

Majority Of Viewers Say "No"

Can A Black Political Party Work?

Fifty-five percent of respondents in a recent television straw poll do not believe that a national Black political party will work.

On a special edition of the national television series "Tony Brown's Journal," "Can A Black Political Party Work?", Host and Executive Producer Tony Brown goes into the homes of the QUBE subscribers of the Warner Amex Cable system in Columbus, Ohio, to probe the above question.

A series of events has raised new questions about the future of the nation's Blacks in the political process. The Democratic Party suffered a nationwide landslide defeat in the 1980 elections and Blacks were the only group to hold to party loyalty associating themselves politically as losers.

Although a minority of Blacks is Republican, their side won. However, Blacks generally associate the GOP with "trickle down" politics and do not see it as a viable alternative to the Democrats. Again, the idea of an independent Black party is being offered to this apparent dilemma.

Political scientist Ron Daniels, chairperson of the founding convention of the National Black Independent Political Party, joined Tony Brown in Columbus to discuss the philosophy and strategy of a Black political party. He said that the formation of the party is a response to the declining progress of Blacks in America and a faltering faith in Black leadership and existing Black organizations.

"I think that we need a Black political party. In fact, we must have a Black political party. The important thing to know about the kind of party that's being formulated is that it is not a traditional party. It is not a party like the Democrats or Republicans. It is a party that will focus in on institutional development, community

Tony Brown's Journal

Nationally Syndicated Commercial Television Series



TONY BROWN

organizing as well as electoral politics. We need an organization that can deal at the grassroots in terms of community organizing and building institutions, new power bases at the local levels in the Black community. That is not being done and I think this party will address itself to that question," explains Daniels.

Joining Mr. Daniels in the discussion via satellite transmission from New York were James Hicks, executive Editor of The New York Voice, and Amos Carnegie, President of Somebody Cares Voting Bloc, based in New York City. Mr. Hicks did not agree with Mr. Daniels: "I don't think that we

Gray's New Album

International recording star Dobie Gray has pacted with Atlanta-based Robox Records for a seasonal concept album titled "Welcome Home." The album, recorded at Nashville's Quadraphonic Studio, was produced by Gray, Bud Reneau, and Wray Chafin. Robox will debut the first single in September prior to the album release later in the fall.

need a Black political party. I think that we need to get together ourselves and work within the existing parties, throw our weight around and make ourselves felt."

At the beginning of the program, the QUBE audience was asked, "Can a Black political party work?" Forty-eight percent of those responding said no, 16 percent believed that a Black political party would work and 36 percent were not sure. After hearing the arguments on the issue, the QUBE viewers were again asked if they thought that a Black political party would work. An even larger majority -- 55 percent -- said no to the question. The yes responses, however, rose to 27 percent while the not sures dropped to 18 percent.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the longest running national Black television series, is sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company. It can be seen in the Charlotte area on Sundays on Channel 3 at 33:30 p.m.



Brooke Shields stars as Alice and Miss Piggy plays The Queen of Hearts in the Muppet presentation of "Alice in Wonderland," on "The Muppet Show," Saturday, August 29, at 1 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

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