, according to Obama.

“I think both candidates may be pushing the envelope,” said Nancy Pelosi, House Major Leader (D-California), adding quickly: “But regardless, a reparations arms race like this is actually quite a bold and creative idea. If an escalating set of well designed bribes that create the appearance of addressing racism is what it takes to finally get a Democrat in the White House, then I totally support them.”

