

Hillary must take a bow, exit right

Who would have thought that Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton — who was dubbed as the first “Black president” by many in the African-American community during his two-term presidency — would be the ones trying to stand in the way of the first African-American Democratic presidential nominee.

The Clintons, arguably, are as liberal as they come. Bill even has an office smack-dab in the middle of Harlem, an African-American neighborhood in New York City. And Hillary said she was inspired to be an advocate for civil rights after hearing a speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. when she was a teenager.

However, Hillary’s determination to win the Democratic nomination by “any means necessary” has called into question her liberalism, not to mention her integrity.

The Clintons remind me of the Draytons in the 1967 classic movie “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner.”

In the movie, Joey Drayton, who is white, brings home her fiancé, Dr. John Prentice (played by Sidney Poitier), to San Francisco to meet her affluent, liberal parents. The Draytons liberal persuasions are put to the test when they discover that their daughter’s fiancé is a black man. Despite the fact that he is handsome, well dressed, highly educated and an internationally respected doctor, the Draytons can’t get past the fact that he is black.

Like the Draytons, the Clintons’ liberalism is being tested.

So what if Barack Obama has won the most popular votes, the most states, the most pledge delegates and the most super delegates, Hillary insists that she is the better candidate and that he cannot win against the Republicans.

She argues that he does not have enough experience and that he is not tough enough. But there is a subtle racial undertone to her assertion — that Obama cannot win because he is black. She boldly insists that the



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super delegates should ignore the will of the people and vote for her. Excuse me, but the last time I checked the United States was a democracy.

Given the math, it is unlikely that Hillary will win the Democratic nomination — in spite of some very questionable maneuvering on the Clintons’ part.

Hillary continues to insist that Michigan and Florida delegates be seated even though she and all of the candidates at the time agreed to the Democratic National Committee’s decision to strip both states of their delegates, because they violated the party’s rules.

For Hillary to suggest that voters in Michigan and Florida are being disenfranchised because of Obama is not only disingenuous but hypocritical. Obama’s name was not even on the ballot in Michigan, and many voters in Florida probably did not participate because they knew their votes would not count.

I expected so much more from Hillary, who is undoubtedly a strong, astute, tenacious and resilient woman. But much to my chagrin, Hillary’s campaign has fluctuated between frivolous and personal attacks against Obama — reminiscent of the right-wing Republican machine that she said she abhors — to blatant pandering of voters.

Hillary has perfected the art of the “spin.” She can look you straight in your eyes with an endearing smile and infectious laughter and tell you something she knows makes no sense or is a complete fabrication — and you are sold. A case in point is her recent push for a gas tax holiday.

Even though several reputable economists said this was a bad idea and that it would not lead to a significant decrease in gas prices, Hillary insisted that she knew better.

Sounds familiar?

Another case in point is the Bosnia controversy. In an effort to bolster her foreign policy experience, Hillary completely fabricated a story about her 1996 trip to Bosnia when she was first lady. She said:

“I remember landing under sniper fire. There was supposed to be some kind of a greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles to get to our base.”

Hillary’s account of her trip to Bosnia was discredited by several people and by news footage which showed Hillary and her daughter casually walking off the plane to greet several local children who were waiting for her on the tarmac, where they had a brief ceremony.

When Hillary realized that she was caught on camera, she fibbed again about why she fabricated the story, before finally admitting that her recollection was wrong. In an attempt to explain his wife’s “misstatement,” Bill also told a fib.

Obama could have attacked Hillary on the Bosnia issue during their debate on ABC, but as usual, he took the high road. That did not stop Hillary, however, from pouncing on him, and cunningly trying to link Obama to Hamas and to Louis Farrakhan. She has insinuated that he is not only a plagiarist and an elitist, but anti-Semitic. All of these shameful accusations are baseless.

As we get closer to the end of this drama, I hope Hillary will swallow her pride, bow out gracefully and embrace Obama as head of the Democratic Family — just as the Draytons embraced Dr. Prentice into their family after the shock wore off.

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