

TBS TO PRESENT 1991 BLACK HISTORY SPECIAL

In honor of national Black History Month, TBS will present its annual Black History Month special on Saturday, February 23, 1991, at 10:20 — 11:20 pm (ET). The program will bring together a diverse and dynamic panel of black leaders, many of whom have only recently gained recognition, to discuss the issues that confront society. They will assess the current situation, offer insight into the nature of the issues and propose some possible solutions. The special will be hosted by Tony Brown and Susan L. Taylor.

Today, a large percentage of Americans — most of those under 25 — do not remember segregation. To them, the civil-rights movement is history, and the dreams and violence that characterized the struggle are the stuff of movies and television documentaries. Racial politics in the U.S. today is completely different. There is a whole new set of issues confronting society.

In many areas, progress has been made. There are black mayors leading many of the country's largest cities, and Douglas Wilder, the Governor of Virginia, is a black man. A black candidate was one of the most significant forces in our last presidential election. Black men and women sit on city councils and county commissions throughout the nation; in 1989, there were 7,226 black elected officials.

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. One in four black men between the ages of 20 and 29 is in prison or on parole — more than are in college. More than 60 percent of black children born in the U.S. are born to unwed, and often very young mothers. The income gap between the nation's rich and poor is increasing, and black families suffer the highest unemployment rate. The American education system needs to be reformed; the economy is faltering; delivery of health services to the poor is inadequate; little progress is

being made in the war against drugs; and HIV infection is still spreading rapidly in inner cities. National leadership is slow to address these issues, and the federal budget offers few remedies.

It is these problems which the panel will discuss. Although the situation of Blacks in this country has improved greatly over the past 25 years, much progress still needs to be made. The panel will attempt to answer the questions, "How did we get to this point?" and "Where do we go from here?"

Tony Brown has distinguished himself as a writer, film director and producer of the nationally broadcast PBS television series *Tony Brown's Journal*, the nation's longest-running and top-ranked black-affairs program. He was the first, and founding dean, of the School of Communications at Howard University, where he continues to serve as a professor. Brown also founded the annual Black College Alumni, Inc., spearheads a movement to preserve black colleges. He is a member of the Board of Associates of the Harvard Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Business League and of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. He has won numerous awards for his work, including the Solomon Carter Fuller Award from the American Psychiatric Association's Committee of Black Psychiatrists, The Economic Empowerment Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the prestigious image award from the NAACP in Hollywood for presenting positive images of African-Americans in film, television, theater and music. In addition, he was cited for distinguished and outstanding achievement in the television industry at the Black Emmy Awards.

Brown's co-host, Susan L. Taylor, is the editor-in-chief of *Essence Magazine* and the vice

president of Essence Communications, Inc. Through her monthly column, "In the Spirit," her extensive travels and her numerous public appearances, Taylor has become an example and an inspiration to millions of black people. She has worked as both an actress and as a member of the renowned Negro Ensemble Company. Taylor is a

licensed cosmetologist who founded her own company, Nequai Cosmetics, in 1969. It was her expertise in cosmetology that brought her to the attention of *Essence*. In 1970, she was given freelance writing assignments.

One year later, Taylor was named the magazine's beauty editor, and the following year

her position was expanded to include both fashion and beauty. In 1981, Taylor became editor-in-chief of the magazine. In addition, she is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, the Society of Professional Journalists, the American Society of Magazine Editors, the Alliance Directors Resource Council for the National

Women's Economic Alliance Foundation and Women in Communications. She also is a board member of the Edwin Gould Services for Children, and adoption and foster-care agency. Taylor is a past recipient of the Women in Communications and has received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lincoln University.

POINTER SISTERS RETURN TO CAESARS PALACE

The Pointer Sisters return to the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom for performances Jan. 30 — Feb. 4.

Anita, June and Ruth Pointer are celebrating a new Top-10 hit single on the national dance charts — "Insanity," from their latest album, "Right Rhythm."

The LP, their first for the Motown label, also produced last year's popular Pointer Sisters single "Friends Advice (Don't Take It)," a hot club number with a pounding bass that has proven popular in the globe-trotting trio's touring show.

The Pointer Sisters have been singing together since childhood, when they harmonized in their minister parents' church.

Their gospel sound melded with musical influences of the time, and their early style became a mixture of jazz, R & B, rock, pop and country.

It was a country song, "Fairytale," that won their first

Grammy. But best remembered among Pointers hits are the trend-setting sounds of multi-million-selling songs like "Fire,"

"He's So Shy," "Jump (For My

Love)," "I'm So Excited" and "Neutron Dance."

At Caesars Palace, the Pointer Sisters perform nightly at 8:30 and 11:30, except Sun-

day, when one performance is scheduled at 10 p.m.

For show reservations at Caesars Palace, phone 702/731-7333 or 800/445-4544.



THE POINTER SISTERS — Ruth, Anita & June

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