

# “ Tony Brown’s ” Comments

## The Threat Of Blackness

“Why don't you stop trying to be black and concentrate on being a human being,” an irate supporter of “Color Purple” wrote.

Frankly, I don't know how I could be a good human being unless I first become a good black one. After all, I am black.

It's that assertion, however, that is so upsetting to the majority of blacks and whites in this country. White racists who pass for liberals will encourage a friendship with you, if you abandon any discussion of the pathology of racism or its odious effects on black people. “We're all just people,” they insist.

The fact that one-third of all Americans living below the poverty level are black or the fact that 27 percent of black babies die at birth as compared to only four percent of white babies is the result of blacks not getting enough welfare, the liberal concludes. Blacks, they are suggesting, are essentially inferior — incapable of self-help, and only the government can save them from themselves.

Many, many blacks have internalized this same attitude about the inherent nature of black people. After all, white people run the world and if white people run the world, they must know something or possess some special quality that we lack. In order to get this special something, we must get near it, the logic says.

Therefore, if the opportunity arises, live as near whites as possible, avoid as many blacks in school settings as the law will allow, work in their businesses and avoid black ones and whenever possible “marry up” into the so-called white race.

These perceived “improvements” are not based on facts that demonstrate that whites make better neighbors (good lawns or cordial friends), pro-

vide friendships and teaching instruction in school settings that result in the blacks there becoming more efficient in reading, writing and arithmetic, share business or corporate opportunities or make better mates that share a common perspective and spiritual outlook for a lifetime on earth.

No, the expectations of whites and the disadvantages of being black are internalized in the psyche. They exist nowhere in fact.

To recognize your equality with white, brown and red people is to recognize your humanness as a black person. To do otherwise, to believe that your potential as a human being can be achieved by ignoring your uniqueness of culture, suffering because of your race or strengths that have been developed because you have learned to overcome a system designed to destroy your humanness by destroying your pride in your culture-race, is to embrace the very racism that is destroying your humanness.

The black woman I quoted has done just that. She is never going to get to humanity until she first gets to blackness. This racist society blesses Jews because they are Jews, Irish because they are Irish, Chinese because they are Chinese, but asks Africans to become white to be accepted as Americans.

Therefore, if you succeed in liking what you are, it is the white racism in your own people that will first destroy you.

My answer to this self-hating black woman: It's not what you call me, it's what I answer to.

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.

## Summer Stage Series Takes Off

SummerStage, a series of noontime concerts held every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June through August began June 4 in Independence Plaza Park (southwest corner of Trade and Tryon Streets).

The purpose of SummerStage is to animate the uptown area by providing activities for workers during the lunch hour. The series of concerts is sponsored by Central Charlotte Association and WFAE; NCNB and WBTV; First Union and EZ104; Trammell Crow Company, and WSOC; and the Independence Center (owned by William Faison Association).

The June schedule is as follows:

June 6: Village Green, First Union Plaza; June 11: Jim Boyce Steel Drum Symphonette, NCNB Plaza; June 12: The Silver Ocean Band, Charlotte Plaza; June 13: Poor Souls, First Union Plaza; June 18: Charlotte Choral Society, Independence

Plaza Park.

Other shows are: June 19: The Moody Brothers Band, Charlotte Plaza; June 20: Critics, First Union Plaza; June 25:

Frog on the Bow, NCNB Plaza; June 26: Flight 108, Charlotte Plaza; and June 27: 404 National Orchestra, First Union Plaza.

### Ella Talley

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“I always like to be the top in whatever I do,” she assures.

Right now Talley's working to form her committee. Asked for selling strategy, she says she doesn't actually have one. “I simply tell my church members that we want them to buy the Post—to support the church and support the newspaper.”

Looking at Talley's past performance records in the CWOY contests, that's all that needs to be said.

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