

Forum

The big 'M' ... macho or money?

In today's obsession with physical fitness, a big capital "M" stands for MACHO, the "he-man" image and big-muscle craze on which thousands of men have spent millions of dollars.

The capital "M" also stands for MONEY, the quest for which even more men have spent untold millions of hours and oceans of sweat.

These two M's together seem

One tall white player missed a rebound because he was out-jumped by a shorter black player. "That white boy just can't go two feet off the floor at the same time," a white spectator moaned disgustedly.

"Put him on the bench," the spectator shouted at the television set to the Boston coach hundreds of miles away. He was infuriated when a black out-performed a

fighters have not emerged since Rocky Marciano 35 years ago and Roberto Durand, whom Sugar Ray Leonard defeated twice in the 1980s. Most champions and near-champions have been blacks.

In football, the "most valuable player" awards have been dominated by running backs and wide receivers — the persons who usually score touchdowns — and most of them have been black. Moreover, black quarterbacks in college and professional teams were a "no-no" until Doug Williams, Warren Moon and Randall Cunningham proved wrong the myth that a white quarterback was needed to run the team on the field.

In track, black men and women dominated the short-distance, hurdling and broad jump areas. Then came Africans to dominate the long-distance races. Whites have scored well in the javelin and discus throws, but blacks have shown very little interest in these.

In tennis, Zina Garrison is ranked among the top five or six women. Black men and women are showing well in collegiate gymnastics where good coaching and equipment are available.

Question: What can macho-crazed, slow-running, low-jumping, money-hungry, jealous, mediocre, non-black, would-be athletes do?

Answer: They can join the police force in one of many cities and with several helpers present and cameras absent, they can prove their physical superiority by beating with clubs a handcuffed black man while they are officially protected by badges, uniforms and loaded revolvers.

THE BIG, REAL ISSUE: HOW EXTENSIVELY HAS THIS "WHITE RACE" AFFECTED THE TOTAL AMERICAN SOCIETY?

white.

Some years ago when Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home run record, many lamentations from white men were uttered. Aaron was attacked and despised because he had dethroned a white athlete hero and sacred cow. Some sportscasters speculated that maybe the baseballs of Aaron's time were more lively than those of Ruth's time.

Others argued that the pitching was not as good as it was in Ruth's day, so Aaron's record was not valid.

Some argued about the season's length and the temperatures of the cities in which the games were played.

In 1988 when black Doug Williams of the Redskins threw three touchdown passes in the second quarter against the Denver Broncos who were supposed to win, visible disappointment twisted the faces of seven white friends watching the game.

White Broncos quarterback John Elway was supposed to show the allegedly superior physical and mental prowess of his race.

In boxing, dominant white



MINORITY REPORT

By JAMES E. ALSBROOK, Ph.D.

to explain much of the white male's violence against black males today.

This violence is a form of "white rage" and was shown in the criminal beating of Rodney King by California police last year. Hitler experienced the same jealousy and "white rage" when provoked by the athletic success of Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics in Germany.

You might call it frustration caused first by a painful lack of proof of white male physical superiority, and second by the sight of supposedly inferior black men earning millions of dollars in the cash-for-performance competition of basketball, baseball, football, track and boxing.

Recently I walked through the Tri-County Mall near Cincinnati. Television sets were showing a Boston Celtics game with only Larry Bird and another white player on the floor among eight blacks.

The blacks on both teams scored repeatedly but received little applause from the overwhelmingly white male spectators. But when Larry Bird scored, the place went wild with applause.

I'm the same man, but Republican

Four columns appeared on the editorial page of *The Washington Afro-American* edition of Feb. 1.

Hamil Harris wrote an insightful analysis of the appearance of the major Democratic candidates' appearance before Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition in Washington. Harris said that it didn't matter to the delegates that Gov. Bill Clinton "had just let his state execute a mental-

The Democrats Can't Solve) analyzed Jesse Jackson's grip on the black vote and his subsequent power as a Democrat. But, out of genre, the *Afro-American* described me as follows: "Tony Brown is a Democrat turned Republican."

