

**IMMIGRANT LIVING:  
101 AND BEYOND**



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

(This article is the second of two parts. This was first published during the heat of the Democratic Primary race between Obama and Clinton in May of this year. The primary race is over and battle lines are drawn between two contenders: Obama and McCain. Decision time is in about 2 months. It is worth re-reading an updated version of this article once more, if only to make it clear for the undecided on how this crucial election should be viewed. If you are an American citizen who will be voting come November 4, think of yourself as an employer who wants to hire the most qualified man for the job.)

(Part 2)

**S**INCE I have the power of a single vote, as an American citizen who earned this right the hard way and considers it a privilege, I pretend to interview the candidates who will get this precious vote. I put forth certain tough questions and set the bars high. This is JOB ONE on Planet Earth after all, for the next four years and perhaps, even beyond.

I have 2 basic assumptions: that the love for this country must be transparent and without question and that the job as President of the United States, is no internship job. I zap the noise surrounding the process, so I can listen carefully to the answers

and cut through the smokescreen hiding the truth of each answer. I will attempt to put away my own blinders of ignorance and quash my built-in prejudices and put the welfare of the majority, above my own self-interests. What it means is that I would have to do my own research and fact-checking to verify the truth of all assertions from both sides. And because there is nothing really new in the world that hasn't happened in the past, I will look up patterns in history, that can give me clues on how to choose my candidate wisely. I have therefore taken to studying the biographies and discerning the thought patterns of the great ones. For instance, what would Lincoln do? How would he vote? Who would he choose to take over the helm during these trying times? I would pretend Jefferson and Franklin and FDR weighing in on the issues and picking the worthy candidate after due deliberation.

To discern the merit of your qualifications, I need the answers to the following run-of-the-mill questions asked of any job applicant: What are your qualifications? How many years have you spent on the job? Why would you want this painful, thankless job? What's your attendance, your voting record and results? What is your track record on domestic and foreign issues? What measurable results have you done for your constituency? Are the lives of your constituency better because of you at least in the past 5 years? What do you think are the greatest challenges we face today? How do you rank them? What are your solutions, both on the policy level and the specifics of how, what and how long it will take to put things aright? Illustrate the nitty-gritty of your solutions. Go ahead, bore me with statistics, facts, figures and projections. I promise not to roll my eyes. I am no policy wonk but I can see through the sincerity of your proposal in the way you discuss them with me in terms I can understand. Talk to me. What do you bring to the table? What is your vision for this country going

*"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."*

— Abraham Lincoln

forward and what do you hope to achieve as a leader of this country and of the world? How do you plan to unite the visible and invisible rifts and fractures that threaten the union? Will you be a president for all people or will you advance the interest of just a few groups?

see behind the eloquent words, listen to and glean the truth from the pretty speeches, read through the polished, edited lines in books, and unravel the spinmeister's tales, find the intangibles that look into the heart of the candidate because there is just no time to learn on the job.

*" Having asked the easy questions, here comes the tough part. I want to hear big, uplifting words because these are increasingly dark times when fear grips the heart. I want the power of inspiring words as beacon lights at the port we are sailing to mend our ship. I need you to do a Churchill. But over and above the words which your speechwriters and handlers can readily churn out from a template, I want to see if you can do a Teddy Roosevelt, carry a big stick and see things through because this is no job for a wimp. "*

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In the silence, I must be able to

I will have to look beyond appearances, ignoring the baggage and peeling off the barnacles of past lives. Your actions, past and present, speak volumes. I can discern your chief motivation for wanting this job. Or have you already parceled out power and divvied up projected largesse to your supporters endangering the integrity of the highest position in the land? Are you beholden to anyone? To what extent? Do you have the moxie, the true grit, courage, fortitude and the decisiveness to go toe-to-toe against bullies and crazies here and abroad? Can you carry that

big stick and whip this flailing governmental structure back into shape? Do you have vast emotional and spiritual reserves, just like Eleanor Roosevelt, that will serve you in good stead when America hits rough domestic and international political storms that will surely buffet our ship? How strong is your family life? Do I see in you an intrinsic humility mixed with resiliency of spirit? Do you display evidence of nearly intuitive sound judgment borne of tons of valuable experiences in countless skirmishes, battles and encounters in your life? I am not

