

Tony Brown's COMMENTS



Where Has Our Morality Gone?

On a drizzly Monday afternoon in Northeast Washington, D.C., 48-year-old Catherine Fuller, the wife of David Fuller, and the mother of six, went to the store to buy medicine for a sore ankle.

This 99-pound, 4-foot-11 Black woman with pink rollers in her hair was spotted by a gang-group in this poor Black area of a city dominated by Black-elected officials.

Monday, October 1, 1984, however, will not be a day to celebrate the victory of the first Black mayor - or any other notable event. Instead, it will burn into the collective Black psyche a dangerous benchmark in our perpetual sojourn for justice.

As this nightmare unfolded, the gang of young-adults blocked her passage home, shoved her into an alley, banged her with their fists, kicked her and robbed her of the \$50 she had hidden in her bra. Then they stripped her and dragged her, over broken glass, into an empty garage.

With a crowd of 30 watching, pushing and shoving to see better, about 12 were trying "to get their licks in" and their share of the coins. A six-foot-six, 235 pound, 26-year-old Black man, assisted by two others, grabbed and held her legs open.

Levy Rouse, witnesses say, shoved a one-foot iron pole up the beaten, frail woman's rectum. Others screamed "let me see" and "push it in further."

It penetrated so deep that her liver and internal organs were as severely harmed as internal damage received from the impact of a high-speed car accident. Politely, the coroner pronounced death from "multiple blunt-force" injuries.

Timothy Catlett, 20, called

"Snot Rag," admitted, "I only beat and kicked the lady...." Witnesses say that he also said, "Levy stuck that thing up her because she wasn't acting right."

Eight of these animals have been convicted. Some may get about 20 years in jail (16 actually). Their parents are crying all over television about what good boys, and in one case, what a "Christian" lady, they are.

The next wave of experts are going to explain their unemployment, their underclass status that deprives them of hope, the drugs that made them do it, the babies they have fathered out of wedlock and the racism that is ultimately responsible for any unexplained behavior of the Black-poor. Most poor people are law abiding.

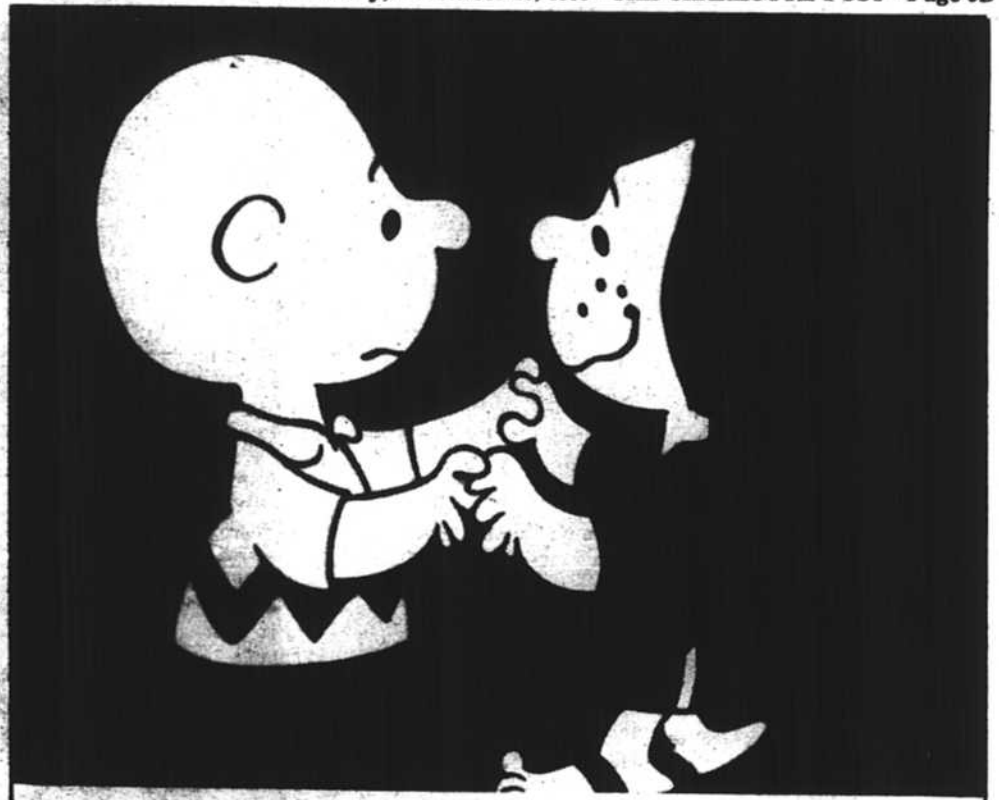
There is not enough space for me to explain how little I think of those and other ready-made excuses we have for the behavior of two-legged animals.

There is no appropriate justice for carnage of this type in the court of law. And too many know it. Which is one reason they rob, assault, rape and impale in broad daylight before cheering throngs.

We've lost our way as a people. Benjamin Banneker, the African-American who laid out Washington, D.C., weeps for the blood of this Black woman that was spilled on his streets.

And Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman and Martin Luther King did not fight - and die - for our new immorality.

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, Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Please consult listings.



The "Peanuts," including Charlie Brown and Peppermint Patty celebrate the start of 1986 in their own special style of HAPPY NEW YEAR, CHARLIE

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