

# Editorials & Comments

## Keep Basketball In Perspective

Last week we referred to the NCAA and NIT basketball tournaments as "basketball mania" because of the paralysis these events appear to have imposed on much of the nation and the thinking of normally rational people who are often seeking an outlet from the day-to-day problems and frustrations of life.

We noted too that there are many human stories that comprise the web of competitive collegiate sports that too often is rooted in a foundation or philosophy of "winning is the only thing," even if it means character and integrity be damned. For example, one human story is about the group of 25 ministers in Chapel Hill, home of the No. 1, nationally ranked UNC Tarheels, who expressed to CBS television and the NCAA big brass their opposition to starting the Eastern Regional final game at 12 noon. They said the early tip-off time "needlessly compromises the traditional sanctity of Sunday morning in this region as a time for family and the church." As might be expected, the ministers' plea was ignored and thousands, if not millions of people, skipped their traditional, even if weak, communication session with Almighty God. Money, the sports event itself, and the human madness called basketball tournament play became the Godfather.

In other human story, Charlotte News sports editor Ron Green tells us of the first known divorce resulting from watching sports events on television. A woman reportedly divorced her husband because he spent so much time watching basketball and other sport events on television that his family life was seriously damaged. Mr. Green adds another human story about his roommate and others who used his hotel room at the NCAA East Regional Finals in Raleigh as the center of social activity that consisted solely of watching basketball on television. One of Green's social guests, a "basketball junkie" he called a "Super Freak" said he'd seen "17 basketball games live or on TV last weekend."

## Agony Of Defeat

In the midst of seeing the 48-team NCAA basketball tournament field reduced to the "final 4," we have seen grown men cry over the "agony of defeat" on national television; we have seen coaches soil \$300 three-piece suits as they hug the sweaty bodies of their winning team super stars; and we have seen primarily white, female cheerleaders abandon, at least temporarily, their usual restraint to hug and kiss their team's usually black super stars at the end of an emotional down-to-the-wire tournament victory. We

have witnessed also the frustration of coaches criticized by the media for not winning the "big one" and some we see as suffering the hurt of being fired because winning 15, 18 or 20 games in a 28-game season was not enough for school administrators, students, alumni and friends who demand a win "it all or nothing."

Now, as we journey into the weekend of the NCAA basketball finals, let us hope that God does not decide to send Jesus back to earth at the time to regain lost souls. If He does, most of us won't make it to Heaven because viewing TV basketball would cause us to miss the greatest coming event in human history.

We'd better hope too that the Russians don't use this basketball mad weekend to attack us and start World War III. If they do, we'll lose the war for sure because our mesmerized mental state would not allow us to respond to the urgency of armed attack.

## Proper Perspective

If all of this sounds slightly insane or out of proper perspective, it is; and is intended to be. After all it's been the basketball skills of a "sleepy" eyed kid named Eric Floyd and another named James Worthy who have made the little town of Gastonia, N.C. nationally known. Furthermore, it's winning basketball and football teams, not academic excellence, that usually influences student enrollment. And it's winning, attached to television appearances that earns money for universities and provides athletic scholarships for some kids who otherwise would not be able to afford the cost of a college education and maybe not even desire it considering the number of unemployed college graduates.

In all of this, there are nevertheless some comforting signs that maybe we have not fully lost our sense of perspective.

Finally, there is Curtis Hunter, the first team high school All-American from Durham, who has the maturity to have kept the hundreds of basketball scholarship offers in perspective and advised most schools with a polite but firm "thanks," but no thanks," while he ponders a choice between Duke and UNC Chapel Hill.

In summary, it is past time competitive collegiate sports to regain its sanity. By this we mean that the order of priority in sport events, particularly school sports, should be character building, physical and mental development, and a competitive winning spirit. If winning occurs in accord with these properly ordered priorities then true victory will have been achieved.

## CRIME IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY SHOULD BE EVERYBODY'S CONCERN.



**BLACK BUSINESS IS SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF CRIME ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE. IT IS STRUGGLING TO MEET THE HIGH COST OF DEATH INSURANCE, VANDALISM, SHOP LIFTING AND ROBBERY. THE PROBLEM CENTERS AROUND NARCOTICS DRUG RELATED CRIMES.**



Tony Brown's Comments

## Historian Talks Common Sense

Dr. Chancellor Williams, author of "The Destruction of Black Civilization," is being discovered near his almost 84th birthday.

It was my pleasure to introduce him via national television to an appreciative, if you believe the mail, and ecstatic audience. The volume of letters was extremely heavy in spite of cancellations on about 50 percent of the public television stations because of pledge week activities and one station that cut it off after 40 seconds "due to technical difficulties."

