

## Tony Brown's COMMENTS

# Blacks Are Smarter Than Most Whites Think

"Farrakhan's Following" appeared on the editorial page of the New York Times. It was a commentary written by Don Wycliff and consisted of two, logical parts.

The first was an excellent analysis of why 10,000 African-Americans in Washington and 15,000 in Los Angeles and thousands in other cities are flocking to hear and see Minister Louis Farrakhan, including a full house at Madison Square Garden in New York.

This "Farrakhan following" is responding because of his appeal to black pride, wrote Wycliff. They are assured that they are "strong, intelligent, and capable, not doomed to permanent victimization but destined for success and power. Black freedom and self-sufficiency... depend not on the charity of others but on the action of blacks themselves," he added.

Wycliff explained that this is a "striking message to people accustomed to hearing about their shortcomings and deprivations." The established black leaders, he wrote, "have grown accustomed in recent years to emphasizing black poverty, weakness, dependence." By focusing almost exclusively on what is wrong, these leaders are "reinforcing the stereotypes that they (blacks) are helpless wards of the states."

This, he added, can be depressing as well as untrue for the "millions of blacks who are gainfully employed, pay their taxes, and struggle without special assistance to educate their children and put bread on the table."

That's the end of the first part, as I delineate it, of his editorial. At this point, if you're black, you're probably saying, "Amen. I wish I had said that." Because, I'm sure, you probably have done so many times.

Of course, I have selectively edited out Wycliff's statements that Farrakhan is spreading "a hateful and blatantly anti-Semitic message" and is a \$5 million cohort of Col. Muammar elQaddafi.

Farrakhan's message is also in two parts, and blacks have learned to separate the two: his strident religious and political debate with Jews and Judaism and his cogent, insightful economic self-help program. Most blacks share only his economic philosophy and approach.

Personally, I do not agree with Farrakhan's views on Jews and Judaism, his admiration for the Libyan dictator or his religious beliefs. Moreover, I feel that he is limiting the potential of his POWER program with his attacks on Jews.

Furthermore, his debate with Jews over who is chosen has no attraction for me. Frankly, I would rather be employed and "unchosen" than unemployed and "chosen," whatever that means.

But I have never heard him utter one word about economic self-help with which I did not agree.

Wycliff's commentary in the Times also has a blind, perhaps, prejudiced component. While congratulating blacks for responding to the healthy message of pride and self-help, he implies that they are stupid for believing it.

"Few blacks are so naive as to believe Mr. Farrakhan's pipe dream of economic independence. Most know that an 'independent' black economy is neither possible nor desirable," he declares, and fails to present one shred of evidence to support his assertions.

"Yet many (blacks) want to applaud the morale-boosting generalization that a self-willed salvation is possible." In other words, blacks are stupid.

It is Don Wycliff who is ignorant of the basic laws of economics and of the dependence of ethnic groups in this culturally pluralistic society on culture as an economic base.

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

# Guide To Furniture Shopping

Today's young home-makers want the best.

And no wonder - these working couples are well-educated, work at good professional-managerial jobs, and have plenty of discretionary income, which they like to spend on their homes.

According to an independent research study sponsored by Du Pont, these upscale consumers are shopping not only for style and color in upholstered furniture, but also for luxury, which they equate with softness and comfort. They want quality, durability and the best value for their money.

But how can a consumer evaluate quality in a chair or sofa? The ingredients of quality - the framing, bracing, spring units and cushioning - are built into the piece, and cannot be seen.

To help consumers select quality upholstered furniture, the Du Pont Company offers the following suggestions:

1. Shop at a reputable retail establishment. The store personnel will be well-informed and able to point out the differences in materials and construction that influence price.

2. Know some of the factors that go into a good piece of furniture. Among these are a good spring system; a frame made of clear, knot-free hardwood reinforced with dowels, screws and corner blocks; back pillows filled with "Dacron" polyester fiberfill; and seat cushions filled with high-density polyurethane foam which is in turn covered with "Dacron" fiberfill.

3. Lift the cushion and look at the deck label. Read hang tags. Quality manufacturers provide information on fillings and other furniture components.

4. Ask for brochures. The Du Pont Company has begun an educational campaign to help both retailers and consumers identify and appreciate new technology in quality cushioning.

5. Sit on the piece to test

for deep, luxurious comfort. You should have no feeling of sit-through - the awareness of springs or framing beneath the cushioning. There should be no fight-back - the feeling of being pushed away by the seat or back.

You should not feel that you are sitting on top of or too far into the seat - rather, you should feel that you are sitting in but not through the cushion. Finally, you should be able to sit and rise easily and

gracefully.

6. Finally, shop with tape measures and color swatches to be sure the upholstered furniture you select will fit into the space available for it and will coordinate with other furnishings.

Quality furniture may seem expensive. However, the added dollars buy superior luxury, comfort, craftsmanship and durability - in short, a real investment in lifetime satisfaction.



NOTHING CAN BEAT AN AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER for eliminating the tiresome chore of after-meal cleanup. According to home economists from Whirlpool Corporation, updating the kitchen with a dishwasher is a smart investment that will pay off handsomely with convenience and efficiency - plus the bonus of extra free time for years to come.

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