

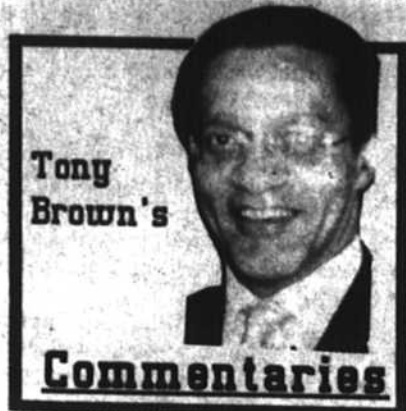
Movement Against Black Colleges

A recent incident at Tennessee State University is a graphic example of how serious the opposition to public black colleges really is.

The university refused to submit a picture of Miss Tennessee State for EBONY magazine's annual article on Black College Queens. The officials said it would violate a federal order identifying the school with any one race.

Ironically, the school that has trained blacks since 1912 and has educated some of America's top black leaders can no longer be publicly identified with that history.

Depending on who you talk to, that's either a step forward into an enlightened society or a step back-



Tony Brown's Commentaries

wards into psychological slavery. In spite of the fact that black colleges have built the black middle class and are the most successful institutions for educating blacks, there remains a formidable opposition to their continued existence.

Lawsuits by both blacks and whites who have an unshakable faith in integration, court actions and state laws have put public colleges under the gun.

Bluefield State and West Virginia State are now 80 percent white. Kentucky State University, Lincoln University in Missouri, Jackson State and Mississippi Valley State College in Mississippi, North Carolina A&T, Texas Southern University in Houston, and Tennessee State University are all on the endangered species list due to questionable desegregation orders that require black enrollment to become "non-identifiable."

It is generally conceded that black colleges are inferior to white colleges in terms of resources. Last

year, for example, corporate contributions to institutions of higher learning were up by 17%, but almost flat for black colleges.

This is due, in part, to the fact that they are perceived as inefficient and, in part to the fact that black colleges have not effectively marketed their successes. Whatever the reason, one year the 43 private colleges in the United Negro College Fund had a total endowment of \$222 million. In the same year, Harvard University alone had an endowment of more than \$3 billion.

Since black colleges started in 1865, following the Civil War, the lack of funds has been the traditional means of starving them to death; in modern times it has become the lynchpin in the argu-

ment against them.

In fact, the argument has moved from the historic racist belief that blacks were inherently inferior, therefore, incapable of developing institutions of higher learning, to the modern-day "objective quality" case.

This so-called color-blind argument relies on the absence of things-inanimate things: endowments, test tubes, classrooms, laboratories, books in the library, how much faculty members make and how many hours they teach. You may be surprised to learn that today's black colleges are considered to be intellectually unequal partly because faculties at black schools spend more time teaching than faculties at white schools. One black critic was even moved

to say that these "apparent shortcomings" prove that not one black college ranks with a decent state university." Strong stuff!

Sometimes, it appears we lose sight of the human quality. A young, uncertain 17- or 18-year-old boy or girl leaving home for the first time, entering a new world with new stresses and fears, is a very human thing. Therefore, it is not surprising that psychological studies over the years have found that students need both things and people to maximize their intellectual growth in college.

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

Letters To The Post

School Clinics Send Double Message

Dear Sabrina:
I want to be one of the first to commend you for your stand on the matter of School Based Clinics. Your observations in reference to parental responsibility and consent are right on target. I, too, believe that our school system should not become the local distribution point for birth control pills and condoms. Not that I'm against sex education, when abstinence is emphasized. But I am totally opposed to sending our young people a double message. When we preach and teach our children to refrain from pre-marital sex and then, on the next breath, tell them "but" since you're going to do it, "here are your tools," we further confuse them as to what we expect of them.
The other thing which you

brought out was the matter of the birth control pill and the condom manufacturers making these items available through the School Based Clinics. As black people we

must not get caught in situations of being the consumers of these items although this might look like an easy solution to the teenage pregnancy problem. These companies are in no way concerned with the health and well being of our teenagers. Their motive is profit and the School Based Clinics provide an inexpensive distribution system and a ready-made market. I suggest if the birth control pill and the condom manufacturers are truly interested in helping stop the rise in teenage pregnancies that they support financially those programs and institutions which are teaching teenag-

ers positive, moral values and getting them involved in other activities which prepare them for the future.