What did he say? This brilliant historian, basically, talks common sense—a rare find these days. You must respect yourself before others can. Your heritage is the only civil right you need, he proclaims. Africa is our origin, not slavery in America.

I want to share with the readers of this column what so many people around the country had to say about his philosophy of self-help based on self-love.

Mrs. Velma Brooks of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, wrote: "Please thank Dr. Williams for his determination to search for the truth solely on feelings that his people had made great contributions to mankind. Because I, too, have that feeling, and now with Dr. Williams supplying his knowledge, I now know it, too, to be a fact!"

Other comments: "Indeed you touched upon the very ideas I've been preaching for quite a while. I thoroughly enjoyed your program." —Ms. Diane Plummer of Athens, Ga. "Let me take this opportunity to say 'thank you' for producing a show like yours and for giving us all a better perspective of ourselves." —John Morgan of Atlanta, Ga.

Ms. Shirley Hawkins of Los Angeles, California, was deeply moved by Dr. Williams. "I never got a chance to see your show until March 9, when I viewed the segment on the destruction of Black civilization with Dr. Williams. It was very interesting and informative. It had the effect on me of a thirsty person receiving a much needed drink of water. Now that I have seen your show, I try never to miss it. How you could interview Dr. Williams as he talked about Black civilization and especially how some Blacks see themselves and each other in the present day without letting tears fall from your face is a mystery to me. I almost cried because I know the man was telling the truth.

And, yes, there needs to be a mass education of self-awareness for Black people, because I see Blacks exhibiting negative behavior towards themselves and each other nearly everyday." Mr. Lisle H. Davis of Westbury, N.Y., wrote: "I'm enclosing \$2 for a transcript of Dr. Chancellor Williams' interview with you. I fully agree with both of you that we as a Black race need to go back to learn about all the contributions we have made to civilization." Some viewers were impressed with Dr. Williams' notable information. "I will take this chance to thank you for telecasting such useful truth and relevant information." —John Morgan of Atlanta, Ga. "My

family and I watched your program... Our young ones are searching for words of truth and wisdom like you shared today." —Yvonne Young, Far Rockaway, N.Y. Mt. Peter Bailey of New York wrote the following: "Saw your program last night on which you interviewed Dr. Chancellor Williams. It was righteous, informative, educational and productive. In other words, brilliant! One of the best I've seen on television."

Mr. Verne A. Hodge, of Las Vegas, Nevada, felt proud after watching Dr. Williams on television. "Dr. Williams' words have the power to emancipate us from an externally imposed self-accusation that we are the cause of our distress. When we know our true history, then we can achieve our true destiny; to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all men."

Ms. Georgia Gowan of New York, wanted to purchase a copy of Dr. Williams' book: "I hope that I will have no difficulty purchasing 'The Destruction of Black Civilization,' for that surely is my intention this week." (Note: It is available at Pyramid Bookstore, 2849 Georgia Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20001.)

Dr. Williams is our hero and the mail from truth-hungry viewers proves it.

"Tony Brown's Journal", the television series, can be seen on public television Saturday, on Channel 42, at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Please check local listings.

## From Capitol Hill

# Pope Paul Responsive To World Oppression Of Blacks

By Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post

Both here in the United States and around the world President Reagan has taken an anti-Black stance. The Administration's efforts to abrogate very civil rights gains made by Blacks in this nation, his Haitian, African and recent deceptive Caribbean policy are nothing short of racism.

The one hopeful sign that is looming on the present horizon is the stand that is being taken by the Congressional Black Caucus, other Black organizations, and Black leaders with a determination to become a viable force on the American scene for correcting the Reagan policy against the rights and humanitarian treatment of Blacks both on the home and international fronts. These leaders having had all of their requests for fair, just equal and human treatment of Haitians, and Africans unnoticed have gone international with their views.

The United States government has constantly resisted with all its power



Alfreda L. Madison fair and equitable treatment of Haitian refugees. The sanitation, lack of any recreational facilities and housing conditions, in general, are highly inhumane. Haitian camps are a direct contrast to the Southeast Asian and Cuban refugee camps, where proper sanitation, recreational facilities and good housing are provided.

While alien Cubans and Mexicans are allowed United States' residence and granted work permits, these are denied the Haitians. Southeast Asian refugees are provided a quick settlement in this country. Interviews with the Haitians take less than 20 minutes. They are asked if

they came here for work and are told that they are here, illegally, and if they refuse to sign papers stating that they will return to Haiti, voluntarily, they will be jailed. Haitians are not informed of their right to seek political asylum. Asian refugee interviews are wide ranged and, usually, last hours ascertaining the political repression for their flight. While all refugee Asian hearings are about ten a day, Haitian hearings are 150 a day. This does not allow the few Haitian lawyers any time to prepare their case. The only refugee interdicted on the high seas are Haitians.

