

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

JIM BROWN—ALL TRUE MAN

By Ray Willis

Whether by design or accident, there aren't very many macho African-American male celebrities who evade the careful scrutiny of the media. In fact, you can practically guarantee that negative press will follow an independent African-American male in today's society. Just look around us in this community and you can see several prominent instances of what I mean.

On those infrequent occasions when a Black male rises to prominence and maintains a macho posture, invariably he becomes a target. Case in point is the renowned Jim Brown—undisputedly, in my opinion, the greatest running back in professional football history. He was so durable that he never ever missed playing a game due to injury. Unheard of!

He retired young from pro football while he was still on top. But instead of trailing off into the sunset, he launched a successful movie career. Remember him in "100 Rifles" with Raquel Welch?

Even though along the way he has been saddled with a few albatrosses around his neck, he remains in the minds of many, a near God-like figure—a Black man who stood his ground against the odds, and successfully did things his way.

Anyone who has listened to a Richard Pryor album can recount the legend of Jim Brown. You know the story line, "...A man would be a fool to mess with Jim Brown!"

In real life, Brown was at Pryor's side as a friend and confidant during Pryor's well-publicized bout with drugs and his tragic burn incident. Brown was Pryor's Rock of Gibraltar, although they parted company later on.

In a recent tell-all autobiography, Brown further sets the record straight on a number of topics, including: his relationship with women, his politics and his work-ethic based philosophy.

Concerning women, Brown recounts that he never threw his then girlfriend from a second story balcony as has become legendary of him. He attributes negative press accounts of the incident to his many love affairs with celebrated non-Black movie co-stars.

Brown says it simply wasn't

fashionable at the time for a famous Blackman to be involved in interracial relationships (ala Sammy Davis Jr. and Mai Britt.)

To this very day, Brown says he encounters problems finding work as an actor because of his unfair portrayal in the media. If it were not for a successful film company which he owns and

operates, he would be relegated to virtual obscurity.

You can sum up the greatness of Jim Brown in his observation of himself. "I never fully realized the impact my independent spirit had on other Blacks until I was asked by the family of Black Panther founder Huey P. Newton to deliver the eulogy at

Newton's funeral," Brown said. "To have been asked to eulogize Newton and to be held in such high regard by a family I did not have a personal relationship with is truly one of the greatest rewards I could ever receive in this life," said Brown.

Then there's the Fahrakkan matter. During an appearance

on the Arsenio Hall Show, Brown voiced his undying loyalty to Fahrakkan. And then he turned right around and asked Arsenio if he also supported the Black Muslim leader. A meek Hall replied by saying, "Let's take a station break!" Enough said.

When you talk about Black men being an endangered spe-



RAY E. WILLIS

cies the survival and the triumph over tremendous odds of a prime specimen like Jim Brown infuses us with hope eternal for the future.

BEAUTY—IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

By James S. Tate Jr., M.D.
Local Chairperson
National Alliance Against
Racist & Political Repression

I recently had the experience of attending the Miss Universe Pageant with a friend of mine who is also a medical colleague. My friend is not particularly astute politically nor culturally advanced. As a result this good brother was beside himself wanting to meet Miss Hong Kong, Miss China, Miss Philippines etc., etc., etc.

I on the other hand suggested to the brother that perhaps he should be more interested in meeting Miss Ghana, Miss Nigeria, Miss Jamaica etc. As it turns out Miss Jamaica was white. On the night of the pageant it was interesting to look at the contestants and basically see almost carbon copies of each other on stage. Indeed in my own humble opinion, each one looked like they had just escaped from a German concentration camp during World War II. To say they were thin would be an understatement, but apparently this is the European ideal of beauty.

I say that because I can remember witnessing a beauty contest held in one of the East African nations and filmed on the TV series "The Africans" in which the comment was made that they never sent contestants up to European beauty contests because they felt they had no chance if winning considering the way the women were built. Now I hasten to say that any of the women in this Miss Universe contest look like men, but yet the East Africans have so convinced themselves of masters' beauty standards that they were unwilling or unable to seriously challenge those concepts of beauty. Among our people, especially here in Las Vegas, I have observed the women folk and the

males also have swallowed White Racists Mans definition of beauty, hook, line and sinker. As a result we have black women dying their hair blond, orange,

pink, green or other nefarious colors, black men wearing jeri curls, both male and females having their noses redone, their lips redone or the women having

their hips made smaller. As I see this I think what madness is this that has taken hold of us? We have apparently forgotten what a beautiful people we re-

ally are. It is time perhaps to make white racist men and women live up to our standards of beauty instead of us living down to theirs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor;

By now I am sure you are aware that despite Congress' promise to use the new tax revenue to reduce the federal deficit they did the exact opposite.

Unbelievably, Congress enacted the second largest tax increase ever and rather than reduce the deficit they increased spending \$111 billion (and that doesn't include the Gulf War costs) and pushed the fiscal year 1991 deficit to an all time record \$320 billion.

But if you're saying to yourself, "I remember hearing Congressional leaders promise that the new budget would mean a \$500 billion spending reduction in the years ahead. How can they say that?" Let me explain. Only in Congress can you promise a \$500 billion savings at the same time you increase actual spending by \$111 billion. Here's how it works:

When Congress talks about spending cuts, they are not talking about cutting actual spending, but reducing projected increases. If Congress just reduces the amount of increased spending, they call that a spending cut—even though spending

is still increasing.

Confused? Let me give you a simplified example. Let's suppose Congress today is spending \$1.00 on a program and they have budgeted to spend \$2.00 on the same program next year. However, if they spend \$1.75 next year they will call that a spending cut of \$0.25—even though they actually increased spending by \$0.75. When Congress promised to save \$500 billion in the years ahead, this was not an actual cut of \$500 billion, it was a reduction in their "pie-in-the-sky" budget for the future. Even with their supposed \$500 billion cut, actual spending will still skyrocket.

THE PROMISE OF DEFICIT REDUCTION WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MYTH. Congress just wanted more taxes for more spending. And they would promise anything just to get more of our income.

Congress is bankrupting America. Because of Congress' non-stop deficit spending, the interest payments on the national debt exceed a whopping \$256 billion annually. These interest payments on the ballooning national debt are already

more than all the individual income taxes paid by everyone who lives west of the Mississippi River. We are rapidly approaching the day when we won't be able to make the interest payment on our debt. I'm sure you understand what happens if you can't make the interest payments on your debts.

I urge you to tell the American people the real story—that deficit spending is increasing, not decreasing as Congress promised. And tell them that the deficit represents a very grave threat to our future.

Sincerely,
William D. Curl

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter because I feel that the health of our society is dependent on virtues like honesty, decency, courage, and public spirit. Because there are forces in human nature which constantly tend to corrupt and because every age has its own

VICES, I am addressing this letter to you the politician.

There is a test being imposed by the challenges of our time. We are not unique in suffering from this moral confusions. The cries are familiar over the ages, but we are unique in the awesome acceleration of social change and in risk of a catastrophic end to all our hopes and dreams. Therefore, we can hardly afford politicians who have every grace except a versatile and flexible mind that can deal with new explosive issues and conditions.

I urge you who are serious about democracy to re-read and re-discover the constitution.

Sincerely,
Edward McNeal

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