New from City Lights Publishers:

Between Barack and a Hard Place Racism and White Denial in the Age of Obama By Tim Wise **Publication date: February 2009 (Drop-In Title)**

Trade paperback original \$13.95 160pp ISBN: 9780872865006

Contact: Stacey Lewis Stacey@citylights.com ph: (415) 362-1901

To date, this is the *only* book that carefully details how both parties and candidates dealt with race during the presidential campaign, and what their actions reveal about the ongoing presence of racism in the U.S.

While there are many critical looks at Obama and his campaign written from a partisan right-wing perspective, this book, written by a white progressive male of Obama's generation, honestly assesses the risks an Obama presidency poses to race relations for the future.

Tim Wise is available for interview while touring extensively around the country (see tour details below).

Wise argues these essential points:

- 1) The campaign and election of Obama says very little about the degree to which racism and discrimination continue to limit the opportunities of most people of color.
- 2) The rise of Obama has actually been due in part to the triumph of "Racism 2.0" in which whites continue to hold negative views about the larger black community while carving out exceptions for persons like Obama who seem "different" or "transcend race" by downplaying its importance and appealing to white sensibilities.
- 3) The success of Obama could—unless we are careful—complicate the struggle against racism in two ways: first, by creating a new archetype of the "acceptable black man," thereby making it more difficult for non-Obama-like people of color to experience equality in the workforce, schools, justice system or politics; and secondly, by reinforcing the myth of meritocracy (the notion that anyone can make it in America if they try), which can actually further racism by causing whites to view the larger mass of black and brown folks as inferior or self-defeating for not having attained success at the level of people like the Obamas.

VIDEO of TIM WISE

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3Xe1kX7Wsc

ABOUT TIM WISE

Tim Wise is a prominent anti-racist writer and activist, and has been called, "One of the most brilliant, articulate and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation," by best-selling author and professor Michael Eric Dyson, of Georgetown University. Wise has spoken in 48 states, and on over 400 college campuses, including Harvard, Stanford, and the Law Schools at Yale and Columbia, and has spoken to community groups around the nation. Wise has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television programs worldwide, appearing on ABC's 20/20, MSNBC Live, Paula Zahn Now on CNN, The Tavis Smiley Show, and others.

Wise is the 2008 Oliver L. Brown Distinguished Visiting Scholar for Diversity Issues at Washburn University, in Topeka, Kansas: an honor named for the lead plaintiff in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision. He is the author of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* (40,000 copies sold), *Affirmative Action: Racial Preference in Black and White* and *Speaking Treason Fluently: Anti-Racist Reflections From an Angry White Male*.

http://www.timwise.org

Tour for Between Barack and a Hard Place by Tim Wise

February 3 - John Carroll University, University Heights, OH

February 5 - Williams College, Williamstown, MA

February 10 - Clark College, Worcester, MA

February 11 - Stonehill College, North Easton, MA

February 12 - Berklee School of Music, Boston, MA

February 13 - Independent Schools Association of the Central States, Chicago, IL

February 17 - Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS

February 18 - St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA

February 19 - Oakland, CA (fundraiser for Speak Out)

February 26 - Towson State University, Baltimore, MD

February 27-28 - Depaw University, Greencastle, IN

March 5-6 - Georgetown Day School, Washington DC

March 10 - Cleveland HS, Reseda, CA

March 11 - University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

March 13 - Indiana University Northwest, Gary, IN

March19 - St. Louis Community College, St. Louis, MO

March 20 - Ohio, State of the State Conference, Toledo, OH

March 23-24 - Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT

March 24 - Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

March 25 - Keene State College, Keene, NH

March 26 - Columbia University, NYC

March 28 - Baylor University, Waco, TX

March 31 - Univ Wisconsin, River Falls, WI

April 2-4 - White Privilege Conference, Memphis, TN

April 7 - University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

April 9 - Bowdoin College, Bowdoin ME

April 16 - YWCA of Greater Lafayette, IN

April 17 - William Rainey Harper College, Palatine, IL

April 21 - DePaul University, Chicago, IL

April 25 - University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

May 6 - University of California, Santa Cruz, CA