

COMMENTARY

Promoter King refutes New York Post claim

Collie J. Nicholson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Once again, Don King, the undisputed heavyweight champion of boxing promoters, is being set upon by nefarious sources in the media and the U.S. government, all in another grandstand ploy to besmirch his dignity and to render him impotent in the promotion of major boxing matches.

Two weeks ago, it was Time Warner, HBO and TVKO. Last week it was the *New York Post*.

The culprits, led principally by men like *Post* sports columnist Jack Newfield — who is

seemingly obsessed with destroying King — have come up with allegations that King has conspired to fix the ratings of fighters and to determine the outcome of fights.

Newfield has constantly excoriated King in his *Post* columns and has seemingly set out on a deliberate crusade to eliminate Don from the fight picture and to see him behind bars, if at all possible.

In his crusade against King, Newfield acts as judge, jury and executioner. His front-page story in the *Post* claimed King is the target of a RICO (Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization)

investigation in New Jersey. As usual, his article contained unproven allegations, assumptions and hearsay.

Newfield's ravings and rantings coincided with the FBI's entry into the fray, with the federal agency seemingly acting on the old premise that where there is smoke there is fire. The FBI — and the general public — should be warned that smoke also emanates from arson and from small brush fires.

In that context, Newfield knows full well that reactions to anything negative about King carries the same 911 reaction for a five-alarm blaze

as it does for a FALSE ALARM. He knows that to ring the bell, someone will come running — and believing.

King, of course, has denied that any of the allegations in the *New York Post* article have any basis in truth. He calls it "hog wash" and asserts that recent attacks against himself and the IBF are just a continuation of a series of silly attempts to wrest from his head the crown of "King of Boxing Promoters."

Others regard it as the continuation of what may be broadly construed as a racial vendetta.

Isn't it ironic — from a racial standpoint — that the IBF is headed by Robert Lee, an African-American, and the only person of his race to head one of the three major boxing organizations? Not a peep has been heard from or about the heads of either the WBA or the WBC.

It is not unusual for King to be caught up in allegations of one kind or another. He has been tested and legally tried on a number of legal matters — three times, to be exact — and each time he has BEEN COMPLETELY EXONERATED.

His enemies and detractors have found themselves all too

often trying to catch a rabbit in a briar patch.

Earlier this month, 75 FBI agents took two loads of files, computers, records and other documents from Don King Productions in Deerfield Beach, Fla., in a raid in what King has labeled, "an abuse of power."

"I love this country," he said, "but certain elements in government are trying to render us ineffective. They don't want black people to help each other. On a daily basis, citizens are abused in the name of justice," he said.

In a speech made in New York City at the National (See Don King, Page 16)

Black commanders can take credit for Balkans success

John William Templeton
Special to Sentinel-Voice

As praise gets passed around for the air war against Yugoslavia, two of the most important heroes and commanders labored outside the glare of publicity. However, their role was far more important than the desk-bound bureaucrats who showed up on "Nightline" everyday for the 79 days of the campaign.

It took training for American and NATO pilots to fly tens of thousands of missions with brand new smart bombs and missiles for three months and only lose two planes.

Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, one of the three African-American four-star generals, has commanded the Air Education and Training Command since 1997. That includes everything from recruiting to pilot training.

Newton is a graduate of Tennessee State University who flew 279 combat missions in Vietnam, became a pilot in the elite Thunderbirds, was director of operations for the U.S. Special Operations Command and has flown planes ranging up to the F-117 stealth fighter. He can take credit for the world's best trained pilots through his leadership and his personal example.

Many of the pilots flew from American aircraft carriers under the leadership of Adm. J. Paul Reason, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet—190 ships, 1,300 aircraft and 190,000 sailors—half of the U.S. Navy.

The first black four-star general, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, says, "I totally attribute my success to those who have gone before

me — all minorities. People who have broken down barriers by showing others they're capable of doing the expected task, that they can perform and it has nothing to do with color of skin or ethnicity — nothing to do with anything other than a person's capabilities."

Reason first came to national prominence as the military aide to Presidents Ford and Carter — the man who carried the briefcase with the codes to launch nuclear missiles. However, he cut his teeth with former Adm. Hyman Rickover in the nuclear propulsion program.

The admiral has a simple explanation for the 20 percent representation of blacks in the U.S. armed forces.

"You compete with people who went to the same schools, have gone through the same training and have the same manuals you have," he said.

"So, if you're diligent, you can be promoted on your own merit. There are not a whole lot of places in this country, or anywhere else in the world, where you really have a visible merit promotion system. That's equal opportunity."