The Congressional Black Caucus, other congressmen, Civil Rights Commission and leaders, have all requested both the Carter and Reagan Administrations for fair and equal treatment of Haitian refugees, but all have been of no avail. Because of the Administration's utter deaf ear to the Haitian situation and its refugee policy which is only accorded people whose skins are Black, after a visit to the Haitian refugee camp by Rev.

Jesse Jackson and other Black leaders, they decided that the time had come for moral authoritative assertion. Haitians are largely of the Catholic religion, so the decision was made to seek an appointment with Pope John Paul II to give him a full picture of the inhumane treatment Haitian refugees receive from our government.

In January Dr. Jackson, Congressman Fauntroy, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and Dr. Mary Berry of the Civil Rights Commission met with Archbishop Pío Laghi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, where they described the United States' mistreatment of the Haitians. Archbishop Pío Laghi, had submitted a paper to the Vatican which emphasized strongly the inhumanitarianism the Haitian refugees receive in the United States. Through Archbishop Laghi, Pope John Paul II, immediately, granted the request for a meeting with Rev. Jackson, Dr. Mary Berry, Congressman William Gray, Camille Cosby, wife of comedian Bill Cosby and

By Rev. John Perkins

# Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

## God's Command Is Economic Justice

The resources in our world are distributed in a tremendously unjust way. The result is brain damage, stunted bodies, and starvation for a billion of the people of our world.

It isn't that there aren't enough resources to go around. The problem is one of distribution. The average annual income for each person in the United States in 1975 was \$5590. In Brazil it was \$530. In Bangladesh it was \$70. Well, you say, the cost of living must be lower in their countries. A person couldn't live on \$44 a month, much less \$6! But often, the prices are higher. The people can't live.

Meanwhile, the livestock in the world's rich countries eat as much grain as all the people of India and China combined. Our world's unequal distribution means a quarter of the children in the developing world die before they're five years old.

Even within our country there is gross inequity. Thirty-three million Americans live below poverty level—15 out of every hundred people. At the same time, millions of others live at a level of affluence never before seen in history. Again, it's a problem of distribution.

Those who have been denied access to the world's resources are aware that their suffering is the result of the greed and luxury of others.

Gradually the affluent are beginning to pay a cost as well. Crime is becoming a backlash of the increasingly angry poor.

Although the poor lack resources, they do not lack destructive sort of power. The Third World's revolutions are fueled by the desperation of millions of poor with nothing left to lose. In the coming years the global scene will be increasingly marked by battles not for simple political power, but for its real ingredients: energy, food, land.

What is God's perspective on this situation? Psalm 140:12 says, "I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy."

God's justice for the poor is also justice against the rich. "Woe to those," Isaiah cried, "who deprive the poor of their rights and rob my oppressed people of justice... What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar?" (Isaiah 10:1-3).

For god, justice is equality. When John the Baptist commanded the Jews to repent, the people asked, "What should we do then?" John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (Luke 3:10-11).

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "...as a matter of equality your abundance should supply their want..." (2 Corinthians 8:14).

Economic justice is a command of God. We look around us today and see the global economy straining, the gaps between rich and poor widening, and the resultant tensions of crime, hostility, revolution, and war.

Let us remember that in the Bible, prosperity, peace and the protection of God came in response to the people practicing economic justice. This is the rule that God set forth after giving His prescriptions for justice and equality.

Mrs. Jacqueline Jackson.

The group reported that the Pope questioned them about Black conditions in America. The Pope was asked to undergird the efforts made by Archbishop McCarthy of Miami and Father Gerard Jean-Juste a Black Haitian priest in their struggle for just and humane treatment of the Haitians. They explained to the Pope the contrast in America's handling of Haitians and other refugees. His attention was also called to the similarities between the repression of solidarity and martial law in Poland and the repressive conditions facing Blacks in South Africa, many of whom are Catholics. He was given documentation of these matters.

Archbishop McCarthy appeals to both Presidents Carter and Reagan to turn the Haitian refugees over to the Catholic Church that they would provide homes and secure jobs for them. Both Presidents have ignored their request. By turning the Haitians over to the Catholics, instead of placing them in jails and unlivable camps, the go-

vernment would save \$600,000 a month.

Rev. Jackson said that when whites and Asian refugees come to this country, they are greeted by the Statue of Liberty, while Haitians are greeted by the Statue of limitations.

The group came away with a feeling of encouragement, because the Pope responded positively to their request. It is hoped that his concern will cause the American government to abide by the United Nations' Protocol and Convention on the Treatment of Refugees, to which the United States is a signatory. These Americans also hope that the Pope will have some influence on the Administration's African policy, since he has visited Africa. The church has the obligation to resist oppression anywhere in the world.

One of life's saddest facts is that a square meal makes people round.



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