

Photo: AFP

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take care of business. (I must keep in mind that God loves white supremacists too.) And, this is in the end, the crux of the matter. Why I am doing what I never vowed to do in life: steeling myself for the worst and actually expecting it because in the end, Americans are racist.

I can see it now, November 4th, a blustery fall day, the excitement is palpable, and Joe (not plumber) tax paying, law abiding, "I have black friends" Joe, who has been telling everyone who cares to listen how he will vote for Barack Obama, gets in the booth, pulls the curtain and stares at the names on the console. He bites his lower lip and sighs. He fingers the lever (this is an old school machine but one the GOP can mess with) next to the word Obama and then it happens: 38 plus years of inculcation, of resenting the fact that P-Diddy, an uneducated hoodlum in his eyes, will inevitably always have more bling than he, a hard working stiff whose kid has ADD and needs special meds. He will suddenly remember being taunted in college by a gang (actually two guys) of black boys at a pick up basketball game and something deep within him, something ancient, passed down like the colour of his eyes will rise up and worry him. The idea that a man of colour simply should not be the leader of the "free" world (another myth by the way). He will, without thinking, pull the lever next to the words McCain/ Palin. And this is my fear, that enough Joes and Janes do this and we have ourselves an old man and his half- wit, creationist VP in the White House.

The campaign run by the McCain-Palin side has been one that relentlessly highlights race, and keeps pulling the more rational inclinations of the average voter into a vortex of fear, hate mongering, and ignobility, where it dissipates easily. And don't forget there are still enough days for the GOP to pull yet another "international incident" out of their grab bag of tricks to throw into mean relief Obama's so called inexperience as a crisis manager. Oops! I am over the word count. One last thing folks because as I have stated before, this affects you as much as anyone here in this country: pray. Please. ■