

TONY BROWN'S COMMENTS

What Happened To Black America?

by **TONY BROWN**

"What is the state of Black America?" I was asked.

"Which one?" I thought to myself. The one we read about everyday, being devoured by poverty, crime and hopelessness — the so-called underclass?

Or the "integrated" middleclass that lives and works mostly in the White world where it invested its human capital to grow the inhabitants and their institutions?

Or, perhaps, what the questioner had in mind was the old Black America of the civil rights era when all Black socioeconomic groups bonded our resources in a struggle against an apparent evil and vowed that we would always be our brother's and sister's keeper.

But when the doors of "integrated" opportunity were pried open by the Black masses, the middle-class beneficiaries of preference programs moved in with their socioeconomic non-Black peers.

What's wrong with that, you ask?

Suppose everyone in England who graduated from college and earned high wages moved to France?

England would become a slum, while France prospered.

That's precisely what happened to Black America when her most skilled took their social and human capital and invested it in non-Black institutions and communities.

Technology is not the only thing that left poor Blacks behind!

However, those of us who abandoned our people still use their address to receive our affirmative-action payments. Their painful existence provides us with our

victim status that qualifies us for guaranteed outcomes.

There's a Trojan Horse called "integration" sitting right in the middle of Black America watching it crumble from within.

Information on the Buy Freedom

900 Network: 212-575-2389.

Tony Brown's Journal TV series can be seen on your local public television station, (PBS). For more information on video tapes or a video catalog, call (212) 575-0876; to order, call 1-800-524-3552.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

Will There Be Justice This Time Around?

by **BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.**

Several weeks from now will mark the first anniversary of the 1992 "Los Angeles Uprising." It has been nearly one year since the injustice in the trial of the Los Angeles police officers who were found "not guilty" in the brutal beating of Rodney King. Although the initial incident happened back in early 1991, the unjust verdict in the 1992 trial caused an unprecedented social explosion in Los Angeles and across the nation.

The very name "Rodney King"

during the last year has grown to become synonymous with the struggle of African Americans and others for racial justice. Of course, the case of Rodney King and the subsequent miscarriages of justice are all too familiar to the African American community.

The latest celebration of African American History Month rendered a renewed opportunity for all Americans to be reminded of the continuing price that people of African descent have to pay in a society that refuses to purge itself of its historic racism and exploitation.

One year later the nation braces for another trial of the police officers who assaulted King, but this time the trial will be in federal court. Will there be justice this time around in the Rodney King case? Will there be another uprising in Los Angeles if justice is not done? What should all people who believe in equal justice do now concerning the unfolding drama once again in

Los Angeles?

Last year the jury in the trial in state court had no African Americans. The trial now underway in federal court has two African Americans and one Latino American on the jury. No one can really predict how the trial will end. But one thing is for certain: "The United States is on trial in Los Angeles and the issue is ending the double standard of justice based on race and socioeconomic class."

Although this trial in federal court is expected to last at least two months, each day that goes by during the trial will serve to remind the nation that there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure equal justice in our society. No one wants to see more racial violence in Los Angeles or anywhere else in the country.

The simple reality is that there is a steady increase in racially motivated violence throughout the United States. The point here,

however, is to emphasize the fact that as in the case of the beating of Rodney King, in many instances the increase in racial violence is performed by police officers gone mad with racial hatred and bigotry.

What should concerned people be doing the next six to eight weeks? We believe it is important for the entire nation to follow closely the details of this particular trial because it will hopefully provide a clearer view into the inner workings of our nation's judicial and criminal justice system. For too long our system of "injustice" has not engendered a broad public review.

Secondly, the United States Department of Justice needs to hear from hundreds of thousands of people demanding that justice be done in this case. During the past Administrations, the Justice Department exhibited little interest in prosecuting law enforcement officers who had been involved in racially motivated attacks.

The Clinton Administration needs to forcefully speak out against all forms of social violence, and in particular racial violence. Yet, the Clinton Administration will not speak loudly on this issue unless there is a groundswell of public demand that justice be done in the Rodney King beating trial.

Lastly, in every community we should resurrect a sense of vigilance and steadfastness of commitment to "be thy brother's and sister's keeper." In other words, racial injustice simply cannot be tolerated. We must say boldly and directly to every level of government in our society that we demand equal justice and we demand it now. And this demand must be backed up by a revived and expanded civil rights movement.

Every generation is called to the challenge of life and there is not a more pressing challenge before us today than to renew our struggle for justice and freedom, not with idle rhetoric, but with an effective organized and mobilized mass based "movement" of committed sisters and brothers in every state, in every community joining forces together toward the same long term goal: justice, freedom and empowerment for all.

Benjamin Chavis, Jr. is the executive director of the Commission For Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kitsap County Chronicle

Voice of the African-American Community

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The *Kitsap County Chronicle* is published twice a month by Inner Visions Foundation, with additional special issues published periodically. The *Kitsap County Chronicle* focuses on the African-American community and culture on the Kitsap Peninsula. The *Kitsap County Chronicle* welcomes articles for consideration and information about upcoming events and activities. Deadline for all material is 5p.m. Friday preceding publication date. Publisher is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photos. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to guarantee return.

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Business and editorial office located at Kitsap Business Center, 843 Sixth Street, Suite 120, Bremerton.

The *Kitsap County Chronicle* is available by subscription at the rate of \$10.00 per year.

*The Kitsap County Chronicle is a member of
NABJ—National Association of Black Journalists*

AND THAT'S FOR REAL

Black History Month: Do We Need It?

by **KWAME MCDONALD**

Black History Month is over. Some ask the question, "Why Black History Month? Why not White History Month?" The simple answer, of course, is that we celebrate white history every month, in fact every day.

When a person of color is included in history or when events are dominated by people of color, they are usually inaccurate, both in fact and interpretation. If there is a positive interpretation, it is as if such affirmative acts or influences are exceptions, not the rule.

This inaccurate history makes it necessary to continue to have Black History Month. The month is designed to do two things:

1. To educate the general populace concerning the truth about our life, times and contributions to society; and

2. To educate the woefully miseducated Afrikan in America.

I must say that I am very pleased with the activities that took place in the community and at Olympic College this year. There was something happening every day.

Until and unless the systemic bigotry and discrimination is adequately addressed in all of our institutions, there will continue to be a need for Black History Month.

And That's For Real!

Kwame McDonald is the director of Multicultural Affairs at Olympic College and the President of the Bremerton chapter of the NAACP



A 1918 U.S. airmail stamp with an airplane mistakenly printed upside down sold at auction in 1977 for \$62,500.

Words of Life
Equals make the best friends.

— Aesop