I strongly urge anyone or any group within the black community to do all you can to oppose the placing of these School Based Clinics in your local schools. Not only are they financially draining to our local tax base, they are also morally and spiritually degrading to the black community in particular. If anyone would like more information on the cost, effectiveness and purposes of the School Based Clinics, they can write me at 1220 E. 10th St., Charlotte, NC 28204.

Sincerely,
Phillip M. Davis

"The Ball" Has Destructive Elements

Dear Editor:
Sports record books are rapidly being filled with the names of black athletes. This is very impressive to young, black males who imagine themselves in these roles. Unfortunately, it is just as impressive to older, black males, who try to imitate them. With the coming of spring and summer, the black community will be dotted with casts, slings, and crutches. Painful testimony to their failed fantasies.
Next to drugs, the ball is the most destructive element to the black family. I have often heard successful black athletes say that "playing sports is the quickest way out of poverty." There are two things wrong with that statement. (1) It assumes that the athlete is outstanding. If he is only good, he won't make a dime. (2) It doesn't

reveal the statistics involved. Even if an athlete makes it to the pros, his career is short, even for the greatest of them. Check out the number of great black athletes who had to leave the sport, for one reason or another, without any money and no other skill. (Ernie Banks, Leon Spinks and "Jefferson Street Joe Gilliam" come to mind immediately.)

The ball plays a major role in the development of black children. It teaches them to be competitive, aggressive and hopeful. All of which, they need in today's world. It also disproves the "dumb jock" theory. No one, who can commit a football playbook to memory, understand and react to basketball hand signals, and respond to the frantic movements of a third base coach, could be "dumb."

The bad news is that they don't usually transfer this determination to other phases of their lives. They have a tendency to approach academics as an annoying interruption of their athletic career. As a result of that, they make poor grades, which leads to a low grade-point-average, which gives the impression of being "dumb," which can all be traced back to the almighty ball.

Willie Nelson advises mothers not to let their babies grow up to be cowboys. I advise you not to let your children grow up to be ball boys. Yes, we have some teenage Hank Aarons, Jim Browns, and Doctor J's out there. But, for God's sake, make them learn the three "R's".

Howard Reeves

What's on your mind
Let us hear your comments, ideas and opinions. Just write:

Letters To The Post
P. O. Box 30144
Charlotte, N. C. 28230

Affirmative Action

Will Blacks Benefit As Well As White Women?

Special To The Post
By Benjamin Chavis

The response to the Supreme Court's recent affirmative action decision has been almost as interesting as the decision itself. The decision affirmed that it was legal for an employer to promote an employee, with equal qualifications, over other employees in order to achieve a better balance of women and minorities in the workforce.

Terry Eastland, the Justice Department's top spokesman, sharply criticized the decision and said that what the Supreme Court needed was a new appointment or two. His comment might be considered just a bit presumptuous given the fact that the Reagan Administration has already made two ap-

pointments to the Supreme Court. The Administration's anger is understandable, however. For this is only the latest in a series of Supreme Court rulings that refute Reagan's hell-bent opposition to affirmative action.

In February the Justice Department sided with white Alabama state troopers fighting a court-ordered affirmative action plan. The Supreme Court upheld the plan, noting that Alabama had refused to hire any African American troopers until forced to do so in 1972, and that even since then, Alabama had continued to resist court orders to hire more African Americans.