Am I asking too much for just a single vote? I think not. You see, in contrast to a birthright, I earned the right to vote the toughest way imaginable – by immigrating to this country – and going through the lengthy, circuitous process of becoming a citizen. I am proud of this country and grateful to God for the love and comfort it has given me. Thus, I will never take the right to vote for granted or be flippant about it. No one should. We need clarity and the courage of our conviction to determine the outcome of this particular election. The stakes are much too high and every American, who truly loves this country, can exercise his power to reshape history through the ballot. Picture the power of an enlightened majority who will vote for the one worthy of the task. Imagine the preponderance of millions who hold centrist, moderate positions and voting into power THE ONE who can lead us out of the muck we're in. Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "The middle of the road is all of the usable surface. The extremes, right and left, are in the gutters."

Think it through and pray over it. The candidate who exhibits all of the above and is unflinching in putting at stake all that he has, all that he is to storm the gates of heaven and move the earth against all odds, to put America back on track to occupy its rightful place in the planet, in peace and prosperity, and fulfill God's purpose in this generation gets my vote for JOB ONE come November.

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Nota Bene: My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AJPI. I encourage you to read my book, "The Complete Success Guide for the Immigrant Life: How to Survive, How to Thrive, How to be Fully Alive." If you have very little time to read, browse through "The Immigrant's Little Quote Book for Success." Your local public library might have these books available or you can request your librarian to purchase copies. These are also available at amazon.com or immigrantssuccess.com. Past articles are on the internet at www.asianjournal.com. To ask questions, send feedback and requests, e-mail monetteamaglaya@sbcglobal.net or monette.maglaya@asianjournalinc.com

# KFC shoring up security for secret recipe

by BRUCE SCHREINER  
Associated Press

would be." So important is the 68-year-old concoction that coats the chain's Original Recipe chicken that only two company executives at any time have access to it. The company refuses to release their name or title, and it uses multiple suppliers who produce and blend the ingredients but know only a part of the entire contents.

Louisville-based KFC, part of the fast-food company Yum Brands Inc., hired off-duty police officers and private security guards to whisk the document away to an undisclosed location in an armored car. The recipe will be slid into a briefcase and handcuffed to security expert Bo Dietl for the ride.

"There's no way anybody could get this recipe," said Dietl, a former New York City police

detective. His security firm is also handling the security improvements for the recipe at headquarters, but he wouldn't say what changes they're making.

For more than 20 years, the recipe has been tucked away in a filing cabinet equipped with two combination locks in company headquarters. To reach the cabinet, the keepers of the recipe would first open a vault and unlock three locks on a door that stood



Vials of the herbs and spices are also stored in the secret filing cabinet.

"The smell is overwhelming

when you open it," said one of two keepers of the recipe in an interview at company headquarters.

The biggest prize, though, is a single sheet of notebook paper, yellowed by age, that lays out the entire formula — including exact amounts for each ingredient — written in pencil and signed by Sanders.

Others have tried to replicate the recipe, and occasionally someone claims to have found a copy of Sanders' creation. The executive said none have come close, adding the actual recipe would include some surprises.

Sanders developed the formula in 1940 at his tiny restaurant in southeastern Kentucky and used it to launch the KFC chain in the early 1950s.

Sanders died in 1980, but his

likeness is still central to KFC's marketing.

"The recipe to him, in later years, was everything he stood for," said Shirley Topmiller, his personal secretary for about 12 years.

Larry Miller, a restaurant analyst with RBC Capital Markets, said the recipe's value is "almost an immeasurable thing. It's part of that important brand image that helps differentiate the KFC product."

KFC had a total of 14,892 locations worldwide at the end of 2007. The chain has had strong sales overseas, especially in its fast-growing China market, but has struggled in the U.S. amid a more health-conscious public. KFC posted U.S. sales of \$5.3 billion at company-owned and franchised stores in 2007. ■

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