

LETTERS TO THE POST

WPEG Shouldn't 'Lie Like A Man'

In a recent edition of The Post, a reader declared his disgust over WPEG radio's new game, "Lie Like a Man." I would like to join in his concern and invite others to air theirs.

This game is a disservice to the African American community. WPEG has eliminated the morning talk-back questions and responses, closing off what was a large composition of Charlotte and surrounding areas African American floor for discussion, and replaced it with this mockery. WPEG talk-back provoked conversation and thought. It got people talking about topics that needed to be discussed and sometimes brought out of the closet.

I was upset when I came to the realization that talk-back was no longer a part of the morning WPEG regimen that I had become so accustomed to. But more upsetting than that is the fact that thought was replaced with games like "Lie Like a Man."

I am a proud African (only American by birth) woman. I have witnessed and experienced the plight of not only myself but of my brothers and sisters. I've studied the predicament of my brothers. And surveying these conditions gave me a wrought feeling in my stomach, as I am sure is suffered by more people than myself. That feeling is heightened when I listen to a game like "Lie Like a Man," making folly of the African male (as most of the participants of the game, I imagine).

I realize that folly is a part of what makes interesting and successful radio programs. But let's not do it at the expense of our community and the integrity of our brothers. A brother has had to deal, practically all of his life, with people telling him that he was second class, less than a man and before your time and mine, that he had no rights to any woman or his own flesh and blood ... a slave.

Our situation will not change if we make light of it. We, as Africans don't have a minute, woman, child or man to waste to senselessness or frivolity.

ANETHA M. GAMBLE
Charlotte

Problems Only Matter For Blacks

Congratulations to The Charlotte Post for 115 years of addressing the needs of our African American community. In addressing the needs of our community, again I hope The Post's readership is ever-increasing.

Let's again ask ourselves as we read in The Post, "Does It Matter If You're Black or White?" It matters only if you are black. Too many times "They" claim and like to say that today's crisis is an issue that affects black and white issues. To us that know, this claim is only to make "Us" think that "They" really care. We appreciate the fact that Carolyn Mints and Steve Crump were in front of the cameras at last Thursday's community forum, we even appreciate the forum. We appreciate Carolyn and Steve.

Does WBTB or The Powers That Be really want to hear what the real problem is? No! A brother had an opportunity to speak but when he spoke the truth of what has happened, he was abruptly cut off. The white community does not want to hear that they and their ancestors stole and continue to steal our culture and heritage. It leaves our people and our youth lost. It is very difficult to teach our people where to go and how to get there if they don't realize where they have been.

African Americans need to realize the need to be attentive to these types of forums, they are only there to increase their own ratings and to project false concerns. We as African American adults should empower ourselves and in turn empower our children, families and communities to take charge of what goes on in our lives. We need to re-educate ourselves, our children and our families, friends and church members to turn back to our past of pride and loyalties to concerns of unity of African America. We should practice love for each other, traits that were beaten out of us during slavery. These things we should do for the sake of leaving something to our children and grandchildren.

And with Mr. Hugh McColl in the The Post saying the very same thing that all advocates of the African American community are saying, it is time for things to change. Please read the article and hear what he is saying, use our diversity to become prosperous. If you haven't heard what many of us have been attempting to get across to you, hear, please hear what the CEO of NationsBank is saying to you. It is time for us, African Americans, to start having power over our dollars, to broaden economic opportunities for African Americans to see that our diversity comes to an end.

SYLVIA GRIER
Charlotte

Don't Reverse 10 Percent Rule

I read with interest and alarm the recent Charlotte Observer article quoting three Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board members (Sharon Bynum, John Lassiter and Susan Burgess) about the issue of relaxing the 10 percent rule in setting up new public schools.

This rule states that no new school will be located in any part of the county that has fewer than 10 percent minority population. There is a bond issue on the November ballot requesting \$192 million for new and renovated facilities. A map has been circulated which shows that two of the proposed new elementary schools would not meet this rule. They are both in southeast Charlotte.

As a member and representative of the Black Political Caucus, we would strongly object to any reneging on this pledge to the minority community which was made when the magnet school concept was thrust upon us. Moreover, as a parent of a young school-age child in the central city, I personally object to setting up another situation where our so-called "inner city" children are forced to take longer and longer bus rides to keep integration alive.

If you are going to keep creating schools where the growth is taking place, i.e. the southeast, let some "inner city" schools stay "black" as a tradeoff - something (school board member) Arthur Griffin called for a few months back. Mr. Griffin more recently called for a look at placing more affordable housing in these growth areas so we wouldn't have to bus central city kids way out there. Even though housing is a city/county function, if the school board took a position, it could greatly influence their decision-making.

