

HBCUs Could Use More Donald Sterlings

by JL Carter Sr

Donald Sterling doesn't care about black people. He was betrayed by a mix of affluence and arrogance that led him to trust a mistress with private thoughts on racial hierarchy and social taboos as constructed in the weird, warped mind of a racist for the ages. He was rich enough to justify his deep-seeded biases, and rich enough that an apology has yet to become necessary to keep his name or his way of life.

For years, Sterling was unscathed as an NBA owner for his side hustle racial antics. The Department of Justice cost him millions for his maltreatment of black and Latino tenants in his apartment buildings, but he was never under the scrutiny of fellow NBA owners and executive brass for his penchant for boxing Black folks out of opportunity and dignity.

If only historically Black colleges and universities could be so lucky to have rampant stupidity in their respective state legislatures and trustee boards. The actions of elected officials from Pennsylvania to Texas have been just as demonstrative against Black people as Sterling's historic and recent comments and business dealings. They are dumb enough to blatantly attack HBCUs through underfunding, program duplication and merger efforts, but they aren't arrogant or stupid enough to blame it on ethnicity in private company with jaded love interests.

Legislators in Florida were stupid enough to vote for splitting the FAMU-Florida State engineering program, but smart enough to pull it back for legislative study to the tune of \$500,000. Higher education officials in Maryland were arrogant enough to steal and duplicate programs from its four public HBCUs for generations, but were smart enough to attempt masking the efforts with black leadership, and an infusion of capital investments over the last 15 years.

We can only wish for governors like Louisiana's Bobby Jindal and Alabama's Robert Bentley to be as stupidly blatant as Donald Sterling. If they were, the devastating cuts to their public HBCUs and high-cost inquiries would be accompanied by some public utterance of ethnic bias or hatred, which would make it that much easier to expel them from office and to begin the building of deserving Black colleges.

What a glorious day it would be if HBCU trustees would suddenly brain lock and say something so outrageous, it would force alumni and students to pay closer attention to the politics and economics of HBCU governance. If only we could rely on our leaders to make imbeciles of themselves; it would be so much easier to identify bad practices in spending,

in poor selection of a president, or in bad oversight of day-to-day operations.

If HBCU executives would just go on the record with some solid hate speech, we might be motivated to solve pressing issues with recruitment and enrollment standards, student activities and development, academic alignment with changing civic and national industries, and community development through entrepreneurship and service. If our chancellors, vice-presidents, deans and chairpersons would only commit to being jackasses in the public space, we could find the motivation to pay attention, to give, and to care about the direction of our schools – because we would feel the urgency to save our schools from such poor leaders.

Donald Sterling has shown a lot of people that a little stupidity can go a long way in creating honest dialogue and solutions for problems affecting thousands of real people. It's not clear just how much humble pie he will be force fed as a result of his ban from the NBA, but he'll certainly learn that it doesn't pay to dislike black folks, especially black folks who are paying clients.

But it shouldn't take a truckload of incompetence for us to pay attention to the direction of our schools. Those in positions to harm HBCUs are smart and armed with substantial resources; sitting back and waiting for HBCU adversaries to pique our attention with stupidity isn't just lazy, it's Sterling-level stupid.

May is Historic Preservation Month

The Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission is partnering with Old Salem Museums & Gardens, the New Winston Museum and Preserve Historic Forsyth to observe Historic Preservation Month in May with lectures, panel discussions, demonstrations, the unveiling of a new local historic marker and more.

Events begin May 7 with an opening reception and ribbon cutting at 7:30 p.m. at West End Mill Works, a redevelopment of the historic Hoots Milling Co. roller mill at 918 Bridge St. Also during Historic Preservation Month, the Historic Resources Commission is hosting an open house at the George Black House and Brickyard at 111 Dellabrook Road, a local historic landmark, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18. On Saturday, May 31, the commission will unveil a new local historic marker at 3 p.m. at the New Bethel Baptist Church, 1016 N. Trade St.

During the month, four "lunch and learn" lectures will be presented at noon on Wednesdays in the James A. Gray Auditorium in the Old Salem Visitors Center, 900 Old Salem Road:

May 7, "The Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation," Ramona M. Bartos, deputystatehistoricpreservationofficer.

May 14, "The Impact of Preservation on North Carolina," J. Myrick Howard, president of Preservation North Carolina.

May 21, Property Values in Historic Districts: Greensboro Case Study," Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, UNCG Dept. of Interior Architecture.

May 28, "Historic Preservation Meets Buck Rogers: 3D Laser Scanning of the Single Brothers' House," David Norman, Laser Scanning Services.

All lunch & learn lectures are free. The public is welcome to bring a lunch. Also during Historic Preservation Month:

The New Winston Museum will host "Winston-Salem Writers presents City Memoirs Program," a panel discussion at 7 p.m. May 8 at the New Winston Museum, 713 S. Marshall St.

Preserve Historic Forsyth and Körner's Folly will present a Masonry and Wood Window Restoration Workshop with Hayes Wauford from Wilson-Covington Construction at 2 p.m. May 10 at 413 S. Main Street, Kernersville.

Salem College will host the final project presentations and reception for its historic preservation and public history students at 6 p.m. May 13 in the Single Sisters' House, 601 S. Church St.

Preserve Historic Forsyth and Historic Bethabara Park will present a fort reconstruction demonstration with Hayes Wauford from Wilson-Covington Construction at 2 p.m. May 17 at Historic Bethabara Park, 2147 Bethabara Road.

Wexford Science + Technology will host a rehabilitation tax credits panel discussion, moderated by Council Member Jeff Macintosh, at 5:30 p.m. May 20 at 525 Vine St. in Wake Forest Innovation Quarter.

The New Winston Museum will host "Restoration Drama," a panel discussion at 5:30 p.m. May 22 at the New Winston Museum, 713 S. Marshall St."

*It's okay to not know,
but it's not okay to
not try*

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