While the other descriptions of writers were appropriate to their role, the *Afro-American* inappropriately sent the subtle message that I was an agent of the

works in the black community if you think independent of the Democratic-herd mentality or reject membership in the Jesse Jackson Sycophant Club. Tony Brown has left the plantation, the *Afro* seemed to warn its readers.

Ironically, an interview with Rev. Al Sharpton on my TV series will show him saying: "Only black leaders lead until they drop dead, or get too cold and sick to be replaced."

"There is a white-liberal establishment and they lead the Democratic Party and black leaders can't offend them," Sharpton adds.

Instead of editorially warning readers about my ideas, the *Afro* might want to meet its agreement and run the identification that I provide at the end of each column, since I know who I am.

If the paper is unhappy with me identifying myself as the host of America's longest-running national *Black-Affairs* TV series, it can report that I am the first dean of the School of Communications at Howard University and started an annual conference to secure jobs for blacks in the communications industry.

Or it could say that I coordinated what's believed to be the largest civil rights march in history in Detroit in 1963. Or, perhaps, it might say that I started Black College Day in 1980 to keep the enemies of black higher education at bay.

I can offer a host of alternatives to being called a Republican, which has no more bearing on my analytical thinking than being called a New Yorker or a Washingtonian.

There's an old African proverb that best sums up this situation: "It's not what you call me, it's what I answer to."



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

ly incompetent black man with an IQ of 70 the night before." He said: "All that mattered was winning and jumping on the band wagon." Some real real committed black people, I thought.

Harris, identified at the end of his column as a reporter for the *Afro-American*, also believes that the "Republicans have already reached into their bag of dirty tricks" and are behind the alleged Gennifer Flower/Gov. Clinton sexcapade.

Another writer, identified as a General Motors employee, urged all readers to write members of Congress about the increase in corporate average fuel-economy standards.

Shed Ivey made a lot of sense when he wrote that if blacks could build a "Black corporate America in 1882 — with all the odds and with much less money" — we should be able to do so in 1992. Ivey was identified as a "frequent contributor to commentary pages."

My column ("The Problem

Republican Party or the bearer of the Republican party line, and, of course, should be watched.

Factually, I am an "independent" turned Republican as of last July 8, and I have expressed to same political sentiments found in that column over the past three decades as a non-Republican — and a journalist.

Moreover, I have recently criticized the Republican president for the Department of Education's position (so-called "color-blind") that endangers public black colleges.

There is reason to suspect that it did some good in getting President George Bush to force his Justice Department to reverse itself and side with the Mississippi Black colleges in the landmark *Ayers v. Mabus* case.

As a matter of fact, if the intent of branding me as a Republican were not pejorative, the *Afro* could have called me a "Republican who criticized a Republican President."

Of course, we all know how it

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

BOYS! GIRLS! TIRED OF LOSING SINGING ENGAGEMENTS BECAUSE OF RUMORS LINKING YOU TO A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE? SICK OF ALL THE LIES AND DECEIT?

WELL, NOW YOU CAN COME FORWARD — WITHOUT HAVING TO TALK TO SOME SWEATY, OVERWEIGHT TABLOID REPORTER! YES, THIS SYNDCATED FAMILY FEATURE IS INTERESTED IN YOUR STORY!

NOW, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING — "HAVEN'T WE HAD ENOUGH SLEAZE FOR ONE CAMPAIGN?" WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...

HOW DOES \$25 SOUND?

TOMORROW: AN EXCITING CASH OFFER!

THAT'S RIGHT, KIDS, YOU HEARD CORRECTLY! IF YOU'VE SLEPT WITH ANY CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, THIS FEATURE WILL PAY YOU \$25 TO TELL YOUR STORY!