I urge the board to publicly vote once again to support the 10 percent rule and to publicly review the various options put forth by board member Griffin.

SHERRY SUTTLES MARSH

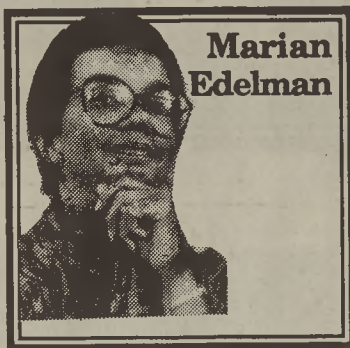
Baseball Players Do Often Serve As Positive Influences

Not long ago in a New York Times "Forum" article, television newsmen Dan Rea reflected:

"I learned sociology in a shoe box. Baseball cards taught me how to read, do math, learn geography and understand life. Baseball games on back porch radio at night with those old cards would lead me through the lives of players, time and again showing me that nothing--in life or in baseball--is accomplished without hard work, and sometimes, great disappointment."

For decades the game of baseball has taught many American children the value of teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication and hard work. Today, as millions of young people face a rising tide of poverty, violence and neglect, this all-American pastime has endured, providing some youth a field of dreams and ticket to success. For others, too little opportunity has left them unable to comprehend the hidden values of the game. Despite the number of black baseball stars, a black boy has less than a one in 10,000 chance of becoming a major league baseball player, and a one in four chance of dropping out of school.

In reaction to the changing times and needs of youth, some baseball players have taken a welcome and more interactive approach to guiding and helping our nation's youth. According to Donald Fehr, Executive Director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, "Assisting children in need



Marian Edelman

has always been a primary objective of the Major League Baseball Players Association." Whether fundraising and participation in programs for the Make A Wish Foundation or volunteering in literacy projects, the members of the Major League Baseball Players Association are giving their time and money to ensure that more of America's kids get the message. The message that with hard work, discipline and hope anything is possible.

This past July the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball and the Players Association joined together with the Children's Defense Fund in an effort to ensure that no child be left behind. As part of the kickoff to this year's All-Star game, the players of the National and American leagues held an auction from which proceeds were donated to the Children's Defense Fund. The traditional rivals crossed a time-honored dividing line in a united effort that will benefit children. Don Fehr said, "We know that the monies raised from

the All-Star Auction will go to help those children who need it most and we hope that this All-Star Auction marks the first of many future events between our two organizations." By donating authentic All-Star jerseys, baseball gloves, hats and other All-Star paraphernalia these major leagues raised \$200,000 for children.

Baseball's image has suffered significantly in recent years from charges of racism, which they must work hard to overcome in concrete and sustained ways. The Players Association and Commissioner's office initiative to create opportunities for children today need more than baseball cards and games to prepare them for living on today's America and world. Baseball's partnership with us on behalf of disadvantaged children is an important and welcome outreach to our youth.

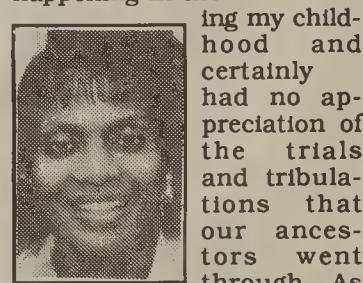
You don't need to have a major league batting record or season baseball tickets to create a positive influence in a child's life. You need to understand that all children are our children and that you can make a difference in the life of a child by simply reaching out and showing that you care. Let's return to using the simple things in life to teach our children "How to read, do math, learn geography and understand life" and to teach them that "nothing--in life or in baseball--is accomplished without hard work, and sometimes, great disappointment."

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
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Museum Visit Was Inspiring

By Paula Newsome
SPECIAL TO THE POST

A few weeks ago, I had an opportunity to visit the new Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham. The experience was rich and powerful. While I grew up in the '60s, I had no idea of the scope of what was happening in the world during



my childhood and certainly had no appreciation of the trials and tribulations that our ancestors went through. As my grandmother used

to say, we are always standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

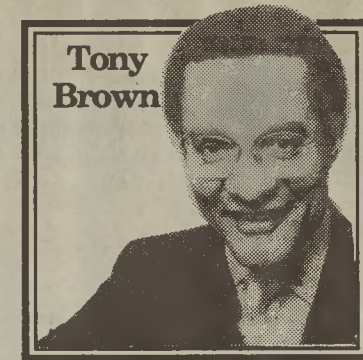
Alan Paton is quoted in the museum as saying, "To give us the task of reforming society is to give up one's responsibility as a free man." Truly, Mr. Paton did speak for most off the ancestors whose pictures line the walls and whose faces are carved in the exhibits at the museum for the feelings of being in a place where there were some strong spiritual vibrations was unquestionable. To understand what I mean, picture, if you will, Bull Connors standing in front of the police force in Birmingham and making the decision to turn on the water hoses on people who were doing little more than asking for a few basic rights. Basic rights like the opportunity to earn a decent wage. At that time Birmingham wages were the lowest in the country. Basic rights like releasing the large number of black men who were incarcerated because prison labor was even cheaper than regular labor, and basic rights like wanting a committee to work out plans for the eventual desegregation of schools.