There are 422,977 African-Americans serving on active and reserve duty out of more than 2.2 million service personnel. Along with Gen. Johnnie E. Wilson, an enlistee who rose to become commander of the U.S. Army Material Command which purchases weapons and everything else for the military, Reason and Newton helped make history as the first time in history there are three black four-star officers.

Wilson retired last month, but Lt. Gen. Lester Lyles, commander of the Ballistic Missile Defense

Organization, was nominated in April to become a full general and vice chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Another key player as the Balkans saga unfolds will be Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will help rebuild Kosovo.

Their success is eloquent for several reasons. First, they've advanced through lifelong education.

Lyles, Ballard and Newton are all graduates of historically black colleges and universities. Reason's parents were professors at Howard University.

Their leadership roles are in contrast to business environments like Silicon Valley, developed with innovations made for the Department of Defense. Only 594 blacks hold managerial jobs in 253 high tech federal contractors in Silicon Valley,

according to Silicon Ceiling: Solutions for Closing the Digital Divide.

High-tech CEOs often say blacks aren't qualified for executive, scientific and technical jobs. Those CEOs refuse to recruit from historically black colleges and universities.

Gen. Lyles has a bachelors in mechanical engineering from Howard University and a masters in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Adm. Reason has a masters in computer systems management.

Lt. Gen. Ballard has a bachelors in electrical engineering from Southern University.

Gens. Newton and Wilson have masters in management.

Reason recalls that blacks were first allowed in the Navy (See Balkans, Page 14)

U.S.-China relations hurt by perpetual mistrust, spying

Carl Rowan
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Millions of Americans profess to be shocked by a report that during the past 20 years, spies for China have stolen secrets about most U.S. nuclear weapons and warheads, including the neutron bomb.

The magnitude of China's success may cause legitimate outrage, but I don't see how any knowledgeable American can be shocked, or complain seriously, that the espionage took place. Spying, even among friendly nations, is as much a part of international affairs as the state dinner - witness Israel's spying on the United States.

Nations wink and pretend that the top spies in another countries embassy are really "political officers" or "military attaches." They just take it for granted that other countries harbor spies "under deep cover" in "front" businesses and other organizations. China is accused of having ties to some 3,000 businesses in the United States, using many for espionage.

Now that a House committee chaired by Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., has told us

that China has made thefts and purchases that add up to "one of the worst counterintelligence failures in history," as Rep. Norman Dicks, D-Wash., put it, what do the people of the United States do?

Although the blame for incredible laxity in the U.S. security and counterintelligence measures can be spread across the Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations, it seems inevitable that the Clinton-haters will try to use this report as a way to further humiliate him and his top aides. But a witch hunt aimed at Attorney General Janet Reno and Clinton's national security advisor, Sandy Berger, is not the worst of what seems certain to occur.

A band of right-wingers are already using this espionage as a reason for punishing China and destroying the bipartisan policy of treating China as a "strategic partner." China will be portrayed as such a nuclear threat to the United States and her allies in Asia that Beijing must be denied a preferred trade status, membership in the World Trade Organization and the right to buy U.S. computers and technology, which could

enhance its weapons programs.

But the people who are beating the drums for a stupid anti-China policy are not worried about a military attack. They simply don't want China to approach great -power status militarily, economically or in any other way. That's how obsessed they are with the idea that China can never be trusted as friend, ally, partner, and must be viewed as the mortal enemy of tomorrow.

Mandela

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the young people who were at the heart of the civil rights struggle across the nation.

In the words of President Clinton, Mrs. Parks reminds us that freedom work is never done. In the words of Mrs. Parks herself, upon accepting this honor from her country, "This will be an encouragement for all of us to continue until all people have equal rights." The award will be an encouragement, just as Mrs. Parks herself has been an encouragement.

An encouragement 44 years ago as she

We Americans, who eavesdrop on most private dealings and conversations of the rest of the world, know that espionage is a way of life.

The Chinese are spying today, as we are, and that will not change. But we and the Chinese must share this increasingly fragile and dangerous planet. We ought to at least try to do it with some hope of peace within civility, or even friendship.

sat on that bus, refusing to give up her seat to a white man and anchored to that seat by "the accumulated indignities of days gone by and the countless aspirations of generations yet unborn," in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that young, inexperienced minister who became the spokesperson for the civil rights movement and echoed by President Clinton in the Capitol rotunda. And an encouragement today as we are reminded that might does not make right and that the moral arc of the universe does bend toward justice.