OH SURE, YOU COULD ALWAYS SELL IT TO THE TABS FOR MORE, BUT WOULDN'T YOU RATHER SEE A DIGNIFIED RE-ENACTMENT OF YOUR STORY BY NATIONALLY KNOWN CARTOON PERSONALITIES? CHECK OUT THIS PILOT PANEL!

"OH, OH, OH, OH..."

"WELL, GOTTA RUN."

YES, THAT COULD BE YOUR STORY! ACT NOW!

TOMORROW! Complete entry forms!

THAT'S RIGHT, CAMPERS, IF YOU'VE EVER SLEPT WITH A PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL OR KNOW SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS — WE WANT TO GIVE YOU \$25 IN COLD, HARD CASH!

TO FIND OUT IF YOUR STORY IS PRURIENT ENOUGH TO QUALIFY, JUST FILL OUT THE ATTACHED "TRASH-FOR-CASH" ENTRY FORM AND SEND IT TO ME, CARE OF THIS PAPER! GOOD LUCK!

CAMPAIGN '92 — TRASH FOR CASH

1. I have trash on: (check one)

- Bill Clinton
- Paul Tsongas
- Jerry Brown
- Tom Harkin
- Bob Kerrey
- George Bush

2. My story involves:

- me
- my best friend
- my evil twin
- my publicist
- a Republican operative
- Geraldo

3. I would describe my relationship with the candidate as:

- torrid, steamy
- a defining moment
- the right thing to do
- videotaped
- in litigation

4. The candidate used to call me:

- "Babe"
- "Mommy"
- "Commissioner"
- from convenience store pay phones

TO BE CONTINUED

OKAY BOYS AND GIRLS, HERE'S PART TWO OF OUR CAMPAIGN '92 "TRASH-FOR-CASH" ENTRY BLANK! FILL IT IN AND SEND IT TO ME, CARE OF THIS PAPER! IF WE USE YOUR STORY, WE'LL SEND YOU 25 BIG ONES!

CAMPAIGN '92 — TRASH FOR CASH

5. My relationship with the candidate lasted:

- 12 years
- 60 days
- 60 seconds
- Not sure

6. The last thing that the candidate said to me was:

- "This will not stand."
- "Need a job?"
- "Cuomo's acting like an Italian-American stereotype."
- "Message: I care."
- "What's that whirring sound?"

7. I believe my story will:

- restore my good name
- help me find a husband
- make my parents proud
- get me a record deal
- benefit mankind

8. My name is:

- Gennifer with a "G"
- Jennifer with a "J"
- Kandy with a "K"
- Carrie with two "i"s
- Karree with a "K," one "r," and two "e"s
- Other

CLIP 'N' SEND TODAY! ACT NOW, AND YOU'LL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE SCREEN TEST!

OKAY, NOW FOR THE TOUGH PART, GANG — THE ESSAY QUESTIONS! PLEASE READ SILENTLY WHILE I READ ALOUD.

CAMPAIGN '92 — TRASH FOR CASH

9. You're dating a married father of three with presidential ambitions. You believe that you and he have a future together. Explain.

10. Name three movies besides "Pretty Woman" that have helped shape your personal philosophy.

YOU MAY NOW BEGIN! REMINDER TO ALL YOU GENNIFERS: SPELLING COUNTS!

SOME OF YOU MAY BE WONDERING WHY WE'VE INCLUDED THE BUSH-MEISTER IN OUR "TRASH-FOR-CASH" OFFER...

WHY? SIMPLE FAIRNESS! WHY SHOULD THE PUTATIVE G.O.P. NOMINEE NOT BE HELD TO THE SAME STANDARDS OF PERSONAL CONDUCT THAT HIS COMPETITION IS?

TRUE, TRASHING THE REPUTATION OF A SITTING PRESIDENT FOR \$25 DOES SEEM A BIT BEYOND THE PALE. BUT TO THOSE WHO WOULD DEMUR, LET ME ASK THIS...

HOW'S ANOTHER \$25 SOUND? HUH? HUH?

HELLO? I'M SICK OF THE LIES...

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1992