Of course, the Justice Department's response to affirmative action is predictable, given its own record in this area. The New York Times obtained figures which show that none of the Justice Department's major divisions is headed by women or minorities, and of the 94 U.S. attorneys, only one is African American, one is female and two are Hispanic. Of the 300 federal judges appointed by

Reagan, only five are African American and 12 are Hispanic; however, 26 are female. In fact, women have generally fared better than African Americans in the Reagan Administration. Last year, for example, white women held over 200 of the top federal posts controlled by the Administration, while African Americans held less than 50.

This brings me to the second response to the Supreme Court decision -- that of women, specifically, white women. The decision was based on a suit filed by a white male who scored two points above his white female co-worker, but was passed over for a promotion in her favor. The object of the suit, Diane Joyce, is now justifiably pleased with the decision. She noted, "This case will have an impact on all women and I'm very happy for them."

The question is, will African American and other racial and ethnic women benefit as much as white women from this decision? Equally important, will male and female members of these commu-

nities, as a whole, benefit as much? Or will corporate America use this opportunity, as it has since the birth of affirmative action, to pit white women against racial and ethnic communities by hiring white women at larger proportions.

A recent study by the United Church of Christ Office of Communication revealed some startling statistics. Though the employment record of the three major networks -- CBS, NBC and ABC -- is still abysmal when it comes to both white women and minorities, nevertheless, within the top 85% of their staffs, women are employed at more than twice the rate of those from racial and ethnic communities. As noted in a recent article, the newsroom staff of NBC's "Nightly News" is almost equally distributed between white men and white women. The same problem exists in many New York City industries, a town whose labor force is 46.7% minority. Statistics from 1982 reveal that white women, for example, held 47% of the department store non-

supervisory jobs, compared to 9% for African American men, 18% for African American women, 3% for Hispanic males, and 4% for Hispanic females.

Certainly we should celebrate and take advantage of this new broadening of affirmative action boundaries. However, as the women's movement emerged out of, and advanced as a result of, the

heightened activity of the Civil Rights Movement, so it must now re-examine its progress in light of the still large discrepancies be-

tween the employment levels of white women and those from racial and ethnic communities. Let us take care that the racial exclusivity of the "old boy's club" is not adopted by the "new girl's club" as well.

Baby M Case Needs Solomon

The judge in the Baby M case was not Solomon.

He did not threaten to cut Baby M in half. Wise Solomon used this threat to identify the real mother who, by giving up her half of the baby out of mother's love, regained her baby, whole and well.

This judge was not looking for the real mother to get the baby. The real mother was called "surrogate mother" and sent away-bound by her contract never to claim to be the parent of her own child.

Perhaps she deserved her fate. She made a deal to have a baby and to give up her baby for \$10,000. Who can sympathize with her? Not me.

What about the child? Maybe the child is better off with her father.

If the judge has simply ruled that the father should have custody of the child based on the child's welfare I would not be writing this column.

But the judge made a point of



D. G. Martin

One On One

approving, enforcing, and even praising the surrogate contract under which the women agreed to produce and give a baby--for a fee.

That ruling was not necessary and it worries me. What is wrong with honoring and enforcing the contract that two adults make, you ask? Aren't we free to make binding agreements with each other?

We are not totally free. The courts won't enforce gambling contracts. They would not enforce

a contract to provide sex for money. Nor would they enforce a contract to sell a kidney, a lung, an eye or some other body organ. Why? Enforcing contracts encourages the activities that are subject to the contract. Enforcing the surrogate mother contracts encourages women to put their bodies to work to produce babies for a free.

Do we want it done for money? Do we want baby breeding to be a business enterprise? Do we want babies to be a marketable commodity? Not me.

I don't want babies to be bought and sold like any other product. I don't want our country to develop and exploit a class of breeder women. I don't want our judges to honor and enforce contracts that lead to those results.

I hope that the judges who hear the Baby M case on appeal find the wisdom of Solomon--and a better solution.

Let me know what you think. Write me in care of this paper, or at Box 37283, Charlotte, NC 28237.

DEMOCRACY vs APARTHIED

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Enclosed is my check/M.O. for \$_____ as my contribution to the Freedom Fighters in the South African struggle for One man - One vote.

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Chavis