To look at the 16th Avenue Baptist Church where four young girls were killed by a bomb that was thrown into the largest and oldest black church at that time in Birmingham and then see the visual that followed was chilling. Just looking at those sights conjured up emotions of hurt, pain, fear, anger, distrust, and eventually peace. Coming to that place of peace was the hardest emotion on me because when you look at the original jail door that Martin L. King wrote his letter from Birmingham jail or when you see African men who were hanged because they committed the crime of looking a white female in the eye, it is difficult not to be angry or even want revenge.

I believe I was prepared for these sights because like grandmom says, when you carry around a lot of negative baggage, it makes you negative and does more harm to you than to the perpetrator of the crime.

I finally understood what her wise words were referring to because negative baggage certainly can take you down a path of negativity, skepticism, cynicism and just plain grouchhood. The wonderful thing about life is that you get out exactly what you put in. The ancestors who fought, struggled, challenged, questioned, and demanded that people of African descent be treated as human beings with the same inalienable rights as other tax payers in this country were on track and should serve as models for us.

Can African American Blood Cure Malaria?



Tony Brown

National Institutes of Health (NIH), a government agency, reported a link between blood characteristics of black Americans and their ability to resist malaria.

Researchers have known for decades that Africans and people of African descent over time have grown resistant to malaria, a leading cause of death on that continent.

Africans are dying like flies from not being treated for malaria and the cases are being reported as AIDS. And instead of the funds going to fight malaria, it goes to buy condoms for "AIDS education," many scientists and journalists believe.

That's one reason this discovery is so welcome. "This latest research opens up the possibility of a way to block one of the two major types of malaria," said Louis Miller of NIH.

Almost all West Africans and perhaps 70 percent of African-Americans are resist-

ant to the vivax strain of malaria, which mainly afflicts people in South America and Asia.

The disease is spread when mosquitoes inject the malaria parasite into the human bloodstream.

The parasite travels to the liver, where it replicates itself over and over, and then returns to the bloodstream to destroy red blood cells and cause fever and anemia.

Now that the scientific world is focused on malaria, we should focus attention also on 40 million Africans who will die by year 2000 from malaria that is called AIDS.

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Tony Brown's Journal TV series can be seen on your local public television station, (PBS).

At last, researchers found something good to say about the blood of Africans--in this case the blood of a hybrid group that I call Americanized-Africans.

This group of Americans has more prostate cancer, more heart disease, more AIDS, more--you name it--than Americans of European or Asian descent.

But last week the Laboratory of Malaria Research at the

Could Color Affect A Jury?

By James Strong
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Sometimes a question is more potent than a statement. Like a magic box, thoughts can suddenly pop out of it that a statement could hardly inspire.

Consider, for example, the trials of three white former Detroit police officers accused of murder in the death of Malice Green. Green was a 34-year old black unemployed steel worker who was savagely beaten on the head and face with heavy, metal flashlights.

Separate juries recently convicted two of the former officers, Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn, of second-degree murder in the case. The third officer, Robert Lessnau, was found not guilty by Detroit Records Court Judge George Crockett III of a charge of assault with

intent to cause bodily harm.

Detroit is 75 percent black, with a black mayor, black police chief and majority black police force. So the atmosphere surrounding the case was hot and humid with the threat of a riot if the former officers were found not guilty.

Fortunately, the Nevers jury consisted of 10 blacks and 2 whites, and the Budzyn jury 11 blacks and 1 white. I say fortunately because if the trial had been moved to suburban Detroit, where more than likely a majority white jury would have heard the case, the two may not have been convicted at all or else convicted of a lesser charge.

I say this sadly because a courtroom is supposed to be a flower of justice. But in America, if a trial involves black defendants or black plaintiffs against white de-

fendants or white plaintiffs, the courtroom generally becomes a fungus of injustice.

The Budzyn trial highlighted this fact. When Crockett polled the jury, only Karl Keeler, the sole white juror, hesitated to convict on the second-degree murder charge, think what would have happened if the case were tried before a majority white jury.

The trials, then, mirror America itself. On the one hand, you have a white America quick to find blacks guilty; on the other hand, you have a black America slow to find blacks guilty.

The former sees guilt before innocence; the latter sees innocence before guilt. And from that distinction, the essential question pops up: Is a majority black jury more just and fair than a majority white jury?