



**Tony Brown's  
COMMENTS**

**The Problem Of Racism**

Ninety-five percent of Afro-Americans killed each year are murdered by another Afro-American. Older Afro-Americans are held hostage in homes by young blacks, street smart and immune to prosecution.

There is not one black community in America that is not living in terror of its indigenous criminal element. Opinion poll after opinion poll shows that Afro-Americans see crime—in their neighborhoods—as a major problem.

To my statement of these facts and the assertion that Afro-Americans talk too much about what white people do to them or don't do for them and not nearly enough about what they are going to do about what white people do to them or don't do for them, I was called the problem by an irate reader.

Michael A. Matambanadzo of Slippery Rock, Pa., wrote to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and called my column "an orgy in (racial) self recrimination." I am simply an opportunist, he said, "swept along by the emotional tide" who lacks the guts to "swim against it."

"Blaming the victims in America for their miscues is nothing new," he argued. After all, how could a black who is 'comprised by his bourgeois aspirations' who 'used to be a black militant when it was fashionable' possibly be anything but a 'professional apologist for racists?'"

In Mr. Matambanadzo's logic, I am bourgeois because I have accomplished what I set out to do. But what he obviously doesn't understand is that I am successful because of what I believe in. And I do not now or ever have believed that white people were going to do anything for black people.

To this man, I would be a fit object of pity (and perhaps adulation) if I were conspicuously not successful and, therefore, a victim. My "victim" status would then entitle me to victimize other black people (the "victimization syndrome") and depend on the Matambanadz

of the world to justify my "miscues."

And by attacking those who attack crime in the alleged defense of the black community, he holds himself up as a black leader of a victimized black community who is guarding against the tides of racism and other blacks who sell out to law and order.

Other than his demagogic reasoning, Mr. Matambanadzo suffers an inability to even attack the problem. His remarks conspicuously omit any action on his part about the solution. In fact, he never recognized the problem and by attacking me, he continued to wallow in the predicament.

Crime in black neighborhoods is a predicament. It has already happened—and it is literally killing us. We don't solve it by creating a "victimization syndrome" to legitimize murder and mayhem.

We begin to solve it by distinguishing between the predicament and the problem.

Racism and crime are facts in America. And they are predicaments because blacks cannot change these facts. The problem is what are blacks going to do about them?

Obviously, there will never be a solution to the problem (What are blacks going to do?) as long as the focus is the predicament (What whites are doing or will not do).

Mr. Matambanadzo's personal attack on me did not prevent the incident you read today about a black hoodlum assaulting a black citizen. Neither did he halt my success by calling me names.

This graphically demonstrates the dilemma of many Afro-American and the resultant inability to deal effectively with racism. They don't know the difference between a predicament and a problem.

"Tony Brown's Journal" TV series can be seen on public television Sunday on Channel 42 at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58 on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

**Documentary To Focus On  
Lives Of Charlotte Women**

"Finding A Common History: Women of Charlotte," an hour-long documentary focusing on the lives of Charlotte women through the past 30 years, airs Wednesday, March 27, at 8 p.m. on WTVI and premieres to the press and a selected audience Tuesday, March 26.

The premier screening, to be held at NCNB's 40th floor penthouse at 6 p.m., features a reception and program that will include the presentation of copies of the documentary to representatives of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, UNCC's Urban Institute-Leadership Charlotte Program, Johnson C. Smith University, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library. These facilities will make the documentary available throughout the community to interested groups, individuals, and civic organizations.

Over a year in preparation, the project grew out of a desire of Women's Commission members attending various sessions of Leadership Charlotte (a program to recognize and give training to emerging civic leaders) to see the role of women in the growth and development of Charlotte-Mecklenburg addressed and emphasized within the Leadership Charlotte Program. The Commission submitted a proposal to WTVI, the local public broadcasting

station, suggesting a joint venture to produce a videotape on the Charlotte women previously researched by a Leadership Charlotte task force. The idea was accepted by WTVI and presented to the N.C. Humanities Commission which approved a grant for the project. Matching funds were provided by NCNB Corporation and Harris-Teeter Super Markets, Inc. The project has been under the guidance of Kathryn Frye of Frye Productions, Project Co-Director; and Elliott Sanderson, Director of Broadcasting, WTVI. Karen Mosteller of Mosteller Productions Services is the direc-

tor and Kim Cooke is the videographer.

In preparing the program, nearly 100 women of diverse social, economic, and cultural backgrounds participated in discussion groups and oral history interviews. Dr. Elizabeth

K. Minnich, nationally known women's studies scholar, helped place these histories in the con-

text of the national women's movement. Historians George Warren, Jannette Greenwood, and Tom Hanchett studied

traditional source material and provided local background perspective.


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