

Tony Brown's "Comments"



Tony

It's Black History Month Learning Time

It's that time of year again. Free Black History Month magazines, first-come, first-served - until they run out.

If you watch our four-part series, "The Booker T. Washington Freedom Trail," on public television during Black History Month, you'll learn something about Booker T. Washington that you never knew (and, perhaps, get a new angle), know what a black college really is, where it came from and why some blacks and whites today are trying to get rid of them.

If you don't watch the TV series or see a part of it, you can get the same information - plus our annual Black History Month Quiz - in this special issue of "Tony Brown's Journal" magazine.

The magazines are FREE to individuals and groups (200 per box) if you will pay the cost of shipping (\$20 per box). For single copies, send 88¢ in stamps. Call or write 1501 Broadway, Suite 2014, New York, New York 10036 - 212-575-0876.

Here are some examples from the quiz. It is the oldest black college west of the Mississippi. Fourteen of its 18 male basketball players made the honor roll last year. Three of the 14 made the National Dean's List. This black college may have the smartest athletes in the country. Name it.

The 62nd U.S. Colored Infantry was responsible for the initial financing and subsequent creation of what Missouri-based historically black college?

Alan McPherson is the only Pulitzer Prize winner from the State of Georgia. What black college graduated him in 1965?

Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, America's first four-star general trained as a member of America's Black Air Force in WWII at his alma mater. Name it.

Another much larger question is: What are black colleges? I'll give you my answer

now. They take the poor, the downtrodden, the rejects of American society. They take the confused transfers from white colleges and universities, black students broken and frustrated by a hostile environment, their high hopes turned into doubts.

The academic program at the black colleges fills the gaps in education among the disadvantaged with unrivaled expertise developed out of necessity. For those who left the white campuses with shattered confidence, there is the sensitivity that restores the positive direction necessary to learning.

For both those lacking basic skills and those with dashed hopes, there is an experience that carefully provides the academic and social successes that build a self-image that restores confidence. That is the mission of today's magnificent 114 black colleges and universities.

The magazine will also give you a lesson on the "militant" Booker T. Washington. "Decide within yourselves whether a race that is thus willing to die for its country should not be given the highest opportunity to live for its country," he once told a white crowd of 15,000 when describing the military record of blacks to this country.

Another Black History Month gift is our first annual Library of Black History video catalog of over 200 Black-Affairs subjects. The information to order the catalog is contained in the magazine or you can call or write.

"Cast down your bucket where you are" and get Black History Month materials for your group, college, alumni association or school to disseminate to your community.

"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, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.



Carowinds is renovating and expanding Hanna Barbara Land to celebrate its 15th anniversary season! New attractions in the 4.8 acre cartoon kingdom will include 'BOO BOO's BALLOON

RACE," a colorful adventure for all ages. Carowinds will be open spring weekends beginning March 14.

Winthrop Presents "A Peasant Of El Salvador"

Rock Hill, SC - The award-winning play, "A Peasant of El Salvador" will be presented at Winthrop College for one performance only at 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 23, in Johnson Hall Auditorium. A time for discussion with the actors will follow the performance.

Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for students with identification from area schools. Tickets may be purchased at Winthrop's Dinkins Student Center or at the Bethel Presbytery Office, located at the corner of Oakland and Stewart avenues in Rock Hill.

The powerful drama "A Peasant in El Salvador" has received standing ovation in 39 states and in London since its premiere performance in 1981.

The story is about how one farmer and his family struggle to maintain their way of life despite the turbulent events in El Salvador.

The story was created by Gould & Stearns, a two-man theater company from Vermont, who intersperse humor, Latin American music and mime performances during the sensitive program.

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Atlantic Records Re-releases "We Shall Overcome"

Atlantic Records has announced the re-release of the Roberta Flack single, "We Shall Overcome." This version of the great anthem of the civil rights movement was released for the first time last year in connection with two national events: the first official observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. and the declaration of February as Black History Month. All royalties from "We Shall Overcome" will, as last year, be donated to the Medgar Evers College Foundation.

Ms. Flack's version of "We

Shall Overcome" features all-star musical backing from Luther Vandross, James Ingram, George Duke, David Lasley, Grover Washington Jr. (alto sax), and Ralph McDonald (percussion). Roberta Flack originally recorded the song for a special series of television and radio commercials running in conjunction with Black History Month and sponsored by Lite Beer. The single was produced by Deborah McDuffie/Mingo-Jones Advertising for Lite Beer from Miller.



Roberta Flack

Noted Playwright To Teach At UNC-G

Greensboro - Playwright Joseph Walker, whose drama, "The River Niger," won the 1974 Tony Award for best play, will teach at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as a visiting distinguished artist during spring semester.

"Joseph Walker is one of the two or three best-known black playwrights in this country," said Dr. Robert Hansen, director of the theatre division in UNCG's Department of Communication and Theatre. "He will teach our playwrighting course during the semester. We are delighted that our students will be able to study with him."

Hansen noted that public lecture or seminar programs featuring Walker will be scheduled during the semester. Walker was in Greensboro during the 1985-86 season of UNCG Theatre to deliver a critique of "Mourning," the play by drama graduate student Carolyn Cole.

In addition, to "The River Niger," Walker wrote "The Harangues" and was co-author of "The Believers." He has directed numerous theatre productions. He received a Guggenheim Award in 1973-74 for playwrighting and was a guest speaker at the 1974 Salzburg, Austria Seminar on American Theatre.

Walker is currently a professor of theatre at Western Connecticut State University, where he teaches playwrighting, acting and directing. Earlier, he was a drama faculty member at Howard University. He also has taught at City College of New York and Yale University.

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